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2014 VISITORS GUIDE

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2014 VISITORS GUIDE

COVER INFORMATION:

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256-734-0454 | 1-800-313-5114 • info@cullmanchamber.org | VisitCullman.org

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Welcome to Cullman



In Cullman, we make every effort to greet our guests with warmth and a spirit of welcoming. If you are thinking about visiting Cullman for the first time, you can expect friendly faces and an experience like none other. Whether you have come to the charming Cullman area on a whim or with a full itinerary of attractions to visit, we want you to know that you are our guest and we are here to help you.

Cullman is known for retaining its quaint, small-town heritage with beloved family attractions such as Smith Lake Park and the Ave Maria Grotto, while embracing notions of the bigger city life with wildly popular events such as the German-honoring festival of Oktoberfest and the music festival Rock the South. We have the best of both worlds here in Cullman.

Enjoy arts and crafts, antiques, shopping, concerts, fairs and festivals. No matter your reason for visiting, we encourage you to stop by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center at the intersection of U.S. Highway 278 and U.S. Highway 31. You'll find a caring staff, free maps, informative brochures and clean restrooms.

The Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.

to 5 p.m. Our staff can help you find lodging in the area, recommend delicious restaurants, offer a list of unique attractions and fun entertainment events that are going on, and just simply offer advice. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the area.

Here in Cullman, we don't meet a stranger. Once we meet you – you're considered family. So, come on out for a weekend getaway to Smith Lake for a fishing trip, the Stony Lonesome Park for some ATV fun, or hurry over to Skydive Alabama for your first skydive lesson. We hope you enjoy your stay with us and come back often.

Cecelia Smith



Cecelia Smith, Tourism Director
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce
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Cullman, AL 35055
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And the Rest is History...

By Lauren Estes, Staff Writer

After the tragic tornadoes of April 27, 2011, Cullman County, and specifically downtown Cullman's shopping district, received a facelift.

But even with so much destruction, many of the historical landmarks remain intact throughout the area. The downtown area hosts the oldest house in Cullman, Weiss Cottage, which is operated by the Cullman County Museum and open for touring by appointment only. It was named to Alabama's Register of Landmarks in 1977 and the National Register in 1985. For more information, contact the museum at (256) 739-1258.

Built in 1904, the Clarkson Covered Bridge is the second largest covered bridge in the state and served the community until the early 1970's. The bridge was re-

stored by the Cullman County Commission in 1975 and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located on County Road 1043 off U.S. Highway 278 near Bethel. The original bridge was located at the venue of the Civil War's Battle of Hog Mountain, but was washed away in a flood in 1921.

Ave Maria Grotto is a four-acre park known for its 125 miniature reproductions of historic and famous shrines across the world. St. Bernard Abbey Benedictine Monk Brother Joseph Zoetl created the stone and concrete artworks.

The Cullman County Museum has many modern exhibits that display Cullman's German heritage, Native American artifacts, and pays tribute to Cullman's pioneers with showcases and galleries.

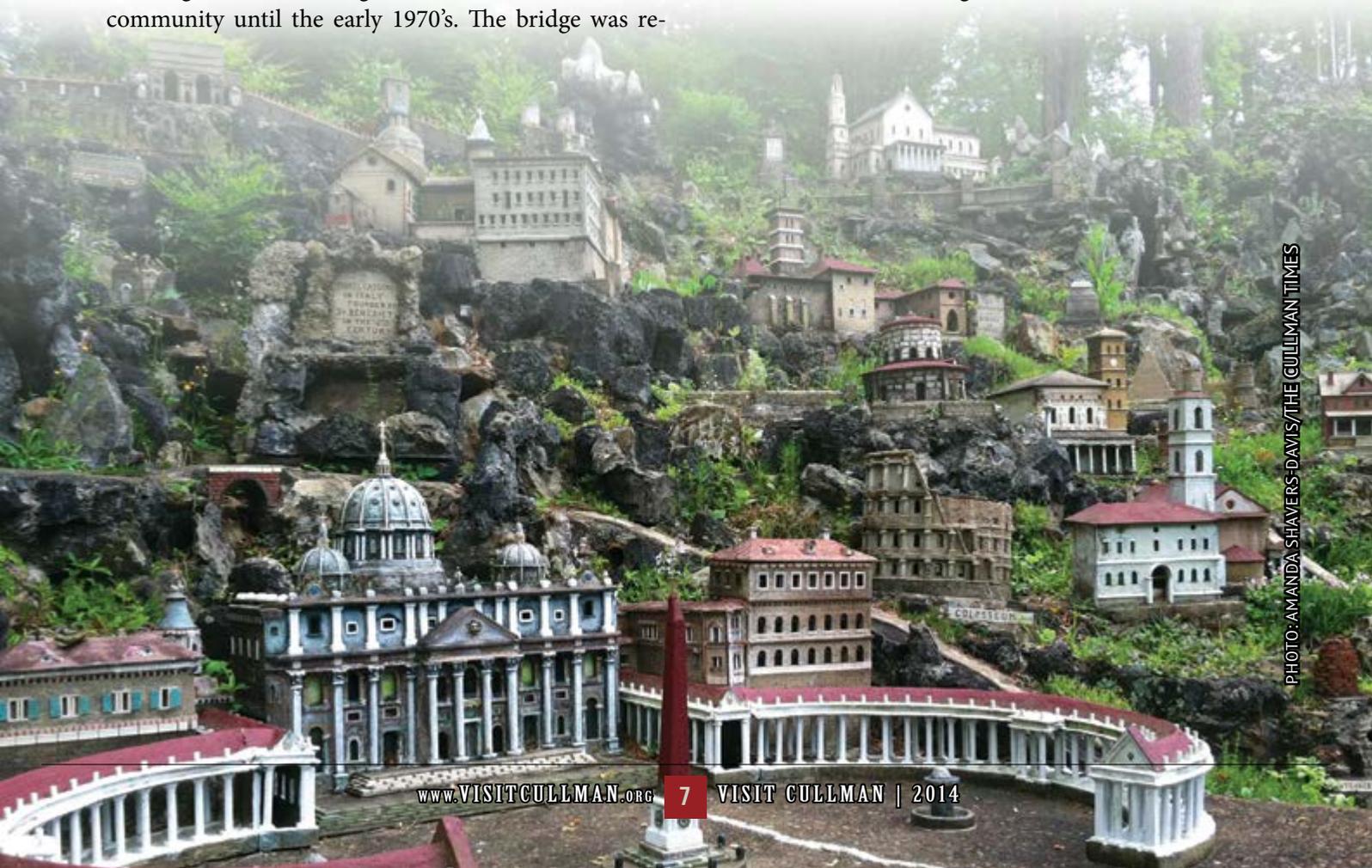
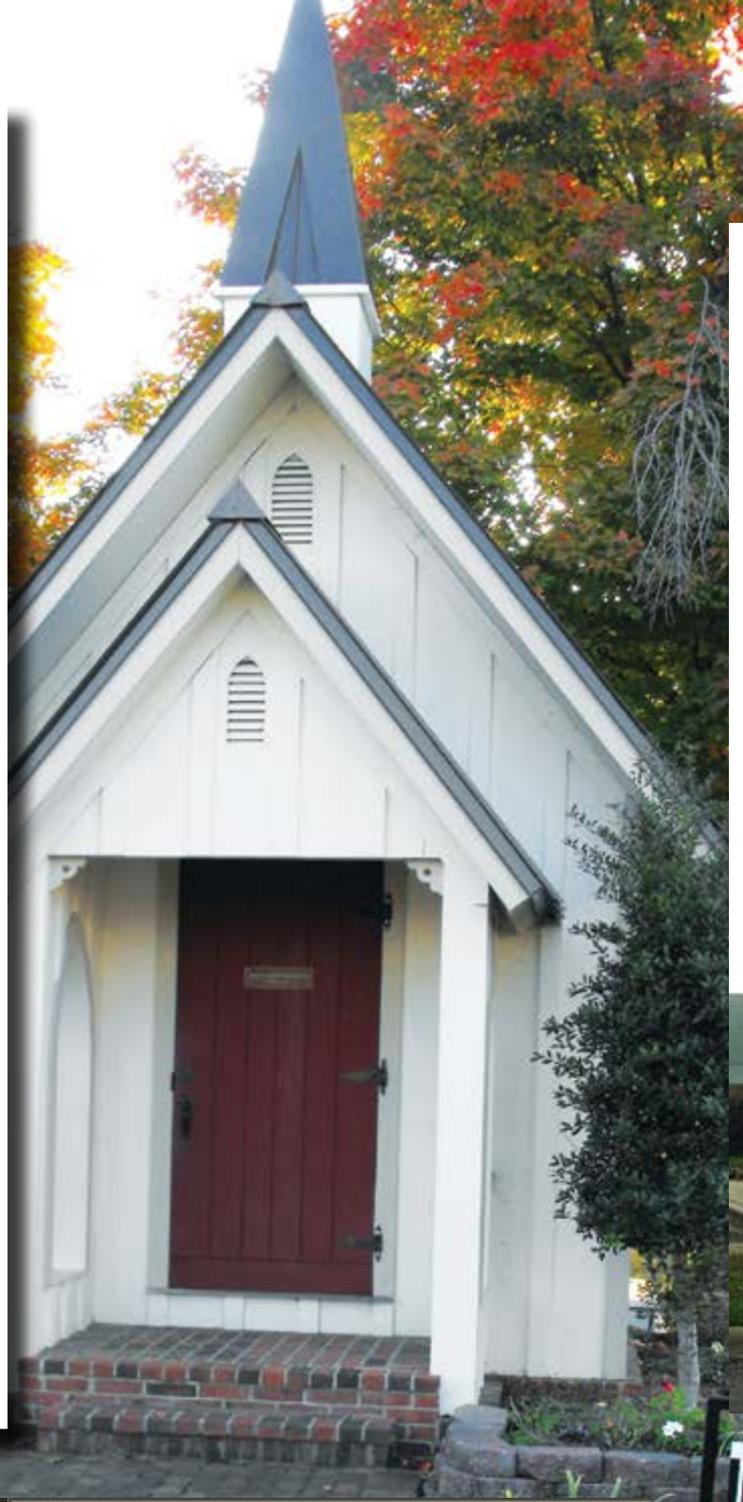


