BLAZING TRAILS

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

April 2024 ISSUE fb (2): "Smoke Rise Residents and HOA" & "Smoke Rise Neighborhood Watch"
email: smokerise@smokerisehoa.org webpage: smokerisehoa.org

GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024, 7:00 PM
Smoke Rise Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall
Corner of Scenic Trail and Grandview Trail
Everyone is welcome!

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS
OPEN TO ALL SMOKE RISE RESIDENTS & GUESTS

"Before it was Smoke Rise – 1800-1970" – Greg Caudle, a long-time resident of Smoke Rise with an interest of all things historical about our mountain and area, will be sharing some of the information he has gathered about what Smoke Rise was like before it became Smoke Rise in the late 1960's. The sponsors for this meeting will be the **Smoke Rise HOA Board Members.** We will also have the annual election of Sector Directors. Come and be a part of your community, and you just might learn something new..

HISTORY BUFF

Local resident, **Greg Caudle,** has a great passion for the history of our area. He grew up in Smoke Rise, went to Hayden schools, and is now raising his family here. There's just something about this community. . .

From the research he has done, he will share with us what he has discovered: the native tribes of our area and their removal, the arrival of the L&N railroad (and the foiled train heist), Reid's Gap including the oil excitement and bust, the move of the railroad, and construction of the Bee Line highway.

"The area along White Oak Trail is likely the longest European occupied area of Smoke Rise, or "Reid's Gap," as it was known then." **Greg** said.

"I'm looking forward to sharing what I've learned – and comparing notes with others who like and know the local history, so if you know nothing about the history or know tons, please come to this meeting!" he added.

This promises to be a very interesting and informative program. All are welcome!

SMOKE RISE YARD SALE

There is still time to get your address added to the map for the Yard Sale. Go to the HOA Facebook page and add it to the post about the yard sale.

FOURTH ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNITION

On April 17th, for the fourth year in a row Smoke Rise HOA will show our community's appreciation to all of our 36 local first responders for all their hard work, dedication, and time away from their families to help keep all of us safe.

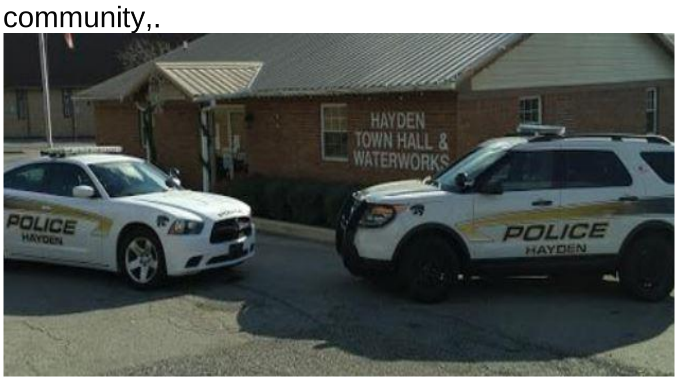
We are pleased to be able to provide meals for our first responders to thank them for all that they do for our community and show our appreciation for their sacrifices, expertise and training for our safety and well-being.

Fire Station One

Top Hat will once again be the resource for our ability to provide a full meal to each of our dedicated men and women. This is a planned event for each Spring.

Fire Station Two

They are always there for us when we need them. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful people always ready to do whatever is necessary for our community,.



Hayden Police Department

The dinners can't even come close to express our love and appreciation, but it's a start.

Lifeguard EMS

Smoke Rise people, this is just one of the things that we can do with your membership and support.

THANK YOU WEST BLOUNT 1ST RESPONDERS

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<u>YOUR</u> HOA

Smoke Rise Homeowners Association, formed in 1995 for the purpose of providing a voice from our community for local and county issues, has accomplished over those years new street signs, entrance signs with landscaping, a flag pole at the entrance on White Oak Trail, paving of streets, monetary assistance to our schools, direct liaison to the Sheriff's office, the Hayden Police Department, and Neighborhood Watch Patrol, and regular liaison with the County Commission.

