

BLAZING TRAILS

Sponsored by the Smoke Rise Homeowner's Association
Post Office Box 471
Warrior, Alabama 35180

OCTOBER 2016 ISSUE

fb: Smoke Rise HOA and Neighborhood Watch for Smoke Rise Residents Only

GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7:00 pm
Smoke Rise United Methodist Church
corner of Scenic Trail and Grandview Trail
Everyone is welcome!

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**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND**  
**OPEN TO ALL SMOKE RISE RESIDENTS**

## 1% SALES TAX FOR BLOUNT COUNTY ?

**Probate Judge/County Commission Chair, Chris Green, Superintendent of Education, Rodney Green and West Blount Representative to Moving Blount County Forward, Linda Parker** will be presenting information concerning the referendum to increase Blount County Sales Tax by 1% that will appear on the ballot November 8. What will this money be used for? What are the benefits of this tax? How will the money be distributed? These, and other questions, will be addressed by our guests. There will also be an opportunity for questions.

### Moving Blount County Forward

Moving Blount County Forward is the political action group that is detailing how the county 1-cent sales tax increase proceeds are going to be distributed among major county institutions, if passed. This plan, developed last year, was used as documentation which enabled legislation to be passed early this spring to authorize a referendum this fall.

Areas that will be affected by this tax increase include roads, county and city schools, county and city municipalities, and county fire departments. On Nov. 8, Blount County voters will decide whether or not to levy the tax to support these areas.

By law, none of the money for any of the entities may be used to pay employee salaries or benefits. It may be used – in the case of education – only for “capital improvement and construction or for the advancement of technology in education,” according to the language of the law.

The full text of HB436, sponsored by Dist. 11 Rep. Randall Shedd, can be read here:

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/ALISON/SearchableInstruments/2016RS/PrintFiles/HB436-int.pdf>

Moving Blount County Forward has a facebook page.

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ADECCA GRANT FOR HAYDEN?

On Sept. 6, a community meeting was held at Hayden Town Hall at the request of a grant writer from CDG Engineers, a Birmingham firm, to discuss the possibility of Hayden applying for an ADECCA grant for the purpose of assisting in the installation of turn lanes for the proposed Travel Center on Hwy 160 across from Smoke Rise Trail. The Town had been approached by the developer requesting for the Town's assistance in obtaining this grant. The grant would be worded in such a way that there would be no financial obligation to the Town, all expenses would be borne by the developer. ADECCA grants cannot be applied for by individuals, they must go through municipalities.

This meeting was for informational purposes. The grant will be written and presented to the Council for action at a future unknown date.

Funding for Alabama State Parks

In recent years more than \$15 million has been transferred out of the Parks budget and into the General Fund. Losing this money has been detrimental to the Parks system and diminished the ability to operate. This was used as the reason for closing 5 parks in 2015, including Rickwood Caverns, as well as the Manager and Assistant Manager losing their jobs. Through the efforts of a dedicated group of people organizing public protests and contacting their legislators, 4 of the 5 parks have been re-opened, including Rickwood. The current staff of Rickwood has received word that the park will remain open year-round, only the pool will be closed in winter.

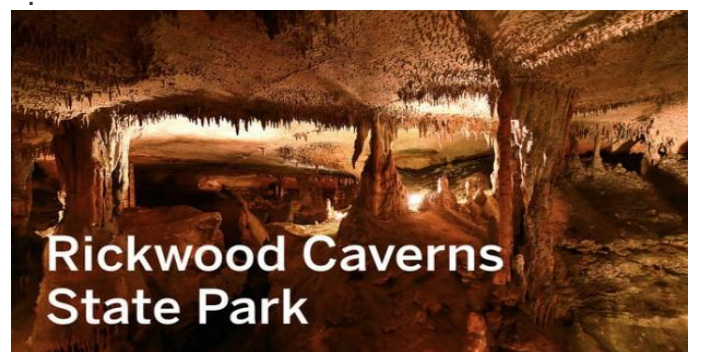
Amendment 2, sponsored by Dist 9 Sen. Clay Scofield, was passed in the Regular Legislative Session. “What the amendment does is it safeguards the funds,” Scofield explained, “So it says that the monies that are made within the parks, the public goes and spends money at our Alabama State Parks, that money stays in Alabama State Parks.” The full text can be found here:

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/ALISON/SearchableInstruments/2016rs/PrintFiles/SB260-enr.pdf>

The language used of Amendment 2 will be complicated, but will basically ask “Do you want to protect the funding of the Alabama State Parks?” Amendment 2 will protect the State Parks money.

A “yes” vote is a vote in favor of the prohibition of reallocating state park funds for other uses.

A “no” vote is a vote in favor of designating state park funds for other uses.



**Rickwood Caverns
State Park**

2016 - 2017 DUES ARE NOW DUE

SMOKE RISE RESIDENTS: Please fill out this form to become a member of your Homeowner's Association. For a little less than \$4 a month you can assure the continuation of representation of your interests with our local government. Send your check, made payable to SRHA, for \$40 to:
Smoke Rise Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 471, Warrior, Alabama 35180

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Each Membership comes with one vote
(Fiscal Year July 1 through June 30)

Thank you for helping us to be a more effective voice for our community, and to continue to be able to keep you informed of important events that could have an impact on our quality of life. Our Goal is to serve, promote and honor our community, and help to shape our future, to provide a forum for issues affecting Smoke Rise to keep our members informed, and to protect our covenanted community

Open Letter to All Smoke Rise Residents

Effective November 1, 2016, I assume my seat on the Hayden Town Council. During the next few years we can expect to see a number of positive things develop in the Hayden area. I am honored to be even a small part of that. I have lived in West Blount County for over forty years, my children attended all three schools and graduated at Hayden High. I truly have acquired "HAYDEN PRIDE!" I invite all Hayden residents to share their comments and concerns as it pertains to their wants and desires. I will work hard to see that all citizens of Hayden are kept informed of town affairs and what will have a direct effect on them.

Roger Hurt
Hayden Town Council, Place #1
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Smoke Rise Homeowners Association, Inc.
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