PHOTO: AMANDA SHAYERS-DAVIS/THE CULLMAN TIMES

The county hosts multiple historical markers nationally recognized as historic places.

- Ave Maria Grotto was added in 1984.
- Battle of Day's Gap was added on April 30, 1863.
- Battle of Hog Mountain was also added on April 30, 1863.
- Clarkson Bridge was added in 1974.
- Crane Hill Masonic Lodge was added in 2001.
- Cullman Downtown Commercial Historical District was added in 1985.
- Cullman Historic District was added on 1984.
- Ernest Edward Greene House was added in 1993.
- Louisville and Nashville Railroad Depot was added in 1976.
- Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery was added in 2002.
- Stiefelmeyer's was added in 1983.



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PHOTO: JESSICA WELLS

Cullman County Museum



The construction of the Cullman County Museum started during the cities Centennial in 1973 as a part of a renaissance in Cullman's German heritage.

After the much anticipated completion, the Museum was dedicated in 1975. It was built as a replica of Colonel Cullmann's original home, with the same outer appearance but a different floor plan. It currently boasts nine galleries which showcase different aspects of life in early Cullman.

To honor Alabamians who fought in the Civil War, artifacts can be seen within three of the nine galleries,

with great effort to present the lifestyle of early residents of this area. Among the nine galleries is the Archeology room which houses Early American artifacts found within Cullman County, the Pioneer room featuring the Speegle family who had seven sons fighting in the War Between the States; the Clothing Store with authentic military hardware and clothing that represents Civil War era dress, Main Street and the main Civil War memorabilia along with the award winning short video of Streight's Raid through Cullman County. Other rooms showcase children's area, the photo gallery, the music room, finishing with the replica of our founders room on the main level.

On the second level of the museum is the wildlife room, a seasonal rotation gallery that spotlights events relating to Cullman and a large meeting room that is available throughout the year for rentals.

The museum is open Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM and Sundays 1:30-4:30PM. Admission is free during Oktoberfest week.

The museum is located just across from the Festhalle Market Platz and Depot Park. For more information on the museum, contact (256) 739-1258 or email museum@cullmancity.org; Cullman-CountyMuseum.com

PHOTOS COURTESY CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM



Cullman County Museum



Cullman Depot
(Home of United Way)



Union Soldier



Weiss Cottage

Cullman County Museum

Replica of
Col. Johann G. Cullmann's House
211 2nd Ave. NE
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 739-1258
Fax (256) 737-8782
1-800-533-1258

www.cullmancountymuseum.com
exit 308 to 2nd Ave SE turn north



Confederate Soldier

Guy Hunt Museum & Library

PHOTO GUY HUNT MUSEUM AND
LIBRARY/FACEBOOK

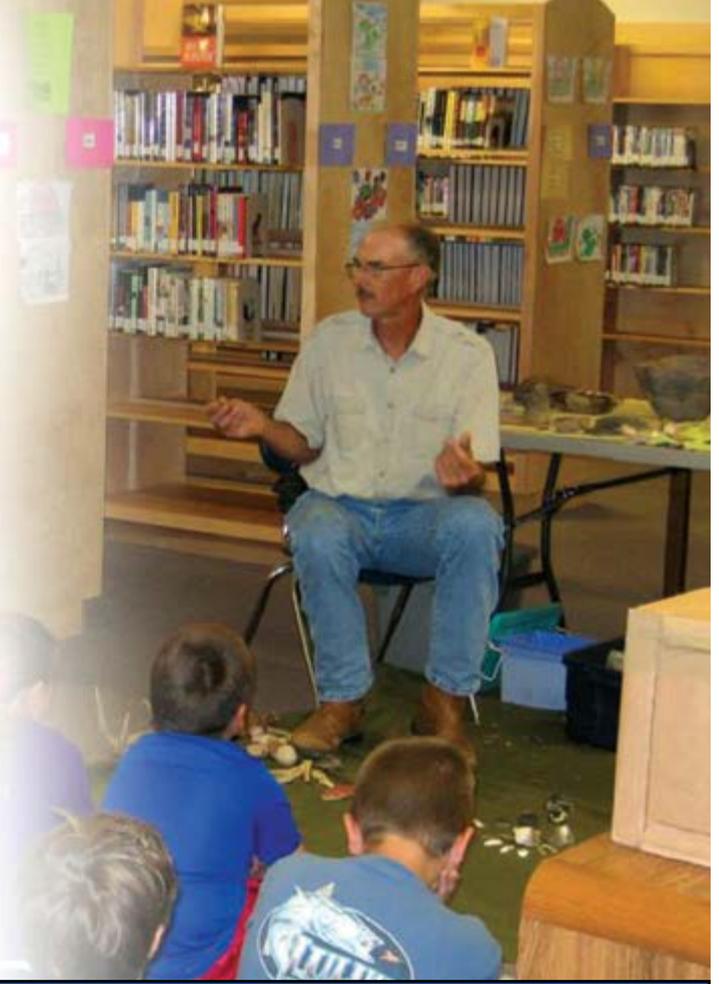


Photo Lauren Estes/The Cullman Times

Alabama Tourism Director Lee Sentell, center, and Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President Leah Bolin, right, discuss potential Cullman County tourism ideas during the open house at Guy Hunt Museum in Holly Pond last week.