Directors are elected at the Annual Meeting in April. Three years ago at a regular meeting of the Board, an amendment was added to the By-Laws creating six positions of Director-at-Large from any Sector, who will serve for a one-year term. This allows for those sectors who have more than two candidates for Directors who are willing to serve do so and have a say on the board. Currently, there are no at-large directors.

Current Board

Sector 1 – Barry Turner (P) & Dolores (Sec)
Sector 2 – Joyce Kent & Erin Long
Sector 4 – Christy Harris & Tera Lee
Sector 5 – Robert Rice
Sector 6 – Edna Caudle (Trea)
Sector 10 – Tim Bryant (VP)

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Will you be willing to help fill the vacancies so ALL of Smoke Rise can have representation? This meeting on Thursday, April 18, is election of Sector Directors. There are 2 Directors for each sector, 1 serving for 1 year, and 1 for 2 years. There are also 6 positions available for Director-at-Large. The following Sectors will be electing 1 Director for 2 years, **ONE, TWO, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, TEN**. All other sectors will be electing two Directors, **THREE, SEVEN, NINE, ELEVEN, SCENIC WOODS.**

The requirements include being a dues-paying member, and attending monthly meetings, the 2nd Monday of each month, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall of the Smoke Rise Methodist Church on Scenic Trail.

Standing Committees, Functions & Members

Requirements for being the chair or member of any of the standing committees are to be a dues-paying member and attending the monthly meetings. You do not have to be a Director to be on any of these committees. These committees are appointed by the President of the Board after the election of officers at the July meeting.

The **Architectural Control Committee** (**ACC**) reviews proposed real estate development in Smoke Rise to verify it is in compliance with the covenants covering our community. The ACC is authorized to approve or disapprove construction within Smoke Rise. This also protects our property values. Chair is David Hunter, his team includes Alan Grostick and Barry Turner.

The **County Commission Liaison** (**CCL**) is a direct link to the county government. She attends at least one meeting a month, and/or watches the meetings via Facebook. She reports back to the board those items of interest to, or that have an effect on, our community. The business meeting is on the second Tuesday of each month with the work session the Thursday before. The Smoke Rise HOA has a voice in our county government. Commission Liaison is Dolores Fort.

Neighborhood Watch (**NW**) is more than just neighbors watching out the windows. It is a dedicated liaison to **Sheriff Mark Moon,** Blount County Sheriff's Office and **Chief James Chapman,** Hayden Police Department. for coordination of information to and from them, communication between neighbors through the **NW** Facebook page, and active patrol by some volunteers. Much of this is "behind the scenes".

The SRHOA, through the **NW**, provides Smoke Rise stickers to all residents for their cars so everyone will know which vehicles belong in Smoke Rise. Chair is Christy Harris. Her team consists of neighborhood volunteers, some of whom patrol the community on an irregular basis. Anyone who would like to be one of these volunteers is encouraged to contact Christy

Community Events (**CE**) sets up various projects and programs that may be of interest to our residents. In the past some events included a neighborhood yard sale, Halloween Trick or Treating, Chili/Soup Cook-off, Yard of the Month, Christmas Lights, and school supplies for children within our community. The next event scheduled is the annual community yard sale for Saturday, May 4th. Addresses are being compiled and a map will be placed on the HOA Facebook page. Ideas for other community-wide events are encouraged.

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CALLING ALL SPONSORS!

The **HOA** provides an opportunity for a Smoke Rise business to come to one of our quarterly community meetings and give a brief (5 minute) talk about your company. We also ask you to provide some light refreshments for those in attendance (anywhere from 25 to 40).

Previous sponsors have included **Christy Harris**, **The Blue Door; Jimmy Morrison, Smoke Rise Child Care, Marty & Shaney Stover, West Blount Axe Throwing; Robert & Daniell Johnston, Lake Services, LLC; Sarah Skandera Monarch Roofing; Josh & Kris McCoy, Hometown Athletics; Becky Parsons, Hometown Vintage Mall.**

Do you have a business in Smoke Rise? Would you be interested in sponsoring one of our quarterly meetings? Comment your information in a PM on FB to Dolores Scheller Fort with your contact information. Or you can contact any board member and they will let her know. This could be an opportunity to bring knowledge of your business to the community.

