

CITY OF BAY MINETTE
301 D'OLIVE STREET
BAY MINETTE, AL 36507

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA 36507

The Bay Minette

SPRING 2019

Upcoming Events

May 10-11: Paddle Battle Pickleball Tournament, Kids Park courts.

May 16: Tiger Sharks Swim Team Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Bay Minette Municipal Pool.

May 18: Walk for Diabetes, 8 a.m. Kids Park.

May 28-31: Just Dance Camp, Bay Minette Rec Department.

June 3-4: Baseball Clinic, 9 a.m. to noon, Halliday Park.

June 7: Crawfish Cook-Off, 5:30 p.m. Blackburn Park.

June 10-13: Volleyball Clinic, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Coastal Alabama Community College.

June 15: Father/Son Golf Tournament, Holly Hills Municipal Golf Course.

June 16: Fathers' Day Festival, Douglasville School of Arts & Recreation.

June 17-20: Sun Chief Basketball Camp, 9 a.m. to noon, Coastal Alabama Community College.

June 22: Club Championship Tournament, Holly Hills Municipal Golf Course.

June 25: Softball Camp, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., BCHS Lady Tigers Field.

July 3: Bay Minette Rotary Club Fireworks Show, dusk.

July 9: Coach McDaniel Youth Football Camp, 5-9 p.m., Lyle Underwood Stadium.

Bay Minette City Hall will be closed for these upcoming holidays and garbage service will be provided on the make-up schedule as noted:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.
Make-up Day: Wednesday, May 29.

Independence Day, Thursday, July 4.
Make-up Day: Wednesday, July 3.

Stay up-to-date on community events at www.cityofbayminette.org/community-calendar

REPORT



The Mayor's Report

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful spring weather. The school children are counting down the days and looking forward to summer vacation. As you will note in other sections of the Newsletter, there are an abundance of summer activities for youth and adults in town throughout the summer. The Splash Pad at the Kid's Park has already opened and the City Pool will be opening May 25. I hope that you will take advantage of these many opportunities.

I want to mention our project in removing some stop signs throughout the City. Generally, this has been well received, however, we have received some complaints which we are taking under consideration. As we previously discussed in prior Newsletters, the removal of stop signs at certain intersections to convert them from four-way stop intersections to two-way stop intersections is based upon recommendation which we received from professional engineers who conducted traffic studies throughout the City.

This is being done with the intent to improve traffic flow and is certainly not intended to create traffic hazards. While we realize that the removal of stop signs can be disconcerting when you are used to them being at some intersections, we hope that you will make the extra effort to be aware of these changes and help in their safe implementation. We will continue to monitor the project as we progress.

After some delays in construction due to major rain events, the new Sports Complex is well on its way to completion. The contractor is making every effort to finish the job as expeditiously as possible. It is really taking shape and, if you have the opportunity, please drive by and take a look at it. It is really going to be a wonderful, first-class facility for not only our children and adults, but also for out-of-town visitors who come to play in our tournaments. It will be a facility in which we can take great pride.

Other construction projects currently underway include the new "T" hangars at the airport, and updates to the facilities at White's Park, Ulmer Park and the Douglasville School. All of these should be completed by mid- to late May. Interest continues to grow from private aircraft owners in leasing the new "T" hangars. We expect this to be a very successful project for the City. White's Park, Ulmer Park and the Douglasville School campus are going to be significantly upgraded by these projects which are being paid for primarily through grant funds. We are very fortunate to have a number of wonderful parks and recreation facilities in Bay Minette for everyone to enjoy.

Construction continues on the Bay Minette Elementary School despite enduring significant rain over the past six to nine months. The contractor, Bayshore Construction Company, Inc., is working feverishly to have the project completed in order to open the 2019-2020 school year in the new building. It looks great and is a tremendous new addition to our community which will have not only an immediate positive effect, but will bring long-term benefits to Bay Minette. We thank the Baldwin County Board of Education for their foresight in approving this project.

Construction in general is on the rise in Bay Minette and in our planning jurisdiction. We currently have 26 homes under construction by various contractors. Additionally, there are 5 commercial projects ongoing in various stages of construction. Our community is on the move.

