

# THE PALS PRINTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA PALS AND THE ALABAMA ADOPT-A-MILE PROGRAM

WINTER QUARTER 2022 • VOLUME 44



## DIRECTORS NOTES:

Within the contents of this PALS newsletter, I trust that the quote above will be made clear to each of you, because when I read it my first thought was "This is Alabama PALS". There are numerous successful and worthwhile organizations in Alabama and across this great country that serve many much needed and special ideologies and causes, and I am thankful, as I know you are, that these dedicated and special organizations continue to address and serve those that benefit from their focused attention to these worthy and needed causes. The immediate and long-term success

of any organization is gauged by the effectiveness to those that they serve, and the "performance of its people". What does that say to me? Simply put, the "people" of Alabama PALS are YOU, the volunteers, students, teachers, county coordinators, city cleanup leaders, Spring Cleanup coordinators, Coastal Cleanup Zone Captains, and of course our corporate sponsors and board members. YOUR "performance" has enabled your organization to prosper and grow the programs of Alabama PALS during the past two difficult years. You have inspired me and so many others that have witnessed the unwavering dedication that you have displayed during this time. Because of your "performance", we look forward to sharing and celebrating a banner year with each you in 2022.

As many of you know, Margaret McElroy, the PALS State Adopt A Mile Coordinator for over 20 years, retired in November. I know that each of you share in wishing Margaret a wonderful and long retirement. Please join me in welcoming Christy Waddell, PALS new State Adopt A Mile Coordinator, to the PALS team. Christy has hit the ground running and I look forward to each of you working with Christy as you grow and expand the Adopt A Mile program in your respective areas. PALS is working with ALDOT to streamline the Adopt A Mile application process, and we look forward to implementing this process in the near future.

*Continued on page 3*

## 2022 ALABAMA PALS MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Form/Application can be submitted online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Sustaining Partner: \$500

☐ Sustaining Steward: \$ 250

☐ Litter Free Leader: \$100

☐ PALS Advocate: \$50

☐ PALS Partner: \$25

(Membership Dues are paid Annually)

Alabama PALS is a 501C3 non-profit organization.

Your contribution to Alabama PALS is tax deductible

Please Make Checks Payable to:

Alabama PALS, 340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36106



*"Working Together for an Unlittered Alabama"*

## THE 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALABAMA PALS

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### THE STAFF OF ALABAMA PALS

**Spencer Ryan**

*Executive Vice President*

*spencer@alpals.org*

**Christy Waddell**

*Executive Assistant*

*State Adopt-A-Mile Coordinator*

*Christy@alpals.org*

**Jamie Mitchell**

*Clean Campus State Coordinator*

*Social Media Director*

*Jamie@alpals.org*

**Phone: 334-263-7737 or**

**In-State Watts 800-ALA-PALS**

**Fax # 334-832-9400**

**WEBSITE: [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org)**

**340 North Hull Street**

**Montgomery, AL 36104**

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### ALABAMA PALS MISSION STATEMENT

*"Alabama Communities Working  
Together for A Cleaner and  
More Beautiful Alabama"*

## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

*BY JEFF HELMS, CHAIRMAN, ALABAMA PALS*

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Every day I'm reminded of the importance of PALS.

Fast-food bags, beer cans and water bottles litter the ditches on my daily commute. The scenery along 21 miles of county roads and city streets is marred by dirty white paper, dented silver aluminum and crumpled brown paper.

It's always bad in winter — when the dying grass and bare trees reveal the laziness of passersby. Since COVID, it seems worse.

Reduced indoor dining and increased carryout orders are part of the problem. People eat while driving and don't want to leave uneaten food and soiled wrappers in their cars. So, they toss their trash — not in a can but out the window.

The labor shortage may also be to blame. Counties, municipalities and sanitation companies have trouble finding and keeping workers. The result: overflowing garbage cans and no one — except PALS volunteers — to clean the medians and roadways.

Meanwhile, thriving sectors of the economy also increase litter. Waste and debris overflow from trucks and construction sites. Cardboard boxes from mail-order deliveries clog dumpsters and spill onto the land.

Then there's the pandemic itself. Sickness and social distancing have hampered the work of some PALS groups. Sadly, we've also lost loyal members of the PALS family to the disease.

Underlying all these issues, however, is COVID's toll on emotional health. Anxiety and pessimism plague society. We are facing another pandemic — one of hopelessness.

People are tired. They're tired of the disease, of economic uncertainty, of social unrest and of political tension.

I believe one symptom of this national malaise is litter. When folks are tired, angry and depressed, appearance doesn't matter as much — not personally, and not environmentally.

Adding one more piece of trash to an already littered roadside is like wearing a wrinkled shirt and worn-out sweatpants to the grocery store — it doesn't seem to matter.

All these factors make the work of Alabama PALS more vital than ever. As we dig out from the effects of COVID, our organization faces a huge task.

Yes, it often falls on us to clean up the mess left by others. But more importantly, we have an opportunity to help rekindle feelings of accomplishment, hope and community for our neighbors.

Nothing heals the heart quite like service — especially when the results are visible. Few things unite people like working together. And, seeing nature refreshed following a cleanup can help restore optimism for both volunteers and potential litterers.