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CAR STICKER

This is the red "S" sticker for vehicle identification, which is to be placed on the driver side rear window at the top edge on the outside.

Ever see a car in the neighborhood that looks like it doesn't belong in Smoke Rise? Smoke Rise stickers are available ONLY to Smoke Rise residents. Put them on your car and they identify you as someone who is a resident of the neighborhood.

You can pick yours up at The Blue Door, 177 Smoke Rise Trail. They are available from Sector Directors, Christy Harris, and will be available at the meeting Thursday, April 18. If you need one, be sure to pick one up.

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2024 – 2025 DUES

Dues for the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year will be due July 1st. The fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Your dues of $40 a year, which is the lowest of any HOA in the country, helps with projects like the Chili/Soup Cook-off held last October, Yard-of-the-Month, community yard sales, trick or treat, Christmas Lights, just to name a few.

If you are not currently a member and want to join so you can vote at the meeting for your directors, and if you join this April your membership will be carried through June 2025. The next year's (2025 - 26) membership fees will not be due until July 2025.

Your dues will be accepted at the meeting, can be mailed to PO Box 471, Warrior, 35180, or pay online at www.smokerisehoa.org.

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PALS CLEANUP THE COUNTRYSIDE

The month of April is PALS Roadside Cleanup. The county for D1 will have dumpsters located behind the Hayden Townhall. Other district locations will be at the gate of the D2 Shop, D3 at the Engineering Sign and D4 across from Massey Auto Parts in Locust Fork. The districts can supply any groups, organizations or individuals with free trash bags. Dumpsters are for litter, not household garbage. If you have any questions contact Danette Love Heinrich at 205 446-2569

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CLEANUP ON WHITE OAK TRAIL

L-R - Barry Turner, Alan Grostick, Barbara Bednar Mohon, Sara Grostick, Angela Etheredge (not pictured), David Hunter (not pictured).

Once again our HOA neighborhood trash collectors did not wait for the county-wide pickup to start. They got together in February to cleanup White Oak Trail, a major artery into Smoke Rise.

A special thanks to Alan and Sara Grostick for organizing it again this year and years past, as well as Allen Armstrong for having his crew pick up the bags and waiving the dump fee. Thanks also to the Hayden Police Department for slowing the traffic down during the cleanup!!

Thanks to the 2024 White Oak Trail cleanup crew!! It looks so much better now.

That's a lot of trash with just six people! We are so fortunate to live in a community where our residents take pride in their neighborhood and are willing to work to show that pride. That's a lot of garbage!

What these individuals accomplished can also happen in other neighborhoods. Organize a cleanup for YOUR road. It's hard work but also a chance to work with your neighbors and get to know them better. There is still a week and a half left for the PALS cleanup.

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TOWN OF HAYDEN

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WHAT IS A FIREMAN?

He's the guy next door – a man's man with the memory of a little boy. He never got over the excitement of engines and sirens and smoke and danger.

He's a guy like you and me with warts and worries and unfilled dreams.

Yet he stands taller than most of us.

He's a fireman.

He puts it all on the line when the bell rings.

A fireman is at once the most fortunate and the least fortunate of men.

He's a man who saves lives because he has seen too much death.

He's a gentle man because he has seen too much of the awesome power of violent forces out of control.

He's responsive to a child's laughter because his arms have held too many small bodies that will never laugh again.

He's a man who appreciates the simpler pleasures of life. . .hot coffee held in numbed, unbending fingers. . .the flush of fresh air pumping through smoke-and-fire-convulsed lungs. . .a warm bed for bone and muscle compelled beyond feeling. . .the camaraderie of brave men. . .the divine peace of selfless service and a job well done in the name of all men.