As always, I would like to thank our great City employees for the wonderful job that they do for all of us every day. I hope that whenever you have the opportunity you will thank them for what they are doing for Bay Minette. The door to City Hall is always open. If we can be of service, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Very truly yours,
Robert A. "Bob" Wills



Mayor Bob Wills

Holly Hills Municipal Golf Course

There will be plenty of activities this summer at Holly Hills. A **Paint Party** will be held 3 p.m. May 4 at the Clubhouse. The class will be led by artist Kim Watson and is open to those 18-years and older. The fee is \$25. Call the clubhouse at 251-580-2553 for more details.

A **Ladies Golf Tournament** will be held May 8 at Holly Hills. Registration is \$20 and tee-time will be 8 a.m. The weekly **Friday Scramble** has returned to Holly Hills! Join us every Friday at 5 p.m. Teams will be picked and all team members will decide which tee shot they like the best. Each player pays \$5, which will be awarded to the winning team. Green fees will apply to non-members (\$15 with cart). Open to everyone! For details, call the clubhouse at 580-2553.

Club Matches will be played June 1-2 at Holly Hills, featuring a Two-Man Scramble. The annual **Father-Son Tournament** will take place June 15 at the **Club Championship Tournament** is set for June 22.

Summer Camps and Clinics

"**Just Dance**" Camp will meet 9 a.m. to noon May 28-31 at the Rec Center. This dance camp is for youth ages 6-years and older. The fee is \$75. Registration is available at teamsideline.com/bayminette or stop by the Rec Department.

A **Baseball Clinic** will be held June 3-4 at Halliday Park, under the direction of Baldwin County High School Coach Kyle Hunter. The camp will meet from 9 a.m. to noon both days and is open to youth ages 6- to 13-years. The registration fee is \$50 for the first camper and \$30 for each additional sibling. Campers will receive instruction in fielding, batting, pitching and other vital tools to become a successful player. For more information, contact Coach Kyle Hunter at 334-707-1929.

Youth Golf Clinics will be offered again this summer at Holly Hills Municipal Golf Course. The clinics will be under the direction of Golf Pro Mikki Bjuro. Four sessions are planned and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Beginner sessions will be held June 5-7 and June 19-21. Intermediate sessions will be held June 12-14 and June 26-28. Classes will meet 8 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The cost is \$100 per session. Private lessons are also available. To book a spot, call Holly Hills clubhouse at 580-2553.

A **Volleyball Camp** will be held June 10-13 at Coastal Alabama Community College in Bay Minette. The Dr. Ritchie Dulaney Individual Skills Volleyball Camp will meet 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the gym and will include individual skill development and daily competition. Registration is \$175. Campers should bring water bottles and knee pads. Drinks and snacks will be sold during breaks and at lunch. For more information, call Coach Dulaney at 251-391-8416.

Sun Chief Basketball Camp will be held 9 a.m. to noon June 17-20 at Coastal Alabama Community College. The camp is open to youth in third through eighth grades. The fee is \$35 per camper. For more information, visit <http://www.coastalsunchiefs.com/camps/camps-list>. Baldwin County High School Lady Tigers will hold a **Softball Camp** June 25 at the school for ages 7-years and older. The camp will run 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a break for lunch. The fee is \$25 and registration will open at 8 a.m. Campers should bring glove, bat and sack lunch.

Baldwin County High School will hold the Coach McDaniel **Youth Football Camp** on July 9 at Lyle Underwood Stadium. The Youth Camp (K-4th grades) will be held 5 to 7 p.m. and the Middle School Camp (5th-8th grades) will take place 7 to 9 p.m. Registration is \$10 and each camper will get a commemorative shirt. Registration begins just before the start time of each camp.



Library Corner

The annual **Summer Reading Program** kicks off on Tuesday, May 28, with hot dogs and a bouncy house at the library at 1 p.m. That is the time to come out and register your child for the six-week program. We will have programs every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Civic Center. The programs will include June 4: Spectacular Science Show; June 11: Adventures of the Gingerbread Man Puppet Show; June 18: Tom Foolery Juggling Extravaganza; June 25: Ventriloquist Gene Cordova; July 2: Animal Stories of Inspiration from the Freedom Ranch; July 9: Animal Tales.