Library hours: Tuesday – Friday 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Guy Hunt Museum and Library is a 5,200 square-foot brick building located next to Holly Pond School on County Road 71. Inside, there are three large rooms used as a museum honoring former Gov. Guy Hunt, a public library and a civic meeting area. Hunt, who served as Alabama’s governor from 1987-1993, was a Holly Pond native and Holly Pond High School graduate. Before being elected governor, he served as probate judge of Cullman County. He died in 2009 after a battle with cancer. The museum features items from Hunt’s days as governor, such as the Rolodex he used while in office, as well as numerous photos. In addition, a portion of the museum is dedicated to the history of Holly Pond. The Library offers books, DVDs, magazines, local newspapers, and has computers with internet and printing capabilities, Wi-Fi access and educational resources.



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Peinhardt Farm



Peinhardt Living History Farm is an educational family farm focusing on rural life in the 1930's and 1940's.

America's children are drifting further and further away from their agricultural roots and heritage. Many adults grew up in the days when visits to Grandma and Grandpa's farm were common occurrences. But few of these farms remain and children today do not have that same opportunity. To most children, milk does not come from cows and eggs do not come from chickens; they come from the grocery store.

The goal of this program is to help fill this void in children's experience that is creating an agricultural illiteracy. The program theme is "Life and Living on a Working Family Farm." The focus is that the barnyard and animals, the house and garden, the field, the woods and the horses all have an important purpose in helping the farmer make a living for him and his family.

*Don't miss Peinhardt
Farm Day this fall!*

For more information, e-mail
info@peinhardtfarm.com
or call (256) 734-0850

Corner of Highway 278 and
Interstate 65 | Cullman, AL

www.peinhardtfarm.com

North Alabama Agriplex



What is the Agriplex?

Over a decade ago, several community leaders and members of the Cullman Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee had a vision of a facility that would showcase the importance of agriculture to our community and to future generations. The North Alabama Agriplex Board was established as a statewide board by the Alabama Legislature in 2000. Its purpose is to educate and create awareness of agriculture in Alabama. It is a state agency established by Senate Bill 323 and is made up of 11 board members mostly from Cullman, but also from Montgomery, Tuskegee and Auburn.

What does the North Alabama Agriplex do?

The Agriplex Board sponsors an annual Touring Farms for Kids, which is in its 13th year. Around 35 kids ages 7 to 14 go on this two day tour of agriculture related sites in Cullman County and North Alabama. Along with Touring Farms for Kids, the Agriplex Board has co-sponsored other agriculture events in the community. In 2012, the new Agriplex Heritage Center opened and hosts thousands of visitors a year. A monthly Farm Kid's Club, summer

Garden Camps, a Hand Sewing Camp, adult education programs and more have been offered to local residents. The Agriplex Board hopes to continue to expand its programming to the community.

What is the Heritage Center?

In 2006, the Agriplex Board purchased three lots on Tally Ho Street in Cullman, Alabama. In 2007, the Red Hill Schoolhouse was relocated to the Agriplex Property and restored in partnership with Peinhardt Living History Farm, hardworking volunteers and grant funds from the RC&D. The Heritage Center has been under construction since 2009 through mostly volunteer labor. In January 2012, the Heritage Center opened its doors for programming. This building will serve as a classroom and meeting place for agriculture education along with a future visitor center and exhibit hall. The Heritage Center can be rented for meetings and gatherings.

What will the Agriplex be in the future?

The Agriplex Board will continue to host Touring Farms for Kids and partnering with local agencies to further agriculture education in the community. For more information, contact 256-297-1044 or cullmanag@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook - North Alabama Agriplex.





Save the date!

Touring Farms for Kids
June 18 and 19, 2014!

HERITAGE SKILLS SERIES

January 9, 2014

Trapping and Tanning

Learn the basics of trapping and how to tan an animal hide. Ages 8 and up. 5:30-7:30pm. \$5. To register, call 256-297-1044 or cullmanag@gmail.com.

Feb 6, 2014

Leatherwork

Learn the basics of working with leather and make a project to take home. 5:30-7:30pm, ages 8 and up, \$5

January 23, 2014

Winemaking Workshop

Class on beginning winemaking. \$10. Registration required. 6:00-9:00pm, Cullman County Extension, adults. cullmancounty@auburn.edu.

March 6, 2014

Growing Your Own Bait

Learn how to grow your own worms for fishing and to plant catalpa trees for catalpa worms. Ages 8 and up 5:30-7:30pm. \$5

All programs at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center, 1714 Talley Ho St SW, Cullman. Pre- registration required- 256-297-1044 or e-mail cullmanag@gmail.com. All children under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult.



Living Landscapes

All programs meet at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center, 1714 Talley Ho St SW, Cullman, Alabama

January 28, 6:00pm- Attracting Bluebirds
Learn the life history of this beautiful bug catcher and how you can attract bluebirds to your yard. Make a bluebird house to take home and learn to maintain a bluebird trail. Ages 8 to adult

February 25, 6:00pm- Organic Vegetable Garden Basics-
Find out how to get started growing your own vegetables naturally. We will cover the basic organic growing techniques and prepare you to get a garden started this spring! Ages 13 and up

March 11, 6:00pm-Cultivating Mushrooms
Mushroom expert Rhonda Britton will teach this class about growing shitake mushrooms. The class will inoculate small pieces of logs to take home to grow your own mushrooms. Ages 13 and up

April 22, 6:00pm- Native Insect Pollinators
Identify native insects and the benefits they provide to your garden. Find out what plants you should plant to attract butterflies to your yard. Learn how to build an insect hotel. This is a great way to celebrate Earth Day! Ages 10 and up

May 13, 6:00pm- Hooked on Hummingbirds
Hummingbird expert Melissa will present the natural history of hummingbirds and teach how to attract them to your yard. Ages 8 and up

June 23, 6:00pm- BATS!
Our native bats can eat 600 mosquitoes in one hour! Learn about these tiny bug catchers' life history and how to attract them to your yard. Extension Regional Agent Norm Haley will lead this program about bats. Ages 8 and up

July 8, 5:30pm- Raptors in Alabama
Alabama Wildlife Center's educator Jay Eubanks will bring birds of prey to see up close. Learn about the raptors that live around our community. All ages

August 26, 6:00pm Rainwater Harvesting and Raingardens
Rainwater is a free, natural resource that can be harvested to use for irrigation. See different types of rainwater harvesting techniques at the Agriplex Heritage Center and learn the basics of rain gardens 13 to adult

September 23, 6:00pm- Using Herbs for Cooking and More
Herbs are easy to grow, but how do you use them? Learn easy recipes incorporating fresh herbs. We will learn to dry herbs and how to use them around the home. Ages 13 to adult

October 7, 6:00pm- Native Woody Plants
Join Cullman County Extension Specialist Tony Glover in learning about growing native trees and shrubs in your yard. Learn which plants grow the best and how to plant them. Ages adult

November 4, 6:00pm Attracting and Photographing Backyard Birds
Herb Lewis will present his beautiful photographs and explain his technique for both attracting and photographing birds.