He doesn't wear buttons or wave flags or shout obscenities.

When he marches, it is to honor a fallen comrade.

He doesn't preach the brotherhood of man.

He lives it!

REMINDER FROM THE BILLING OFFICE

Due to fraudulent activity on the QR code that was printed on the 2024 service year invoices, we've had to disable that code. Below is the new and active QR code for Fire Dues payments. We apologize for any inconvenience.

And of course, you can still mail your payment or pay in person at Station 1 to the business office Monday - Friday from 8a-2p, or put your payment in the drop box at station 1, or go online and pay with debit or credit card (transaction fee of 3.5% will be added) westblountfire.org.

If you have any questions about your dues or making payments please call our office Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 2 PM. The address of the

office is 757 County Road 7, Hayden. The mailing address is P.O. Box 229, Hayden, AL 35079.

As always, thank you so much for your continued support!!

Billing Managers Stacy Quinn & Christie Moore
(205) 647-4566
wbfd1901@gmail.com

West Blount Fire & EMS District

Scan here to pay your Fire Dues →

THE FIRE BOARD

The Fire Board meets the second Thursday of each month at Fire Station No.1 on County Road 7, beginning at 6:00 PM. All meetings are open to the public. The Trustees are Marty Stover, chair, Jamie Huffstutler, vice chair, Dolores Fort, secretary, Mark Giddy and Danny Smith. Fire Chief is JJ Ivey, Asst. Chief, Clay Jones, Lieutenants Jessie Watkins and Christopher Lankford.

The minutes of all meetings are available to anyone who would like to receive them. If you would like to receive the minutes of each meeting and notices of the meeting dates, please leave your name and email address with the billing office, they will get that information to Dolores Fort, who will add you to the list of recipients for the emails. .

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Second Annual May Fling 2024 Cruise In will be Saturday, May 4, from 4 PM until 7 PM at Hayden Town Green. Chapter Five Band will perform. There will also be free hot dogs (cooked by Town of Hayden), chips, cookies, & water, car show, cash and 50/50 drawings, and inflatables for the kids. The Chamber will also have soft drinks for sale for $1 to go toward the Scholarship Fund.

This event is jointly sponsored by the Town of Hayden and West Blount Chamber of Commerce. The car show is organized by Alton Armstrong.

Chamber business members are invited to set up tables, at no fee, to showcase their business and introduce their company to the West Blount Community.

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May 4, 2024 Hayden Town Green, beginning at 4:00

FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT OUR TWO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Sponsored by

West Blount Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber will also have a table to collect non-perishable food items for our community's two food banks, Hayden First Baptist Church and Faith Church of the Nazarene. At each of the events the chamber holds throughout the year, there will be an opportunity for attendees to make donations of non-perishable food items, which will be shared by these two food pantries. Each of these pantries serves 150 to 200 families, providing them with a box of food once a month.

Join us on May 4 for food, entertainment and good family fun. And don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for our two pantries. There will be a container for financial donations.

CHAMBER NEWS

As always an invitation is extended to everyone to become a member of the Chamber. Dues categories are the following: Individuals = $25; Couples = $35; Organizations and Churches = $35; Business up to 10 employees = $35; Business up to 25 employees = $50; Business more than 25 employees = $75.

West Blount Chamber is funded through membership fees and a small donation from the County Commission, which is not an annual guaranteed fixture and can be stopped at any time. The Chamber puts a lot of focus on our four schools. To that end we donate every year to the Blount County Educational Foundation, and we offer two $1,000 scholarships to two graduating seniors each year. This is in addition to the support we offer to our business members. We are available to assist our businesses in whatever way we can when they request that assistance.

Your membership along with your participation in meetings and activities will be an asset in helping to create a better community for all and assisting in the projects we have mentioned here.

