

March 2012

The Hartselle



Serving Hartselle's People, Building for Hartselle's Future

Aggressive Construction Timeline Set for New City Pool

When the City of Hartselle awarded the winning bid for the city's new pool on January 3 to Woodward Construction, Ronnie Woodward wasted no time in getting ready. According to Mayor Dwight Tankersley, the city gave Woodward the notice to proceed January 4, and construction began the next morning.



Hartselle leaders plan to open the new city pool, shown above in an architect's rendering, on Memorial Day weekend.

"Our goal is to have the pool completed by May 18, in time to open on Memorial Day weekend," the Mayor says. "We realize this is an aggressive timeline, but Ronnie Woodward says he can meet that timeline, and judging by how fast they are working, we believe that if it is at all possible, he can do it."

The new city pool replaces the former Olympic-sized pool behind the Civic Center on Nanceford Road. It will feature two separate swimming areas – one with zero depth access and a splash pad, the other with eight swimming lanes and a diving well – along with a lazy river, two pool slides, a full concession stand and a Cool Deck pool surround to keep the concrete cool all summer.

The pool will be open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m. Swimming lessons will be offered from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. throughout the summer.

The pool area will also include a party room and an island area in the pool which after hours can be outfitted with a DJ or stage area for parties. Reservations for the party room can be made through the Civic Center, 773-2581, beginning May 1.

The original pool, once the largest municipal pool in the South, was 35 years old, reports the Mayor, and the only way to fix the structural problems that threatened to close it would have been to "build a new pool inside of it." So, he says, the Council instead chose to build a new pool, one that would provide a recreation area for Hartselle residents and potentially draw more visitors into town during the summer months. The city offered a bond issue to cover the \$3.4 million budgeted for construction, architect fees, furnishings and equipment.

"With the anticipated attendance and rate structure, we will be close to covering the ongoing operating expenses of the new pool," Mayor Tankersley says.

Part of the pool budget includes new software for the Parks and Recreation Department. This software will allow the department to track usage of Hartselle's parks and recreation facilities, and estimate the economic impact of area events – including the district swim meet which will be held at the new pool in 2013.

"It has often been said that Hartselle is about three things: schools, churches and all the extracurricular activities associated with the first two," the Mayor emphasizes. "This new facility is part of what our community is truly about."

SNAP Playground Receives Prestigious 'Best of Aquatics' Award

"This project is an inspiration. Designing for universal accessibility requires foresight and careful planning. Kudos to the development team."

That's the comment from a judge from *Aquatics International*, a national publication for the commercial and swimming pool industries. *Aquatics International* has named the Splash Pad at the John Mark Stallings Special Needs Accessible Playground (SNAP) of Morgan County as a 'Best of Aquatics' facility for 2011. The national competition featured the industry's most outstanding aquatics facilities, including government, nonprofit and privately owned facilities.

There are over 1,700 physically challenged children in Morgan County. SNAP provides an accessible and usable playground – both dry and on the splash pad – for them, their families and friends. The playground is located near the Hartselle Civic Center.

SNAP is named for John Mark Stallings, son of former Alabama football Coach Gene Stallings. John Mark, who had Down Syndrome, passed away in 2008 at age 46. His life was an example of

accomplishments that are possible by those with disabilities when included in society.

Begun in December 2006, the three-phase project has been administered entirely by volunteers and funded by donations and grants. Hartselle's Civitan, Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs began working together on the project in 2006, and were quickly joined by other founding partners, including the City of Hartselle, the Hartselle Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way, The Volunteer Center of Morgan County, Wal-Mart, the Morgan County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Hartselle Medical Center. Almost every community in the area has proclaimed support for the project.

"It is my hope that each of the 322 individuals, businesses, corporations and organizations who have donated to the project share in the excitement of this award," says Bob Francis, SNAP project manager. "This national award is absolutely breathtaking for the many SNAP volunteers who have worked for five years to bring the project to this point."

continued on back

New High School Construction On Target

Construction at the new Hartselle High School is about 25 percent complete, Hartselle City Schools Superintendent Dr. Mike Reed reported in February.

“They’re still the pouring concrete pads, and the next big thing will be the roof trusses,” he said. “By March, you’ll be able to see a different skyline at the school.”

Last summer, HU crews repaired sewer main at 25 locations along Bethel Road in preparation for the school construction. Additional repairs will be made this year to regain capacity in the sewer main in preparation for the opening of the school.

Hartselle High School currently serves just under 1,000 students, Dr. Reed said. The new building will hold 1,200, and he expects it to take several years before the school comes close to full capacity.