As we begin a new year — take heart! You are important. The work of Alabama PALS is important.

Don't be discouraged by the size of the task! You never know who will be inspired by your simple act of service.

*—Jeff*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*Continued from page 1*

The 2021 "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup was the largest to date and we look forward to the 2022 statewide cleanup effort to surpassing the 2021 numbers. As in 2021, the 2022 "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Statewide Spring Cleanup will be held the entire month of April. All sign up information has been emailed to all coordinators, and please make every effort to have your contact information to the PALS office by February 15th. Pickup for all materials and supplies will begin around March 15th. We look forward to working with each of you as we prepare for this exciting 2022 statewide annual effort.

I want to thank and congratulate each nominee and winner of the 2021 Alabama PALS Governors Awards and Statewide Clean Campus competition. Talk about "performers"! It was a special day as we had the opportunity to recognize these special and dedicated groups and individuals for their successes during 2021. This is the highlight of each year for Alabama PALS and the 2021 program was such a special day as we were able to welcome over 250 attendees in person. Thank you to everyone that made this day special and rewarding!

In closing, I want to thank you again for your "performance" in 2021, and for your support, dedication, and unwavering devotion to making Alabama truly Alabama the Beautiful.



I would like to introduce our newest member of the PALS family, Christy Waddell, our new Statewide Adopt a Mile Coordinator. Once again, PALS has been blessed to have found a talented, dedicated and self-motivated person that fits perfectly into the PALS family. Jamie and I are extremely excited to have Christy as a part of our staff to serve each of you and your cities, counties and communities. Christy can be reached at [christy@alpals.org](mailto:christy@alpals.org) or by calling the PALS office. As you can see, Christy is "Getting it Done"!



On behalf of the Alabama PALS Board of Directors, the PALS staff, and the thousands of people that have been positively affected through the loyalty, dedication, friendship and leadership of Doug Rigney through the past 30 plus years, I want to say thank you Doug for what you have meant to Alabama PALS and me personally. Your willingness to lead from the front never waived as your commitment to the success and growth of Alabama PALS was paramount, and PALS was blessed by your leadership, faithfulness and friendship each and every day. You are truly a "One of a Kind person" that embodies the old saying the a true leader is "a willing servant".

Doug faithfully served over 30 years as a board member and served as the Chairman of the Alabama PALS board for over 10 years. Doug, words cannot express my appreciation for the fact that you have been a true friend and leader, but you are most appreciated for being even a better man.

## PALS SUSTAINING CORPORATE SPONSORS



**The "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup**

**The Alabama Clean Campus Program**

**Adopt-A-Mile**

**Adopt-A-Stream**

**Alabama Coastal Cleanup**

**Adopt-An-Area**

**Adopt-A-Beach**

**Litter Education Curriculum**

**Annual Governor's Awards**

**Statewide Chapter Network**

## ALDOT REGIONAL ENGINEERS AND AREA OFFICES

### CURTIS W. VINCENT

North Regional Engineer  
256-505-4956

### DEJARVIS LEONARD

East Central  
Regional Engineer  
256-234-8401

### STEVEN GRABEN

SE Regional Engineer  
334-353-6851

### MATTHEW J. ERICKSEN

SW Regional Engineer  
251-470-8204

### JAMES D. BROWN

West Central  
Regional Engineer  
205-562-3100



## MESSAGE FROM:

JAMIE MITCHELL – Clean Campus State Coordinator

The Clean Campus Program is happy to report that 2021 was a stellar year for our program! Schools continue to be involved in litter cleanups even with some limitations due to Covid. I have been able to visit a few more schools in person this year, and the teaching video and Zoom calls have filled in the gaps for the places that are not allowing visitors. We had a huge turnout for our poster and recycled art contests in 2021, and we are hoping for an even bigger turnout for 2022!

With spring just around the corner, we hope that you will consider adding campus cleanups or campus beautification projects into your routine. Our poster and recycled art contests are a perfect way to get students excited about keeping our state clean! The theme for this year's poster contest is "It is Up to You in 2022! Keep Alabama Litter-Free!" Please have your own contest at the school first, then send in only the top 3 posters for statewide judging. Also, note the judging guidelines that will help

*Continued on page 6*

## CLEAN CAMPUS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM

Either fill out form and mail to Alabama PALS Attn: Jamie Mitchell

340 N. Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104 or apply online at [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org)

Current Member? \_\_\_\_ Y or \_\_\_\_ N      Circle One:    City School    County School    Private School

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Participating School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email for Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Our school has reviewed the requirements for the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program and is therefore applying to be a participating school in this statewide program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Contact Person)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### PRINCIPAL PERMISSION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Principal), give consent for \_\_\_\_\_

school to participate in the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program for the 2021-2022 school year.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Principal) Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## ALABAMA ADOPT-A-MILE PARTICIPATION FORM

Please Complete and Return to The PALS Office  
340 North Hull Street / Montgomery, AL 36104

Name of Participating Group \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Group or Individual on Sign \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

State Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Highway # \_\_\_\_\_ County Highway or Road # \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Sign: Mile Marker# \_\_\_\_\_ to Mile Marker # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Currently Participating