December 2, 6:00 pm Grapevine Wreath Making
Learn to make a wreath from muscadine vines and decorate with the bounty of nature. Age 10 and up

All youth under 18 must be accompanied with a registered adult.

To register call, 256-297-1044 or e-mail cullmanag@gmail.com.

Fees will vary by program.

Smith Lake



Lewis Smith Lake, commonly referred to simply as Smith Lake, is one of the region's most popular destinations for fishing and recreation.

A lake of 21,200 acres, embraced by a 500-mile shoreline, Smith Lake stretches through Cullman, Walker and Winston counties. With a 300-foot-high dam, the lake was completed in 1961 by Alabama Power Company.

The lake is easily reached off Interstate 65, the lake draws anglers from all over the country. The setting is one of Alabama's most beautiful with the Bankhead National Forest and Sipsey Wilderness nearby.

The lake is known for its healthy population of largemouth and black bass and huge striped bass that often top 40 and pounds.

Plenty of opportunities are also available for camping, hiking and observing wildlife in the area.

Smith Lake is also host to beautiful homes for vacation or permanent residency.



PHOTO: ANCHORLIGHT BED & BREAKFAST



PHOTO: SMITH LAKE LIVING MAGAZINE/EDDIE HAND



PHOTO: SMITH LAKE PADDLE BOARDS



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PHOTO: GOOD LIFE MAGAZINE/DAVID MOORE

Smith Lake Park

Located in Cullman County, Alabama, on the shores of the 21,200 acre Lewis Smith Lake with 500 miles of shoreline, the park is open for year round camping.

The park has 9 cabins; 199 full service sites; 5 water and electric sites; and 61 tent sites. Eight pavilions, playgrounds, a pool, fishing pier, a huge stage for special events, and new boat launch makes rustic Smith Lake Park a destination for fun and relaxation plus a number of special events and festivals at the park throughout the year. We are located within 7 miles of I-65! Come visit Smith Lake Park.



PHOTO: SMITH LAKE PADDLE BOARDS



PHOTO: ANCHORLIGHT BED & BREAKFAST

Sportsman Lake Park



Sportsman Lake Park is a scenic destination that has a little something for everyone regardless of age.

Located in downtown Cullman, the main attraction of the park is Sportsman Lake, a large, shallow body of water teeming with wildlife. The park is the perfect place for family gatherings, with its picnic areas and pavilion, shady walking trails, and plenty of ducks, geese and fish to feed from the lake's shore or the small dock. On the park grounds, visitors will also find a small-scale train which goes along the shore of the lake, fishing, an 18-hole miniature golf course, and paddle boats. Camping spots are available, and a paved multi-purpose trail for bikers, in-line skaters and walkers is the park's latest addition. Also, visit the Veteran's Memorial Park located on site and pay respects to those that served our country. Park admission is free, so drop by and spend a relaxing morning, afternoon or weekend at Sportsman Lake.



Splash Pad Coming to Sportsman Lake Park

In early October 2012, the county was awarded a \$50,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to fund the installation of a 2,000 square-foot splash pad.

The splash pad will feature 10-12 water sprays that will provide a place to cool off on hot days, and will also be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley made the following statement when awarding the grant money in October of 2012.

“Outdoor recreation plays an important role in a community’s quality of life.” he said. “I’m pleased to support further development of the park which will expand opportunities for families to spend time together outdoors.”



Clarkson Covered Bridge



A little taste of history can be found at Cullman County's Clarkson Covered Bridge Park. The centerpiece of the park is the massive 270-foot. Covered Bridge. It is second in ranking as largest Covered Bridge in the state. There are not very many of these bridges remaining in the state, and Cullman is fortunate to hold one of the largest. Built in 1904, the Clarkson Covered Bridge served many people in the community and did so until the early 1970's.

Located on County Road 1043 off U.S. Highway 278 near Bethel, the Bridge is perched on the banks of

the Crooked Creek, a site of the Civil War skirmish known as the Battle of Hog Mountain of the running battle of Streights's Raid. The original bridge was washed away in a flood in 1921, then salvaged and erected as a different location on the creek in 1922. It was restored by the Cullman County Commission in 1975 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

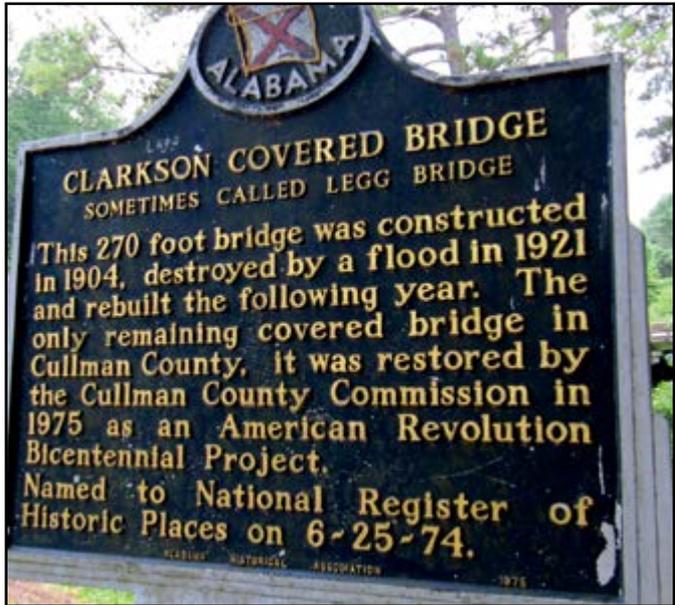
In 1974, the Dogtrot Cabin and Mill were built in replication of the ones found in the community to fit into the era that the bridge was built. The Bridge is open to foot traffic only now. The park houses 20 picnic tables, a walking trail and, of course, the Crooked Creek, which the bridge is built over. During the rainy season we also have a waterfall and pond behind the Dogtrot Cabin. The park hosts many weddings, events and festivals. Festivals include: Dogwood Days, Old Fashioned Day and Christmas at the Bridge. In 2013, we hope to be adding back the Mule Days, as well as several other festivals. Admission is free, and the park is open daily from 9:00 am until sundown. The park is known for being a peaceful retreat for people of all ages. So come on by, sit on our front porch, relax and enjoy your day!