The current Board of Directors is: Kay Armstrong, Larry Armstrong, Dennis Bates, vice chair, Dolores Fort, sec., Marlene Green, Keith Hudson, Brandon Kanute, Ben Norris, chair, Carroll Sparks, trea. The Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at Hayden First Baptist Church, at 6:30 PM. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

Our contact information is P.O. Box 607, Hayden, Alabama 35079
Web: www.westblountchamber.com (in progress)
Facebook: West Blount Chamber of Commerce

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Proposed new entrance sign at Country Road, SW side, in Sector 10. The completed sign will be approximately 4' by 8' with the same design and lettering as the other entrance signs for Sectors 1, 5, and 6. Tim Bryant, Director Sector 10, has been the major motivator to have this sign completed. Working with him are David Hunter, Barry Turner and David Caudle. Plans have already been drawn, lumber will be ordered and work begun in a couple of weeks. With the exception of the cost of materials, all work is being done by community volunteers.

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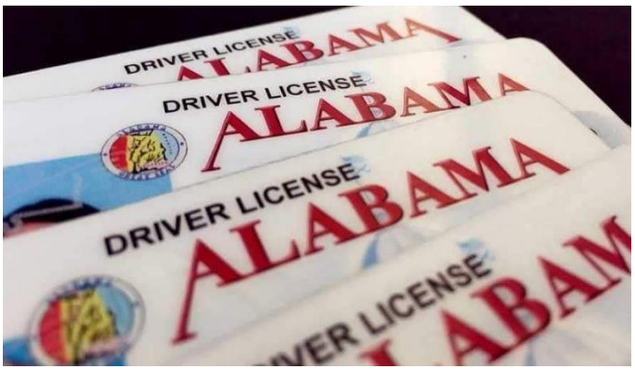
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION



In case you didn't know, you can now add an Emergency Contact to your Alabama Driver's License! This is beneficial to all drivers, and especially to concerned parents of young drivers or children of elderly ones.

Having an easily accessible emergency contact gives first responders someone to call in the event of a crash, overdose, medical emergency, disoriented elderly driver, or anytime when the license holder may not be able to share their information (most cell phones today are password protected, so calling "Mom" from the injured person's phone isn't as easy as it once was).

This license update is free and only takes seconds to complete. Go to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency website at www.alea.gov and search Emergency Contact. You must have the name and license number of the holder, and you will enter/edit the emergency contact name/ address/phone number. It will automatically attach to the licensee's records.

Although you will not be given a new physical license, the information will show to dispatch and the first responder's computer searches. Feel free to share this information with your family, colleagues, and friends!

Another opportunity to have peace of mind when children or older adults may be driving alone.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
Please Be aware when answering your phone for scams to defraud you!!!

Posted from a friend on Facebook:

I just got a call from a 304 area code. Thinking it was someone I know in WV, I answered. It was a man claiming to be from customer service (didn't say what company, only "customer service").

The first thing he asked was "Can you hear me?"

I remembered something I saw on Facebook saying people are calling and asking if you can hear them, then using the recording of your "Yes" reply as a way to sign you up for all kinds of stuff. So I replied "I hear you" to which he again asked "so you can hear me?"

Me: I hear you
Him: I just need a yes or no
Me: I hear you
Him: *hangs up*

Thanks to whoever posted that story. I probably would have answered "Yes" the first time he asked.

~*~

PARTIAL ECLIPSE FROM APRIL 8, 2024

Above picture was taken by Maria Griner, resident of Smoke Rise, who sent it to James Spann, who put it on his Facebook page! Thank you to Maria from all of us who did not get to witness this event because of not being able to find the special glasses.

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SENIOR DAYS

West Blount & Hayden Seniors continue their gatherings every Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Hayden Community Center. This is a great opportunity to get out of the house, away from the routine of the day, and get to meet new people and make new friends.

West Blount & Hayden Senior Days are for seniors in and around the West Blount/Hayden, Alabama area. In addition to social fun gatherings, events will include but are not limited to; games, puzzles, prizes, great food, and drinks, blood pressure checks, birthday celebrations, monthly dinners at local restaurants. At times there is even a corn hole competition, which can become quite competitive.

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