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Participating at This time and want sign taken down

\_\_\_\_\_ Participating But Sign Needs Replacing or Repaired

### Adopt-A-Mile Program Application for Highway Adoption - State/Federal

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant (Participating Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Highway section(s) you propose to adopt:

(minimum of one mile)

State or U.S. Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_

Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_

State or U.S. Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_

Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature of Applicant

Recommended for Approval:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Engineer, Alabama Dept. of Transportation

#### Interested in "adopting"

Fill out application form and mail to:

**Alabama PALS**

340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Form/Application can be submitted  
online at alpals.org

### County Adopt-A-Mile Program Application for County Road Adoption

County \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant (Participating Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Road section(s) you propose to adopt:

(minimum of one mile)

County Road Number \_\_\_\_\_

Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_

County Road Number \_\_\_\_\_

Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature of Applicant

Recommended Approval:

County Engineer

Chairman, County Commission

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Engineer, Alabama Dept. of Transportation

#### Interested in "adopting"

Fill out application form and mail to:

**Alabama PALS**

340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Form/Application can be submitted  
online at alpals.org

## MESSAGE FROM:

JOHN COOPER

Director, Alabama Department  
of Transportation

Alabama's natural beauty is threatened more and more every year by litter. That's why it is more important than ever that the Department of Transportation and PALS partnership keep flourishing. Our partnership with PALS is a model for how state government can work with non-profit groups and volunteers to make our state better.

The men, women and particularly young people who volunteer their time to helping keep Alabama's environment beautiful and roads clean are the most important factor in our efforts. When these dedicated volunteers remove hundreds of tons of litter from highways every year it saves Alabama taxpayers millions of dollars in cleanup costs. The impact on the environment is immeasurable.

With programs such as Adopt-a-Mile, volunteers can see their hard work payoff, not only with clean and beautiful highways, but with road signs highlighting the groups that keep a particular stretch of road litter-free. In November, PALS hosted its annual Governor's Awards ceremony. This day highlighted, praised and honored the groups from around Alabama that made the biggest impact on the efforts to keep Alabama beautiful. Recognizing outstanding groups is one of the small ways we can let the volunteers know how thankful we, as Alabamians, are. So the next time you see someone pick up a piece of garbage from the ground or see a crew of volunteers, let them know how grateful you are. Better yet, join them.

On behalf of ALDOT, thank you for your commitment to our ongoing battle against litter. Together, we're making a difference.

# PALS 2022 POSTER CONTEST

## GUIDELINES:

- Theme: "It's Up to You in 2022! Keep Alabama Litter Free!"
- K-6th (Two categories K-3rd and 4th-6th)
- Only one student may work on each poster... no partners, teams or groups.
- Standard White Poster or Foam Board (May be split in half)
- All mediums acceptable
- Posters will be judged on clarity of theme, age-appropriate neatness, originality, overall design and inclusion of helpful information or tips.
- Please only send in the top 3 posters from your school in each category.
- Back of Poster must include the following:  
**\*\*We really need ALL this information!!\*\***

Student(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email for Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email of Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL posters are due in the PALS office by  
Friday, April 22nd, 2022**

## WINNERS:

First Place: \$200 & Plaque

Second Place: \$25 & Plaque

Third Place: \$25 & Plaque

Honorable Mention: Plaque

**\*\*All winners will be recognized at our annual  
Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2022\*\***

your students when planning their posters and for judging at the local level. Be sure to have your winners include ALL contact information requested on the backside of their posters. Entries are due April 22nd, 2022.

There is no set theme for the Recycled Art Contest, so get CREATIVE!! We will accept both 2-D and 3-D works, and the project should be made entirely from recycled materials other than a small amount of fastening materials. As with the poster contest, please only send in the top 3 winners from your school. You may either deliver the pieces or enter digitally if too heavy or cumbersome to transport for judging. If sending a digital entry and chosen as a winner, that piece will need to be delivered to the PALS office as soon as possible after notification. Be sure to include ALL contact information requested. Entries are due April 22nd, 2022.

The PALS office will notify each winner, school and PALS county contact by May 13th. Winners will be recognized and presented with their respective awards at the Annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2022.

In closing, I would like to thank every

## Send posters to:

Alabama PALS  
Attn: Jamie Mitchell  
340 N. Hull Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

*Please contact Jamie with any  
further questions at:  
(334) 263-7737  
Jamie@alpals.org*

**\*\*\*Winners will be notified by  
May 13th. If your poster is not  
chosen, you may pick it up at  
the PALS office no later than  
May 27th\*\*\***

school that is enrolled in the Clean Campus Program for your commitment to teaching students how to be lifelong stewards of our beautiful state. Even in the middle of a worldwide pandemic, students need to be reminded that litter cleanup is still a priority because it is still a problem!

If your school is not currently enrolled in the Clean Campus Program, please head to [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org) to sign up. The program is FREE to all Alabama public, private, city and county schools thanks to the generosity of ALFA, the Alabama Farmer's COOP and Coca-Cola. Please call or email me with any questions regarding the Clean Campus Program or our contests at (334) 263-7737 or [jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org).