AK Ed White Jewelers

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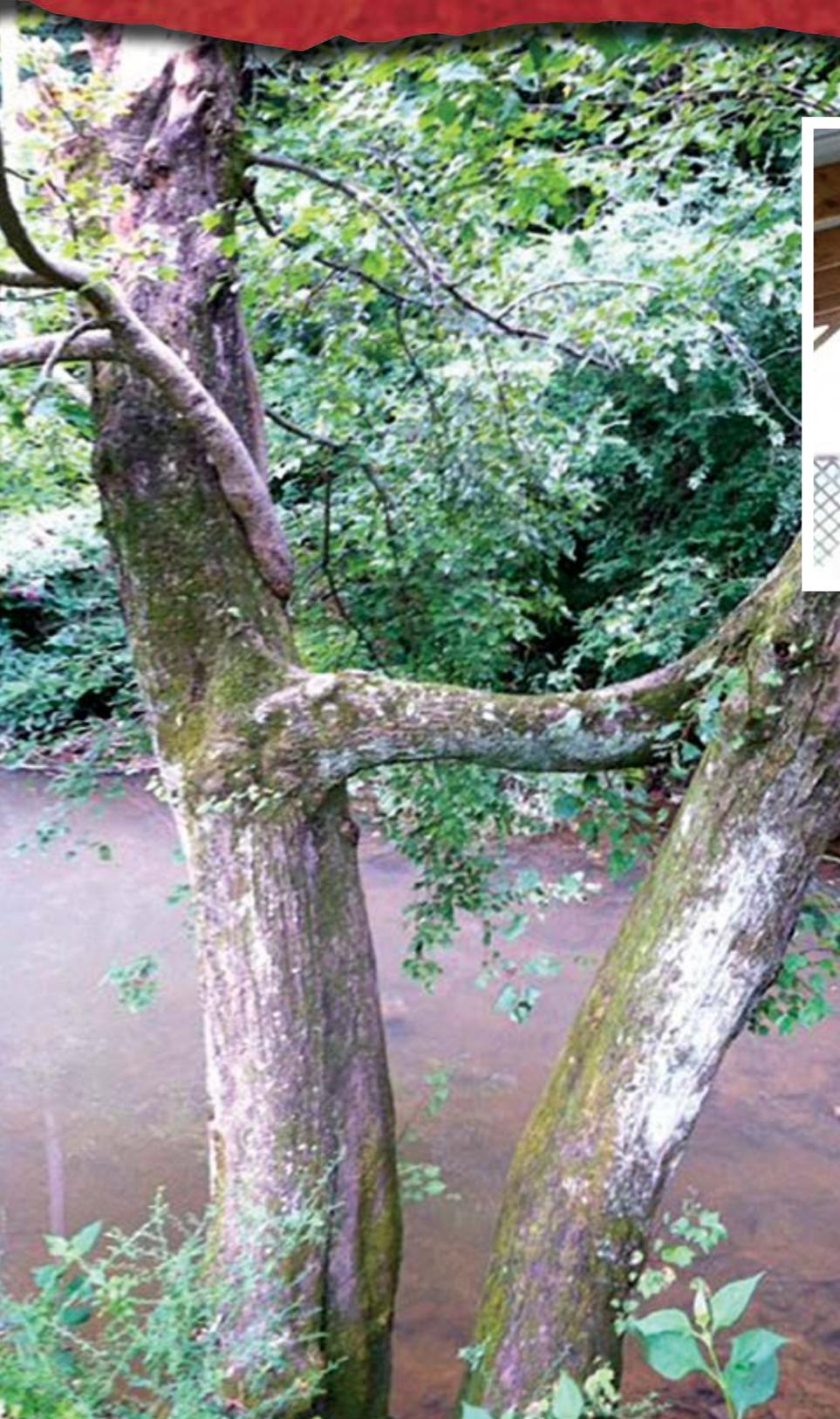
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PHOTOS: CULLMAN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION



Crooked Creek Civil War Museum



The Crooked Creek Civil War Museum was founded by Fred Wise in April 2006. For the past few decades, Wise has steadily worked on turning 40 acres of land into a Civil War historic legacy. Crooked Creek Civil War Museum is located on a battle site where Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest and Union Colonel Abel Streight fought for several hours at Crooked Creek, then went on to engage in the Battles of Hog Mountain and Day's Gap in April 1863. The Museum, housed in an old log cabin, features displays of numerous authentic Civil War memorabilia. There is also a cabin that is rented out on a nightly basis and functions as a Bed & Breakfast. To add even more allure to this historical site, there have been several documented paranormal encounters here. The Paranormal Research Alliance held a membership recruiting investigation here and there seems to be a vast amount of evidence to support that this former Civil War battlefield is haunted.



*Crooked Creek Civil War Museum
516 Co. Rd. 1127
South Vinemont, AL 35179*

*Open 7 days a week from 9 am - 5 pm
Admission: (256)739-2741
Email: cccwm@roadrunner.com*

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Downtown Cullman



PHOTO: JESSICA WELLS

Cullman's downtown and surrounding neighborhoods are in a historic district and for good reason. The area is steeped in tradition, with many houses and business structures dating to the early part of this century.

The Downtown Preservation Committee has been behind an effort to do even more with downtown. It is seeking to give the central shopping district a facelift to help attract shoppers and tourists to the area. While a powerful tornado on April 27, 2011 destroyed areas of downtown and the historic district, much of the city's structures remain intact.

Efforts are also under way to rebuild areas that were destroyed. The Cullman County Historical Society is also

working to establish a Main Street Program, a federal program that aids cities in revitalizing their downtown areas, providing some federal dollars to assist in the transformation.

Grants available through Main Street have been used to restore aging structures and pay for enhanced lighting and attractions to keep people interested in and visiting the central business district. Downtown is also home to Weiss Cottage, the oldest house in Cullman. The quaint house is operated by the Cullman County Museum and is open by appointment only. Cullman features nice wide streets throughout its central business district. Ongoing improvements will further enhance the central shopping district.



Weiss Cottage



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Calendar of Events

April 5, 2014 to April 6, 2014

[Bloomin' Festival](#)

St. Bernard Prep School,
1600 St. Bernard Dr. SE, Cullman, AL 35055

A juried arts festival with more than 140 booths of artists demonstrating and exhibiting their work.

256-739-6682 or 800-722-0999
www.bloominfestival.com

May 9, 2014 to May 10, 2014

[Cullman StrawberryFest](#)

209 1st Ave. NE, Cullman, AL 35055

Cullman StrawberryFest is a two-day festival celebrating our strawberry harvest and opening day of our farmers market. Food, music, a classic car show, arts & crafts and a children's fun area are just a few fun family activities that anyone can participate in.

256-775-7207
www.facebook.com/CullmanStrawberryFest

July 4, 2014

[Fourth of July Fireworks](#)

416 Co. Rd. 385, Cullman, AL 35055

Smith Lake Park hosts a number of special events and festivals throughout the year, including a spectacular Fourth of July Fireworks show. The park also features tent and RV camping, a swimming pool, boat launch, miniature golf and more.

256-734-3369
www.cullmancountyparks.com

August 31, 2014 to September 1, 2014

[Sweet Tater Festival](#)

416 Co. Rd. 385, Cullman, AL 35057

A myriad of arts & crafts along with craft and food vendors, sweet potatoes, music, a car show, and lots of food and family fun abounds at this festival.

256-531-7916 or 256-636-5887
www.sweettaterfestival.com

September 18, 2014 to September 27, 2014

[Cullman County Fair](#)

Cullman County Fair Grounds,
1501 Sportsman Lake Rd. NW
Cullman, AL 35055

Great rides, games, exhibits and lots of food combined with local and regional entertainment. Great family fun.

256-734-0661
www.cullmanfair.com

October 4, 2014 to October 11, 2014

[Oktoberfest](#)

209 1st Ave. NE, Cullman, AL 35055

Special meals, choir performances and music events are held during the week at locations throughout the community. Streets in downtown Cullman are roped off for weekend activities which include more German food, arts & crafts shows and sales, live bands and entertainers, historic district tours, retail store specials, and the Burgermeister ball.

256-739-1258 or 800-533-1258
www.cullmanoktoberfest.com

October

[Peinhardt Living History Farm Days](#)

Cullman

Peinhardt Edgewood Farm is primarily an evolving family farm focusing on rural life in the 1930s and 40s. Farm Days educates students on what life was like as a farmer in those days.