“We are fortunate enough to have gradual increases over the years,” he said. “Hartselle doesn’t have many kids in private schools; our growth comes from families moving into town and those who live out of district and pay a tuition fee to send their students to school here.”

The total project estimate for the new school is \$40 million, with \$34 million of that set aside for construction.

Dr. Reed said that, weather permitting, the building will be completed in time for teachers and staff to move in over the 2012-2013 winter holiday.



Construction is about 25 percent complete for the new Hartselle High School, show above in an artist's rendering. In addition to classroom space, the 240,000 square-foot building will house two gyms and an auditorium.

Lift Station Working at Morgan Center

HU's final portion of sewer construction at the new Morgan Center Business Park, near the Thompson Road/I-65 interchange, is complete, says Glen Partlow, HU Engineering Services Manager. The last portion of the project was a 600 gallon-per-minute lift station.

HU has 21 lift stations throughout its system, in which waste from a gravity sewer flows in and the lift station pumps it up into another gravity sewer line. The system currently has two additional backup pumps in case of a power failure.

HU crews also installed 4,600 feet of 12" gravity sewer and 5,200 feet of 10" force main at the 135 acre park. The entire project cost a little less than \$1 million. The Morgan County Economic Development Association is overseeing development of the Business Park. Infrastructure within the park should be complete by June.

Another long-term project was completed in December, Partlow reports. The new centrifuge at the HU Wastewater Treatment Plant is fully operational. HU is beginning to dispose of the dried sludge produced by the centrifuge in the landfill.

Playground Wins Award ... continued from front

SNAP's Phase 1 was the Swing Area. It was completed in May 2008 at a cost of \$32,794. The Splash Pad, which garnered the *Best of Aquatics* award, cost \$239,224 and was completed in July 2010. The final phase will cost a little over \$375,000 and includes a covered pavilion with picnic benches, ceiling fans, special needs restrooms and a bi-level drinking fountain, which was completed in June 2011. A prominent entryway, featuring a plaque dedicating the facility to John Mark Stallings will be completed next. Finally, a rubberized-surface playground with 45 play features will complete the complex. The time frame for completing the final phase of the playground depends on how long it takes the organization to raise the remaining \$350,000 needed for construction.

For more information about the SNAP playground, visit www.snapplayground.org. Tax-deductible donations of any amount are welcome and can be sent to SNAP of Hartselle, Inc., P.O. Box 512, Hartselle, AL 35640.

Sandlin New Purchasing Manager

Greg Sandlin is HU's new Purchasing Manager/Facilities Manager. He replaced Jerry Johnson.

Sandlin joined HU in 2000, working for the Water, Sewer and Gas departments in field construction. From there, he became the first Stores Clerk in HU's warehouse before being promoted to Inspector / Safety Coordinator in 2004.

A Cullman native, Sandlin is married and has two daughters, ages 10 and 4.



Sandlin

Hartselle Leaders Present Annual Legislative Agenda to Congress

In early February, representatives from several Hartselle organizations returned to Washington to ask members of Congress for help in securing federal funding for ongoing community projects.

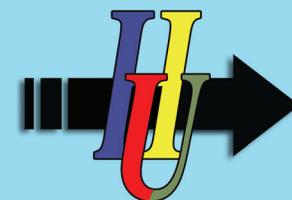
The group included Mayor Dwight Tankersley, Hartselle Utilities General Manager Ferrell Vest, HU Board Chairman Mike Gunter, and members of the City Council, County Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Hartselle Development Board, and the Morgan County Economic Development Association. They met with Rep. Mo Brooks, Rep. Robert Aderholt, Sen. Jeff Sessions, and Sen. Richard Shelby.

The group presented a Federal Legislative Agenda outlining federal funding priorities for the Hartselle area.

“We want to make Congress aware of our needs prior to the preparation of budgets for the next fiscal year,” explained Mayor Tankersley.

Transportation projects continue to top the list for this year, including the ongoing project to extend and widen Highway 36 from Vaughn Bridge Road to I-65. The City of Hartselle and the Alabama Department of Transportation are also continuing work to create an industrial access corridor along Thompson Road.

Other projects on the Legislative Agenda include constructing access roads and extending utilities at the Morgan Center Business / Industry Park; flood zone mitigation in the downtown area; the purchase of a new firefighting pumper truck; nine outdoor Emergency Warning Sirens; and improvements at the airport to mitigate hazardous terrain conditions along the south runway approach.



Hartselle Utilities

The Hartselle Connection is published quarterly by Hartselle Utilities.

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