-Jamie

**ALL Recycled Art projects may either be mailed into the PALS office OR photos of your project may be submitted by email to [jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org). If mailing/delivering your project, send to:**

Alabama PALS  
Attn: Jamie Mitchell  
340 N. Hull Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

*Please contact Jamie with any further questions at:  
(334) 263-7737  
[jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org)*

**\*\*\*Winners will be notified by May 13th. If your piece was submitted digitally and is chosen as a winner, it must be arranged to be delivered to the PALS office after notification. If your piece is not chosen, you may pick it up at the PALS office no later than May 27th. \*\*\***

## PALS 2022 RECYCLED ART CONTEST

### GUIDELINES:

- No set theme, so get CREATIVE and ORIGINAL!!
- 7th-12th grades
- May work alone or with one friend (no more than 2 students per art piece)
- Piece may be 2-D or 3-D and any size, as long as it can be easily moved.
- Art must be made entirely of materials that are eligible for recycling or that would be otherwise considered trash, except for a small amount of fastening materials such as screws, bolts, wire, welding, glue, tape and twine.
- Pieces will be judged on originality, visual impact, overall design and craftsmanship.
- Please only send in the top 3 recycled art projects from your school.
- Please include the following information with each submitted piece: **\*\*We really need ALL this information!!\*\***

Student(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email for Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email of Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Art pieces due by mail, delivery or email by April 22nd, 2022**

### WINNERS:

First Place: \$200 (to be divided if working with a friend) & Plaque

Second Place: \$25 & Plaque

Third Place: \$25 & Plaque

Honorable Mention: Plaque

**\*\*All winners will be recognized at our annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2022\*\***



## Jonesboro Elementary School

Jonesboro Elementary School in Bessemer, Alabama, was new to the Clean Campus Program this year and did an excellent job with the program despite the challenges of online learning most of the school year. STEM teacher Ms. Felissa Dearman spearheaded the Clean Campus efforts at the school and motivated JES students to participate in the program, even if they were learning at home!

Dearman was able to contact Jefferson County to receive “Don’t Drop it on Alabama” Spring Cleanup supplies and coordinate a campus cleanup. When our planned Zoom call was not able to be executed due to distance learning challenges and testing schedules, the students of JES were assigned to watch our Clean Campus video as an alternative. We have been so fortunate to have multiple ways of getting the anti-litter message to students this year! If COVID has taught

us anything, it has taught us to be flexible, and this is exactly how we were able to accommodate JES in this situation! The students of Jonesboro Elementary also participated in our annual Poster Contest in the spring. We are so proud of the way Jonesboro Elementary (and so many other schools in the state) made the commitment to the Clean Campus Program even in the most trying of school years!

It is our most sincere hope that school will be much closer to normal in fall of 2021! If a school near you would like to learn more about the Clean Campus Program, please have them give me a call at 334-263-7737 or email at [jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org). We would love to work with your local schools to create an even more beautiful Alabama. As always, the Clean Campus Program is available at no cost thanks to our wonderful corporate sponsors. 🌻



# Annual Poster & Recycled Art Contest

Traditionally, when we think of back-to-school, we think of sharpened pencils, brand-new notebooks and the nervous excitement that comes on that first day back. I hope and pray this year will have that traditional feeling with less uncertainty than we faced just one year ago. I was only able to visit one school in person at the end of the school year for 2020-2021. However, I conducted many Zoom presentations, and our new Clean Campus video was seen nearly 400 times! We were certainly thankful to still deliver the anti-litter message despite virtual learning and visitation restrictions.

Even with all the challenges that came with the 2020-2021 school year, we have maintained and grown the Clean Campus Program, and we are proud to announce that our Annual Poster and Recycled Art Contests received more entries than ever! First place winners in each category were as follows: Austin Church, West Blocton Elementary, K-third Poster Category; Lara Beth Brasher, Hubbertville School, fourth-sixth Poster Category; and Nathaniel Maier, Valley Head School, seventh-12th Recycled Art Category. Each of these students will receive a \$200 scholarship and plaque at our Governor's Awards Luncheon in November. The entries this year were phenomenal, and we are so thankful for every entry we received! Congratulations to all our winners!

Our Annual Clean Campus Scrapbook Contest is another way for the school to win some scholarship money. First place wins \$1,000, second place wins \$750, and third place wins \$500. Previous winners have used the money to build outdoor classrooms or buy supplies for other campus beautification projects. Scrapbook entries are due Oct. 13.

It is our most sincere hope that school will be much closer to normal this school year! If a school near you would like to learn more about the Clean Campus Program, please have them give me a call at (334) 263-7737 or email at [jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org). We would love to work with your local schools to create an even more beautiful Alabama. As always, the Clean Campus Program is available at no cost thanks to our wonderful corporate sponsors. 🌱



*Recycled Art Winner*



*K-3 Poster Winner*



*4-6 Poster Winner*



## West Blocton Elementary Environmental Day

In a recent article, I mentioned that I was only able to visit one school in person last school year. That school was West Blocton Elementary for their Environmental Day! I was able to present to seven groups that day ranging from K-4 to fifth grade. Each group watched the new Clean Campus video first; then we took time to discuss and answer questions about what all they saw. The video covered topics ranging from why litter is bad, to how long litter lasts, to where does our trash end up after the garbage truck picks it up. Knowledge is key to prevention!