256-734-0850 or 256-734-7271
www.peinhardtfarm.com

October 18, 2014 to October 19, 2014

[Alabama Gourd Festival](#)

McGukin Civic Center, 510 5th St. SW
Cullman, AL 35055

Shop the beautiful vendor booths featuring amazing arts & crafts made from gourds, tour the ribbon competition exhibit hall, and take a gourd art crafting class to make your very own handcrafted gourd. Watch artists do free demonstrations of their crafts and enjoy food and live entertainment.

256-747-1447 or 256-355-4634
www.alabamagourdsociety.org

October 18, 2014 to October 19, 2014

[Mud Creek Arts & Crafts Festival](#)

112 Main St. SE, Hanceville, AL 35077

Arts & crafts festival celebrating homemade and handmade goods and foods from all over.

256-737-8787 or 256-352-9811
www.facebook.com/MudCreekArtsAndCrafts

[Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center](#)

17645 US Hwy 31 N, Cullman, AL 35055

The Ag Center is the focal point of many music events, sports competitions, fair exhibitions and family activities for a four-county area. A sampling of events include: rodeos; dog agility shows; bluegrass and gospel festivals; Racking; Walking and Quarter Horse shows; motocross, 4-H events; outdoor exhibitions; and Boer goat shows.

256-739-4959
www.cullmanagcenter.org

[The North Alabama Agriplex](#)

1714 Talley Ho St. SW
Cullman, AL 35055

This building will serve as a classroom and meeting place for agriculture education along with a future visitor center and exhibit hall.

256-297-1044
www.facebook.com/NorthAlabamaAgriplex

[Festhalle Market Platz](#)

Open April through October.

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
209 1st Ave. NE
Cullman, AL 35055

Shop for home-grown produce beneath the roof of the largest timber frame structure in the state of Alabama. The Cullman Farmers Market provides a vast selection of produce and other goods, special demonstrations and weekly events.

256-775-7207
www.cullmancity.org/festhallemarketplatz

[Spradlin Farm Specialty Market](#)

Open May through September.

See a farm at work, relax under the large oak trees, stroll around the farm and pick blueberries. Choose from a variety of homemade baked goods, homemade ice cream, and fresh fruits including peaches, blackberries, raspberries and muscadines.

256-734-6419
www.facebook.com/SpradlinFarms

Cullman is home to many special events that celebrate our heritage. Some of the community's favorites are featured below, but be sure to check the Cullman Chamber's website often for more event announcements.

www.business.cullmanchamber.org/events/calendar/

Downtown Mural Project



Photo: Cullman Electric Coop
Located on Hwy 31 on north face of Pasquale's Pizza

To pay homage to Cullman's rich history, murals were painted throughout downtown. Dot Gudger helped begin this project with the Cullman County Historical Society as part of the state's "2010: Year of Small Town and Downtown" program. With the support of Mayor Max Townsend and many others, these paintings remind us of our city's roots and provide an eye-catching backdrop throughout Cullman.

Although some of the murals were damaged in the devastation of the tornadoes on April 27, 2011, much of the artists' work still remains.

Artists: Bethany Kerr, Jack Tupper, Adrian Scott, Steve Carter, Donald Walker and Cullman Aquatic Center campers with leader Kristie Turner.

Sources: Facebook/Cullman Electric Cooperative & Cullman County Historical Society

On the north side of Pasquale's Pizza, 915 Second Ave. NW (U.S. 31)

As visitors enter our city from the north side of town they are welcomed by Col. Johann G. Cullmann, who was always shown from the left side of his face due to a scar inflicted by a cut during a disagreement with a county settler. The two later became friends. (Painted by Donald Walker)

View a full map of all the downtown murals:
www.cullmanhistoricalsociety.blogspot.com



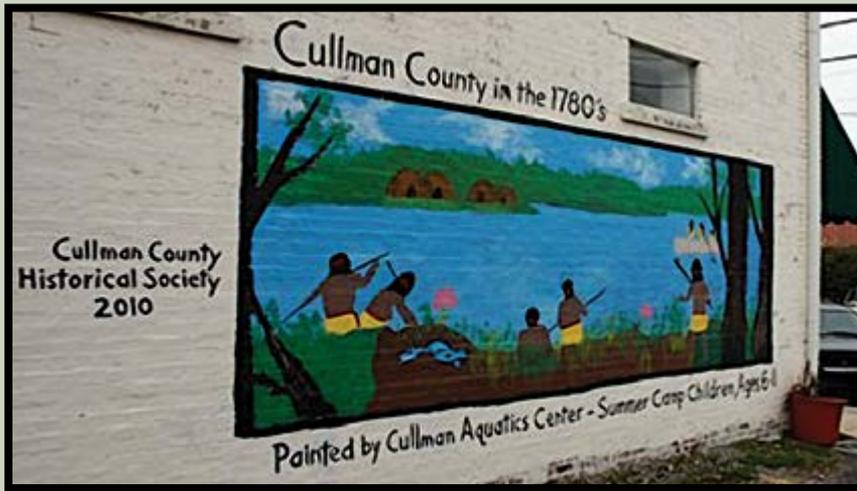


PHOTO: FACEBOOK/CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOP

Located on the west side alleyway of Drennen Forestry, 115 Fourth St. SE Artists: Summer camp attendees from the Cullman Aquatic Center, camp leader Kristy Turner.

In the 1780s what is now Cullman was a hunting ground shared by Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Creek Indians. They lived in "igloo" looking huts made of twigs and vines.

By artist Bethany Kerr. Located on the south side of Community Shoppers' Guide, 219 First Ave. SW

The first high school, located where Cullman Middle School now stands, was built on 10 acres donated by George Parker and C.A. Stiefelmeyer. A building committee of prominent businessmen raised \$10,000 to build the school. Six students graduated in the first class in 1912.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK/CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOP

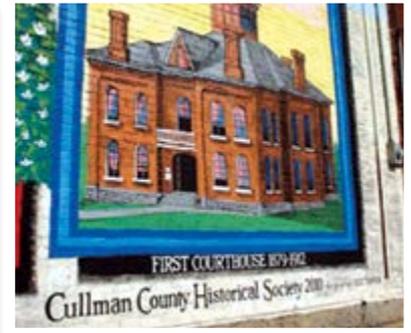
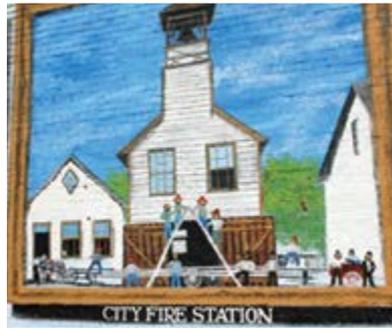
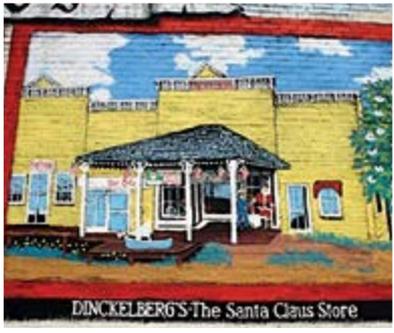


PHOTO: FACEBOOK/CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOP

Dinckelberg's Santa Claus Store - Part of Cullman in the 1880s mural on 5th Ave. across from Cullman First Baptist. Mrs. Dinkleberg's store earned the name because she kept Santa on the porch all year. She sold various sundries and operated a beer garden to the west side of her store.

Cullman in the 1880s, City Fire Station. The station was located behind the old Klein Creamery Building and Christ Lutheran Church

Cullman in the 1880s - First Courthouse, mural located on 5th Ave. across from First Baptist Church.