Some of our regularly scheduled activities include: Storytime is offered at 10 a.m. each Tuesday in the Children's Room. The **Writers Group** meets 10 a.m. to noon on the third Wednesday of each month. The Flip Flop Book Club meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Senior Center. The Bay Minette Browsers meet 1:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the library. A free movie is shown at 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center.

The **Flip Flop Book Club** has selected titles for the summer including *The Wife Between Us* by Greer Hendricks for May; *The Wife* by Meg Wolitzer for June; and *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn for July.

The Bay Minette Browsers will be reading *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones for May; *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict for June; and *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate for July.

The **Free Movie series** at the Senior Center will include "Arsenic and Old Lace" in May; "To Kill a Mockingbird" in June; and "The Book Club" in July.

For more information about these or other activities, follow the Bay Minette Public Library on Facebook or visit our website at www.bayminettepubliclibrary.org. - **Library Director Joanna Bailey**, jbailey@ci.bay-minette.al.us.

Make a Splash at the Bay Minette Municipal Pool

The **Bay Minette Municipal Pool** will open May 25 and there will be some new faces heading up the amenity. The pool will now fall under the city's Recreation Department and Rena Williams will oversee the daily operation, along with assistance from managers Kristy Weatherford and Emily Malone.

Hours of operation will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday*, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. The daily admission rate remains \$8 with children 2-years and younger admitted free. The City will again offer a *Family Night every Monday (excluding holidays) featuring a special rate of \$5 after 5 PM.

Two sessions of swim lessons will be offered this summer for ages 5-years and older. The sessions will take place Monday through Thursday, June 10-20 and July 8-18. All classes will be held 9 to 9:50 a.m. The fee is \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members. There will be a discount available for additional children from the same family.

To sign up, call the Municipal Pool office at 937-1367. Private lessons are also available. Pool membership forms can be downloaded at www.cityofbayminette.org and are also available at Bay Minette City Hall.

Discount Savers Cards are on sale through May 23. These cards are \$35 and include six admissions to the pool. The cards can be purchased at Bay Minette City Hall.

The **Tiger Shark Swim Team** will hold its informational meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at the Bay Minette Municipal Pool. The team is open to children ages 5- to 18-years old.

Registration is \$110 which includes a team swim cap and shirt. There is a \$10 discount for each additional child in the same family. No previous experience is required, but children 8-years & under will be evaluated to make sure they can swim.

Swim team members do not have to be a member of the Bay Minette Municipal Pool to participate. Registration packets can be picked up at the Bay Minette Rec Department and Bay Minette City Hall. Applications will also be available at the meeting. - **Bay Minette Municipal Pool, 251-937-1367 or 251-580-2546.**

Recreation News

Bay Minette Recreation Department will hold its first ever "**Paddle Battle**" Tournament at the Pickleball Court at Kids Park. The round robin tournament, set for May 10-11, will include men's and women's doubles on Friday and mixed doubles on Saturday. The entry fee is \$25 per player and each participant will receive a T-shirt. Kids Park is at 303 McMillan Avenue. To register, visit www.teamsideline.com/bayminette.

Bay Minette Youth Softball League will hold its end-of-season tournament May 17-18. Tentative plans are to hold this tournament at the new Bay Minette Sports Complex on Redhill Road. Stay tuned to the Recreation Department's Facebook page for updates on plans for the grand opening celebration for the new Sports Complex!

Registration for **Youth Tackle Football** and **Youth Cheerleading** will be open through May 24. For football, the fee is \$80 and parents should bring a copy of child's birth certificate and a recent photo. The League is open to youth ages 7- to 12-years of age. The cheerleading program is open to children ages 6- to 12-years. There is a \$25 registration fee, plus the cost of uniforms. Registration for both is available at teamsideline.com/bayminette or stop by the Rec Department.

The Bay Minette Rec Department will hold **Open Gym** from 5 to 8 p.m. every Monday at the Douglasville School of Arts & Recreation. The recently renovated gymnasium includes courts for basketball, volleyball and pickleball games. For more details, call the Rec Department at 251-580-2546. - **Kelly Johnson, Recreation Director, Kelly.johnson@ci.bay-minette.al.us**



From the Fire Chief's Desk

In February, the Bay Minette Fire Department received its new ISO rating and the department improved from a 4 to a 3. For the residents, you should start to see a drop in your homeowner's insurance. This will go into effect June 1, 2019. The rating takes several factors into consideration such as the department's equipment, training, response times, pump capacity, hydrant maintenance and fire prevention programs. I would like to thank our fire department personnel for working very hard to make this happen.