During West Blocton Elementary's Environmental Day, the students rotated to different stations to learn more about soil, animals, litter and recycling. As a part of the recycling station, the students filled their baseball field with plastic bottles they had collected for

weeks. The students counted and bagged the bottles and delivered them to their local recycling facility! This hands-on activity will help the students remember the importance of recycling for years to come!

We are so grateful for schools like West Blocton that are active members of the Clean Campus Program!

If a school near you would like to learn more about the Clean Campus Program or schedule an in-person visit, have them give me a call at 334-263-7737 or email at [jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org). I am so excited to be back in the classroom this school year, but the video and Zoom are always available for schools that are not having visitors just yet. Check out our website at [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org) for more information on joining the Clean Campus Program. 🌱





## West Hills Elementary School is New Addition to Clean Campus Program

West Hills Elementary School in Bessemer is a new addition to the Clean Campus Program this school year. We are so excited to have another Jefferson County school onboard! Teacher John Dorsey contacted me to Zoom with the school recently, and his plans are to “introduce the value of community service to students along with the importance of keeping our neighborhoods clean and litter-free.”

I was able to Zoom with five classrooms of fourth- and fifth-graders recently which totaled around 100 students. They learned about the Clean Campus Program and practical steps to keep our state, communities and campuses litter-free. We discussed how litter affects everything from the health of animals and people to the perception of our neighborhoods. We also discussed litter laws and how fines have increased to a minimum of \$500 for littering offenses. A \$500 fine will normally make individuals think twice about throwing their trash out the window!

I also encouraged students to participate in our annual poster contest that will be held in April 2022. The theme will be announced in January, so be sure to have your local schools check our website for those details then. The first-place winner of our contests wins \$200!

Does a school near you need to hear more about the value of community service and importance of keeping our neighborhoods litter free? Please have them contact me for a Zoom or in-person visit at 334-263-7737 or [jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org). I’m happy to answer any questions

about the Clean Campus Program and help your local school get up and running! Keeping Alabama litter free is up to you in 2022! 🌞





## SOUTHERN UNION SCHOOL WIDE CLEANUP



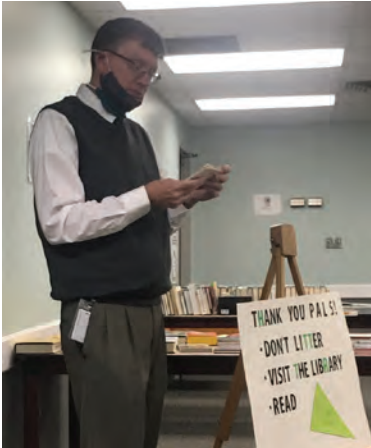
## ZETA PHI BETA ADOPTED MILE

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Omega Xi Zeta Chapter of Wetumpka, Alabama spent their day of service cleaning their mile.





## HELENA PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Helena Public Library has an annual anti-litter campaign in November and just wrapped up their efforts... They put out PALS literature and books pertaining to littering and recycling.... Really great job on their part!



## CRENSHAW COUNTY

They cleaned up 22 bags of garbage in a little over 1 mile area of Honoraville Sat. Jan 15th. Raymond & Kathy McGough, Hunter Givens, Dustin Lowery, Sue McGough, Al Sexton & Allie Sexton were volunteers



## BESSEMER

The event on Friday, July 23rd, was a success! Thanks to each of you that helped to make that happen! We appreciate it more than you know!





## SWEENY HOLLOW ROAD



## UNION GROVE ROAD







# 2022 Alabama PALS

“Don’t Drop It On Alabama”

Statewide Spring Cleanup

Entire Month of April 2022

## ALL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FURNISHED

**Make Plans NOW for your City, County, School, Neighborhood or Volunteer Group to Join Volunteers from Every County in Alabama For the Annual Statewide Spring Cleanup!**

Cleanup Coordinator’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_





## 2022 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” SPRING CLEANUP CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

We are interested in RECYCLING aluminum CANS and Plastic Bottles during the 2022 Spring Cleanup?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Have Questions \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE send completed Form to **Alabama PALS, 340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104**  
or Email to **spencer@alpals.org** or **mcollier@countyrisk.org**

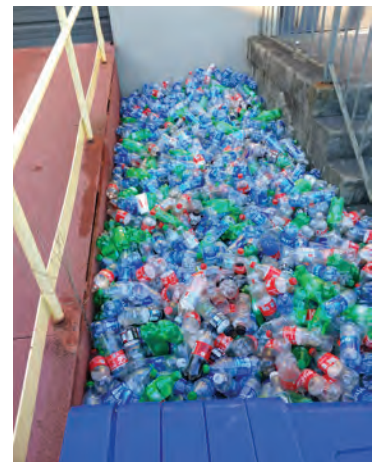


## RECYCLING EFFORT

Osprey Initiative, Coca-Cola United and Alabama PALS teamed with Birmingham Jefferson Convention Center to recycle all plastic bottles during the 2021 Alabama High School Championship football games at Protective Stadium on December 1-3, 2021. 6,195 plastic PET bottles were collected and delivered to the Birmingham Recycling Center. This partnership will continue to work together for upcoming events to provide genuine, measurable and productive recycling efforts for the future.