The original courthouse was located 2nd Ave. where Cullman Savings Bank is today. The building burned in 1912.



design artist - JACK TUPPER



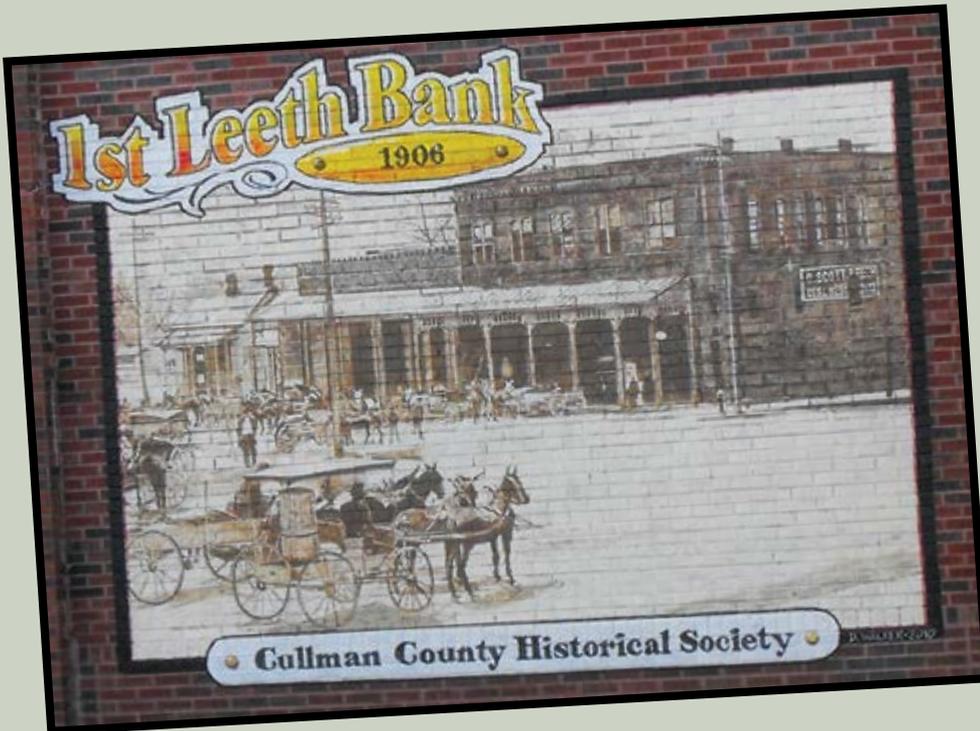
PHOTOS: FACEBOOK/CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOP

Jack Tupper's rendering of the attack transport ship U.S.S. Cullman, commissioned in World War II. Located on the north side of Village Furniture, 228 Third Ave. SE.

The Cullman was present in Tokyo Bay during the Japanese Surrender Ceremony on Sept. 2, 1945, as shown in the mural.

According to the U.S. Naval Historical Center, the USS Cullman (APA-78) was a 4,247-ton Giliam-class attack transport ship. Its namesake is listed on the site as "a county in Alabama." Upon her commission in January 1945, she sailed from San Francisco in March for Pearl Harbor, where she operated in training and inter-island transport duties; to San Pedro, where she embarked troops and cargo for Eniwetok, Ulithi and Luzon; and on to the Philippines to load Army occupation troops for delivery to Tokyo Bay.

After stops in Okinawa and Guam, the Cullman landed Marines at Taku Bar, China, for the reoccupation of northern China and lifted Chinese troops from Hong Kong to Taku and Tsingtao. She then carried out two "Magic Carpet" voyages, returning one load of returning servicemen to San Francisco from Manila in December 1945 and another from Okinawa in February 1945. The Cullman was decommissioned at San Francisco in May 1946.



Donald Walker painted one of Cullman's early banks. The Leeth National Bank later became South-Trust, then Wachovia, and finally Wells Fargo.

PHOTO: JESSICA WELLS



Rock the South



PHOTO: AMANDA SHAVERS-DAVIS/
THE CULLMAN TIMES

The Band Perry

Heading into its third year, organizers believe country music festival Rock the South could have its biggest year yet in Cullman.

The 2014 edition of the festival will feature The Charlie Daniels Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Little Big Town, Billy Currington and event host Sara Evans.

Set for June 20-21, 2014 at Heritage Park, the next Rock the South will look to build on the massive turnout from last year, which attracted tens of thousands of people to the area.

After waiting until just a few months before the event to lock down headliners for the second annual music festival earlier this year, organizers are riding the momentum of a 35,000-person showing to line up 2014 a full year in advance.

“We had over 30 states represented this year, and we think we could really have a ‘country Bonnaroo’ on our hands,” organizer Shane Quick said, citing the well-known Tennessee-based indie rock festival, said in a recent interview. “We’re thinking big, dreaming of an even bigger event. We’re way ahead of where we were for 2013, just in momentum alone, and we’re looking to build this thing. We want people to look forward to this as a part of their summer.”



PHOTO: AMANDA SHAVERS-DAVIS/THE CULLMAN TIMES

Fans enjoy Rock the South in 2013



>>

ROCK
THE
SOUTH

- June 20th - 21st 2014 -
HERITAGE PARK - CULLMAN AL

LYNYRD SKYNYRD · LITTLE BIG TOWN · BILLY CURRINGTON
SARAH EVANS · CHARLIE DANIELS · EASTON CORBIN
COLT FORD · DEE JAY SILVER

MORE EXCITING ARTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS COMING SOON

When Hanceville native Quick created Rock The South in 2012 to mark the anniversary of the April 27 tornadoes, he wanted it to be a celebration of people helping people in a time of need.

So, as planning began for an even bigger festival in 2013, the event organizer wanted to continue along that same theme, this time though focusing on those who help people in need day in and day out.

Quick, along with host Sara Evans and her

husband Jay Barker, awarded more than \$50,000 in donations to six non-profit organizations in the state in 2013, including four locally. One of those was The Link, a faith-based organization that supports the needs of neighbors through goal setting, career advising, financial counseling, GED classes, adult literacy programs, and ESL classes.

In addition, Brooks' Place, an organization that works to nurture hope and healing in the lives of children and families impacted by child sexual abuse, as well as HOPE — Hors-



PHOTO: AMANDA SHAVERS-DAVIS/
THE CULLMAN TIMES

Hank Williams, Jr.

es Offering People Encouragement, Inc. — a therapeutic riding center for those with special needs, and Alabama Forever, a Birmingham based organization started to help people in poverty after the April 27 tornadoes, also received \$5,000 donations.

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Shopping

PHOTO: JESSICA WELLS



By Tiffeny Owens
STAFF WRITER

Cullman boasts a wide selection of retail options from big box retailers to family-owned shops.

Several eclectic boutiques with sophisticated styles for women and adorable outfits for children can be found at the Warehouse District downtown. Other specialty and novelty stores, gift shops and consignment stores also line the historic downtown area.



Inline Lighting Showroom

Showroom hours 8:00-5:00 Monday-Friday
Open until 6:00 on Thursday
9:00-2:00 on Saturday
**217 Broadway Drive
Cullman, AL 35055**

Phone number: 256-734-5670

Always open at
www.InlineLighting.com



Inline Electric Supply

Counter hours: 7:00-4:30 Monday-Friday

**217 Broadway Drive
Cullman, AL 35055**

Phone number: 256-734-5670

Always open at
www.InlineElectric.com



Cullman is home to a rich downtown area that boasts a wide variety of shopping choices - from boutiques, to collectibles, and much more!