We are currently working on our smoke alarm program throughout the city. At present there have been 29 fire fatalities this year in the State of Alabama. This number is up from this time last year. We will be trying to make sure that every resident has at least one working smoke alarm. If you do not have a smoke alarm or have one that is not working, please give us a call at 580-1617 and we will be happy to come put a smoke alarm up in your residence for free. We hope everyone has a safe and happy summer. - **Mike Minchew, Fire Chief, mminchew@ci.bay-minette.al.us 251-580-1617**

Douglasville School of Arts and Recreation

The Douglasville School of Arts and Recreation is undergoing a transformation thanks to an Impact 100 grant awarded to Light of the City/ Volunteers of America. The Light the Way Family Initiative grant will help provide for a new gym floor, walking track, pavilion and community garden.

Matching funds and in-kind work is also being provided by the City of Bay Minette and North Baldwin Utilities. The gym floor will include courts for basketball, volleyball and pickleball. This work is currently in progress project is expected to be completed in mid-May.



This summer, the Douglasville campus will be humming with activity. Registration will be held 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 29-31 for the **Light of the City Summer Day Camp**. The free summer day camp will be held 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 1 through July 31. There is no fee to participate but space is limited.

An opening day/ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 1.

The **Future Athletics Summer Basketball League** will play Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights June through August. Stay tuned for registration information.

The Rec Department will offer **Open Gym** from 5 to 8 p.m. every Monday. Other fun events are being planned as well, including socials, sewing, arts and crafts and exercise classes on Wednesday evenings.

The annual **Fathers' Day Festival** will be held June 16 on the campus. Stay tuned for more details. The Banquet Room and Pavilion are available for rent for family activities such as baby/wedding showers, small banquets and family reunions. The gym is available for athletic event rentals only. To reserve these spaces, contact Bay Minette City Hall at 251-580-1619.

From the Police Chief's Desk

The Bay Minette Police Department is excited to announce the addition of K-9 Jax. Jax is a 2-year old full-blooded black Labrador Retriever. Jax is trained to detect narcotics and to track fleeing suspects. Jax was purchased from a K-9 Trainer in Northwestern Tennessee with funds donated by citizens. The contributions are greatly appreciated. In the next few weeks Jax and his handler Officer Lance Morgan will attend a narcotics handler course to certify them as a working dog team.

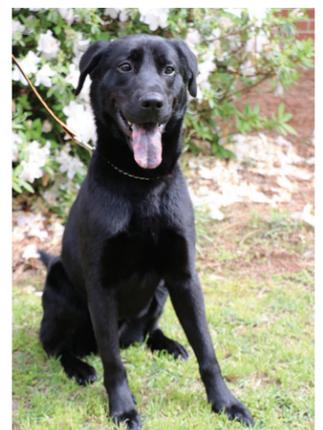
On April 9, we hosted the "Chasing the Dragon" documentary, created by the FBI and DEA to bring awareness regarding the opiate crisis that our nation is facing. This event was a great success and brought an audience of attendees from all age groups. I want to thank all the of the other Law Enforcement, School Board Officials, and North Baldwin Rural Health Network for partnering with us to host this event.

We have recently upgraded our computer software system and added crime mapping. Predictive Policing is the way of the future. We will also be able to create digital images of these maps and share with citizens through social media and email.

We want to congratulate Officer Jamie Hodgen on his recent graduation of the Northeast Police Academy. Officer Hodgen attended 14 weeks of comprehensive law training. Hodgen is currently completing eight weeks of Officer Field Training and when he completes that will be a solo beat officer. Hodgen is a Bay Minette native and a graduate of Baldwin County High School.

Bay Minette Police Department has three new recruits who began training at the Northeast Police Academy in April. These three officers were recently hired after passing physical agility course, extensive background investigation and interview process.

As we move into the spring of the year I would just like to remind everyone that the traffic flow through the city will increase tremendously as vacationers head to the beach. We just ask everyone to allow a little extra time in your travels through town. - **Police Chief Al Tolbert, al.tolbert@ci.bay-minette.al.us 251-580-2559**



Jax, The new Police Dog