Don Bates, President of Osprey Initiative said of the effort, “We feel that this initial effort was a tremendous success”.

Spencer Ryan of Alabama PALS stated “Alabama PALS is proud of this valuable partnership with Coca-Cola United and Osprey Initiative, and we look forward to expanding this recycling effort to other campuses in the future”.







# 2022 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama”

## RELEASE OF LIABILITY

For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the, 2022 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” Spring Cleanup, I hereby forever release from liability,

(1) the City/County/School/Other Entity of \_\_\_\_\_  
and (2) People Against a Littered State (PALS), any of its officers, employees, or agents, (3) the sponsors of the aforesaid, any of their officers, employees or agents (4) the landowner(s) where the event is located, any of their officers, employees or agents from any and all actions, causes of actions, or claims of any kind whatsoever, either for personal injury or otherwise, arising or resulting from my participation in the aforesaid.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

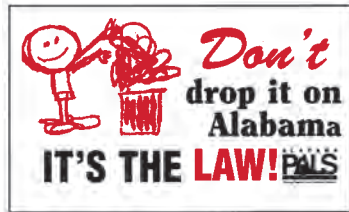
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant or Legal Guardian

PLEASE Mail ALL Forms to  
Alabama PALS, 340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
or [spencer@alpals.org](mailto:spencer@alpals.org)

# NEW LITTER LAW BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE WITH MOST CURRENT LAW INFORMATION

## ALABAMA LITTER LAWS



(e) Fifty percent of the fine from a conviction under this section shall be distributed by the court to the State General Fund and 50 percent to the municipality or county, or both, following a determination by the court of whose law enforcement agencies or departments have been a participant in the arrest or citation resulting in the fine. The award and distribution to the county and municipality shall be made on the basis of the percentage as determined by the court, which the respective agency or department contributed to the police work resulting in the arrest, and shall be spent by the governing body on law and litter enforcement purposes only. Litter enforcement may include, but not be limited to, anti-littering education, publication and distribution of related educational materials, and anti-littering advertising.

(f) No action for criminal littering based on evidence that creates a rebuttable presumption under subdivision (a)(1) shall be brought against a person by or on behalf of a county or municipal governing body unless he or she has been given written notice by a designee of the governing body that items found in an accumulation of garbage, trash, or other discarded materials contain his or her name, and that, under subdivision (a)(1), there is a rebuttable presumption that he or she knowingly deposited the litter. The notice shall advise the person that criminal littering is a Class B misdemeanor, and shall provide that, unless the person can present satisfactory information or evidence to rebut the presumption to the designee of the governing body within 15 days from the date of the notice, an action for criminal littering may be filed against him or her in the appropriate court. If the person responds to the notice and presents information or evidence to the designee of the governing body, the designee shall review the information or evidence presented and make a determination as to whether or not an action should be brought against the person for criminal littering. The designee shall provide written notice to the person of its determination, and if the intent is to proceed with an action for criminal littering, the notice shall be sent before any action is filed.

(g) Upon approval of the county commission, the county license inspector and his or her deputies employed under Section 40-12-10 shall have the same authority to issue citations against persons violating this section as county license inspectors have with regard to persons violating revenue laws as provided in Section

## WHO AND WHAT

Who litters our roads and countrysides? According to a 31 state survey conducted by the Institute of Applied Research:

- 1/2 of litter is deliberate and 1/2 is caused by materials being "accidentally" lost from vehicles.
  - Males do 72% of deliberate littering and are responsible for 96% of accidental littering
  - 60% of deliberate litterers were accompanied by one or more people
  - 60% of deliberate littering is done by pedestrians and 40% is done by motorist.
- Composition of Highway Litter
- 59% paper, 16% cans, 6% bottles, 6% plastic, 13% miscellaneous.
  - One mile of highway contains approximately 16,000 pieces of litter (estimated cost of pick up is 30 cents per piece of litter).

## CRIMINAL LITTERING

13A-7-29 Criminal littering.

- (a) A person commits the crime of criminal littering if he or she engages in any of the following acts:
- (1) Knowingly deposits in any manner litter on any public or private property or in any public or private waters without permission to do so. For purposes of this subdivision, any series of items found in the garbage, trash, or other discarded material including, but not limited to, bank statements, utility bills, bank card bills, and other financial documents, clearly bearing the name of a person shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person whose name appears on the material knowingly deposited the litter. Advertising, marketing, and campaign materials and literature shall not be sufficient to constitute a rebuttable presumption of criminal littering under this subsection.
- (2) Negligently deposits, in any manner, glass or other dangerously pointed or edged objects on or adjacent to water to which the public has lawful ac-

cess for bathing, swimming, or fishing, or on or upon a public highway or within the right-of-way.

(3) Discharges sewage, oil products, or litter into a river, inland lake, or stream within the state or within territorial waters of the state.

(4) a. Throws, drops, or permits to be thrown or dropped any litter upon or alongside any highway, road, street, or public right-of-way and does not immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed; or

b. Removes a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a highway and does not remove glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the highway from the vehicle.

(b) For the purposes of this section, litter means rubbish, refuse, waste material, garbage, dead animals or fowl, offal, paper, glass, cans, bottles, trash, scrap metal, debris, plastic, cigarettes, cigars, containers of urine, food containers, rubber tires, or any foreign substance. Any agricultural product in its natural state that is unintentionally deposited on a public highway, road, street, or public right-of-way shall not constitute litter for purposes of this section or Section 32-5-76. Any other law or ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding, the unintentional depositing of an agricultural product in its natural state on a public highway, road, street, or right-of-way shall not constitute unlawful littering or any similarly prohibited activity.

(c) It is no defense under subdivisions (a)(3) and (a)(4) that the actor did not intend, or was unaware of, the act charged.

(d)(1) Criminal littering is a Class B misdemeanor. The fine for the first conviction shall be up to five hundred dollars (\$500). The punishment for the second and any subsequent conviction shall include either a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and up to 100 hours of community service in the form of picking up litter along highways, roads, streets, public rights-of-way, public sidewalks, public walkways, or public waterways, or by a fine of not less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

(2) In addition to the penalties provided in subdivision (1), littering of any of the following in violation of subsection (a) shall result in an additional fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) per violation:

a. Cigarettes or cigars.

b. Containers of urine.

c. Food containers.

## HIGHWAY LITTERING

32-5A-60 Throwing, dropping, etc., destructive or injurious materials onto highway, road, etc., prohibited; removal; penalty.

- (a) No person shall throw or deposit upon or alongside any highway, road, street, or public right-of-way any bottle, glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, cigarettes, cigars, containers of urine, or any other substance likely to injure any person, animal, or vehicle upon or alongside the highway, road, street, or public right-of-way.
- (b) Any person who throws, drops, or permits to be thrown or dropped, upon any highway any destructive or injurious material shall immediately remove the material or cause it to be removed.
- (c) Any person removing a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a highway shall remove any glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the highway from the vehicle.
- (d) No person shall throw or drop litter from a motor vehicle upon or alongside any highway, road or street, or public right-of-way.
- (e) The uniform traffic citation may be used for any violation of this section.
- (f) "Litter" as used in this section is the same as defined in Section 13A-7-29.
- (g)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 32-5A-266, any person violating this section shall be

guilty of a Class B misdemeanor pursuant to Section 13A-7-29, the criminal littering statute.

(2) The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.

(Acts 1980, No. 80-434, p. 604, §11-111; Acts 1989, No. 89-661, p. 1314, §1; Act 2019-530, §1.)

32-5-76 Spilling loads or litter; penalty.

- (a)(1) Whoever willfully and knowingly operates, owns, or causes to be operated on any public highway, road, street, or public right-of-way a motor vehicle so loaded with gravel, rock, slag, or bricks, in any manner or in any condition that the contents of the vehicle spill out and cause it to be deposited upon the highway, road, street, or public right-of-way is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor pursuant to Section 13A-7-29, the criminal littering statute.
- (2) The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.
- (b) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless the vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom, except that sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, or water or other substance may be sprinkled on a roadway in cleaning or maintaining the roadway.
- (c)(1) Whoever willfully and knowingly operates, owns, or causes to be operated on a public highway, road, street, or public right-of-way, a motor vehicle in any manner or in any condition that litter is caused or allowed to be deposited upon the highway, road, or street or public right-of-way, is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor pursuant to Section 13A-7-29, the criminal littering statute.
- (2) The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.
- (d) Any agricultural product in its natural state that is unintentionally deposited upon a highway, road, street, or public right-of-way does not constitute litter for purposes of this section or Section 13A-7-29.

(Acts 1927, No. 347, p. 348; Code 1940, T. 36, §39; Acts 1949, No. 517, p. 754, §9; Acts 1971, No. 1419, p. 2423; Acts 1989, No. 89-661, p. 1314, §1; Act 2001-469, p. 623, §1; Act 2019-530, §1.)

## ADOPT-A-MILE

Outokumpu Stainless USA adopted a mile and we are excited for them, as they conducted a most successful cleanup! Thank you for your partnership.



## 2022 Dates to Remember

### January

2022 Spring Cleanup Materials Ordered  
PALS Newsletter Mailed Statewide

### February

All Spring Cleanup Info Forms (Cities, Counties  
and Groups) Due In PALS Office

### March 9

Alabama PALS Board of Directors Meeting

### March 15

Spring Cleanup Supplies and Materials  
Ready for Pickup

### Entire Month of April

2022 "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Statewide  
Spring Cleanup

### April 22

Clean Campus Poster and Recycled Art  
Contests Entries Due In PALS Office

### July

Alabama PALS Board of Directors Meeting  
(date to be set)

PALS Newsletter Mailed Statewide

### September 13-16

Alabama Coastal Cleanup Materials and  
Supplies Distribution Day  
5 Rivers Delta Center

### September 17

35th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup

### October 20

Alabama PALS Governors Awards Nomination  
Forms Due In PALS Office

### November 16

Alabama PALS Governor's Awards Program  
Renaissance Hotel / Montgomery





Spencer Ryan  
Opening Remarks



Jeff Helms Welcome and Introduction of  
Speaker



Jeff Helms, ALFA, Chairman of the PALS Board



ADECA Deputy Director, Elaine  
Fincannon, Opening Remarks



Bear students leading the pledge



Jamie Mitchell with Clean Campus Awards

## POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – WINNERS



1st Place: Austin Church,  
West Blocton Elementary  
School



2nd Place: Alyssa Hann,  
Bear Exploration Center



3rd Place: Junseo Kim,  
Bear Exploration Center

## POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – HONORABLE MENTION



Ellie Houser, Crestline  
Elementary School



Allie Renta, Bluff Park  
Elementary School

Not Pictured: Maddox Junkin, Gordo Elementary, Honorable Mention, Ella Clay, Cherokee Elementary, Honorable Mention

## POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Lara Beth Brasher,  
Hubbertville School

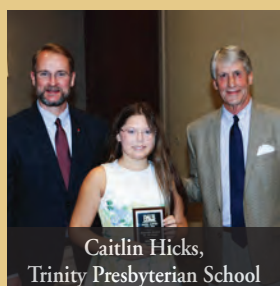


2nd Place: Sarah-Katherine Estrada,  
Crestline Elementary School



3rd Place: Addison Simpson,  
Albertville Elementary School

## POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – HONORABLE MENTION



Caitlin Hicks,  
Trinity Presbyterian School



Zoey Teague,  
Bear Exploration Center



Lillie Mathis,  
Bluff Park Elementary School



Jada West,  
West Blocton Elementary



Yuna Cho,  
Trinity Presbyterian School



## RECYCLED ART CONTEST 7-12TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Nathaniel Maier,  
Valley Head School



2nd Place: Levi Crabtree,  
Centre Middle School



3rd Place: Ava Tice & Belle Edgil,  
Hubbertville School



Honorable Mention: Ava Caroline Duffy  
(& Lizzie Noland, NP), Pickens Academy



Honorable Mention: Bearden Ellis, Trinity Presbyterian School

Honorable Mention:  
Not Pictured:  
Pacey Cooper,  
Valley Head High School

## CLEAN CAMPUS SCRAPBOOK CONTEST



1st Place: Hanceville Elementary School



2nd Place: East Elementary School



3rd Place: Bear Exploration Center





**PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

Sharon Tinsley /  
Alabama Broadcasters Association  
Not Pictured: Marcia Collier /  
Assn. of Alabama County Commissions



**SPRING CLEANUP AWARD**

Reid State Technical College, Alabama Community College System



**JEAN MCCRADY SERVICE AWARD**

Marla Thomas



**LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD**

Sheriff Matt Gentry



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**

Edgewater United Methodist /  
Edgewater A Community



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**

Tammy Taylor



**ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD**

Marshall County Democrat Club



**ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD**

Hillside Litter Patrol / Larry White,



**ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD**

Erick N. Wade



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**

Wendy Merriweather



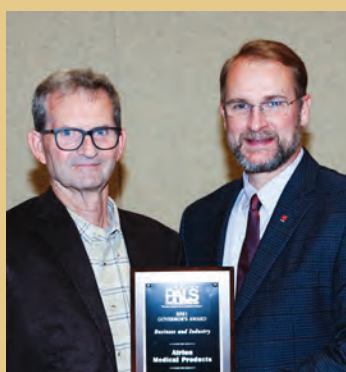
**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD**

Kody Harper, Food Giant  
Store Manager



**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD**

Clayton Putman, Home Depot  
Store Manager



**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD**

Atrion Medical Products



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**

Concord Community Association /  
Sandy Harris



# PALS AWARDS



COASTAL CLEANUP AWARD  
Hannah Hastings



COASTAL CLEANUP AWARD  
Johanna Gertsch



MEDIA AWARD  
The Advertiser-Glean



MEDIA AWARD  
The Advertiser-Glean



CITY AWARD  
City of Midfield / Janice Anderson



CITY AWARD  
City of Cullman Sanitation Department



COUNTY AWARD  
Jefferson County Roads and Transportation Department



"DON'T DROP IT ON ALABAMA"  
SPRING CLEANUP AWARD  
Saint Clair County Sheriff's Office



"DON'T DROP IT ON ALABAMA"  
SPRING CLEANUP AWARD  
Cullman County PALS



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD  
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office / Reserves



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD  
Saint Clair County Sheriff's Office



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD  
Marshall County Sheriff's Department /  
Sheriff Phil Sims



EDUCATION AWARD  
Oak Grove High School



VULCAN VOLUNTEER OF THE  
YEAR AWARD  
Jenni Grimes Zimlich



DON HINES MEMORIAL AWARD  
Elmore County Commission



EDUCATION AWARD  
DAR High School





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**Alabama PALS Newsletter**

*People Against A Littered State*

340 North Hull St.  
Montgomery AL 36104

# **2021 ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP SPONSORS AND PARTNERS**

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Alabama Farmers' Cooperative • Association of County Commissions of Alabama*

*Thank You  
To Our Valued Sponsors and Partners!*