FILE PHOTO/THE CULLMAN TIMES

LOCAL SHOPPERS ENJOY VISITING THE LOCAL SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS BY THE HISTORIC STIEFELMEYER BUILDING.

PHOTO (BELOW): CONTRIBUTED

JACK'S WESTERN & OUTDOOR'S NEW SHOP IN GOOD HOPE



Doug Doggett

JEWELERS



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 Cullman, AL 35055
 (256) 734-7883
www.doggettjewelers.com

Belk, J.C. Penney and Books-A-Million anchor the Cullman Shopping Center on U.S. 31 while Goody's, Hibbett Sports and Office Max call the Town Square Shopping Center on Alabama 69 home. More recently, a string of brand-name retailers have popped up along Cherokee Avenue, including T.J. Maxx, Walmart and Maurices, along with eateries like Five Guys, Yogurt Mountain, Chick-fil-A and Bojangles' Famous Chicken and Biscuits. Even more businesses are located on U.S. 31, Cullman's main commercial street through town.

City officials know the importance of maintaining a vibrant retail atmosphere by supporting locally-owned storefronts while simultaneously encouraging new chain stores to open up shop.

Outside the city, other retail opportunities can be found around the county as well as cities like Good Hope and Hanceville. Jack's Western Wear outfits cowgirls and cowboys in Wranglers, boots and button-down rodeo shirts. Premium outdoor brands like Columbia, Carhartt and Merrell are also sold there.

Hanceville, which sits about 10 miles south of the city of Cullman, has held onto its historic central business downtown with the help of a revitalization grant, and property owners have been improving their buildings there to attract new tenants. Several retailers operate along U.S. 31 in Hanceville and count as customers the city's residents as well as students attending Wallace State Community College.

Each November, shoppers from across the state and region make the trek to Cullman for the annual Christmas in Cullman Open House. The event is one of many that attract shoppers to browse all the goods the city has to offer.

CULLMAN

Real Estate

309 13th St. NE • Cullman, AL 35055
256-775-6620 • <http://www.cullmanrealestate.net>



"THE HOME TOWN REALTORS"

Dining in Cullman

Dining in the Cullman area is becoming more exciting with each passing month.

New restaurants have been taking their places among old-time favorites in recent years, bringing creative flair and anticipation for diners in and around the region.

From tasty barbecue to signature orange rolls and blue-plate specials, those classic favorites remain a hit for the dining crowd.

But the addition of outstanding Chinese, Japanese, Mexican and German cuisine adds variety for any day or night.

Plentiful variations of the classic American hamburger are also alive and well in the restaurants, not to mention superb steaks, chicken and family-favorite pizza parlors. Cullman restaurants

feature many Southern dessert favorites including fried banana pudding and fried strawberry cheese cake.

Area diners are also finding expanded menus and drink options for parties, family gatherings and business meetings.

The dining trail stretches through all areas of Cullman County, including settings along Lewis Smith Lake or in the small towns and communities outside of Cullman.





PHOTO: AMANDA SHAVERS-DAVIS/
THE CULLMAN TIMES

BUSY BEE



PHOTO: JESSICA WELLS

OUTSIDE CULLMAN'S FIRST BREW
PUB, BLUE MOOSE CAFE




JOHNNY'S BBQ

Try our **Ribs, BBQ Baked Potato, BBQ Pork & Chicken** *And* **Fresh Catfish Also!**

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Cullman Restaurants

32 Degrees A Yogurt Bar

1930 Marketplatz
256-734-0110

AJ's Steakhouse

917 2nd Avenue NW
256-775-1653

Alamitos Mexican Restaurant

3259 AL Highway 157
256-734-8020

All Steak Restaurant

323 3rd Avenue NW
256-775-1653

Arby's

5890 AL Highway 157 SE
Cullman
256-737-1091

1840 Cherokee Avenue SW
Cullman

256-775-3999

Baby Johns BBQ

5780 County Road 437
256-735-1865

Bailey's Diner

111 Brooklyn Road
256-796-5919

Berkeley Bob's Coffee House

304 1st Avenue SE
256-775-2944

Blue Moose Cafe and Pub

216 1st Street
256-734-0837

Bojangles'

1821 Cherokee Avenue SW
256-775-0377

Brandin' Iron Steakhouse

87 County Road 1242
256-739-1112

Brindlee Mountain BBQ

7472 AL Highway 69 N
256-796-5350

Buenavista Mexican Restaurant

1644 Brantley Avenue NW
256-737-5050

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256-739-3602

5940 AL Highway 157 NW
Cullman

256-775-0405

Busy Bee Cafe

101 5th Street SE
256-734-9958

Captain D's Seafood Restaurants

812 2nd Avenue NW
256-734-7793

Carina's Pizza & Grill

202 Main Street NE
256-352-9030

Carlton's Italian

208 3rd Avenue SE
256-739-9050

Casa Fiesta

1846 Patriot Way
256-739-8282

Chick-fil-A

1830 Cherokee Avenue SW
256-735-1650

China Garden

1848 Patriot Way
256-734-682

CiCi's Pizza

1842 Patriots Way SW
256-736-2662

Country Cafe

4470 AL Highway 69N
256-796-0372

Country Kitchen

111 Brooklyn Road
256-796-2220

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store

1839 AL Highway 157
256-739-6950

Crazy Buffet

918 Main Street NE
256-352-8886

Dairy Queen Grill & Chill

410 2nd Avenue NW
Cullman
256-734-8358

Dairy Queen

812 Main Street NE
Hanceville
256-352-9310

Denny's

1842 AL Highway 157 NW
256-734-7681



Domino's Pizza

413 3rd Street SW
256-739-6010

Downtown Grill

108 4th Street SW
256-734-4740

Duchess Bakery

222 1st Avenue SE
256-734-0684

Five Guys Burgers & Fries

1873 Cherokee Avenue SW
256-737-1348

Grumpy's Italian Grill

402 5th Street SW
256-734-2544

Guthrie's of Cullman

704 2nd Avenue NW
256-775-1593

Hardee's/Red Burrito

723 2nd Avenue NW
Cullman
256-734-0069

18 Cupp Road

Good Hope
256-737-0056

702 Main Street NE

Hanceville
256-352-2458

High Tide Sports Grill

1310 2nd Avenue NW
256-737-5020

Holy Smoke BBQ

6901 US Hwy 278W
256-737-3004

Huddle House

814 Main Street NE
256-352-0940

Hutch Restaurant

30 Wesley Avenue N
256-796-8675

Jack's Restaurant

1641 Main Street SW
Cullman
256-775-1556

3180 AL Highway 157

Cullman
256-736-8555

11531 AL Highway 157

West Point
256-737-8720

325 Alabama Hwy 69S

Dodge City
256-287-9933

103 Styles St.

Hanceville
256-352-8705

10955 US 278 East

Holly Pond
256-796-8006

Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q

1851 Cherokee Avenue SW
Olive Street SW

Johnny's Barbecue

1401 4th Street SW
256-734-8539

KFC

1620 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman
256-734-6958

5799 AL Highway 157

Cullman
256-734-7728

Krystal

1701 2nd Avenue SW
256-736-1178

Little Caesars Pizza

305 2nd Avenue NW
256-735-2031

Logan's Roadhouse

6092 AL Highway 157
256-735-2286

Lombardo's Pasta Bar

202 1st Avenue SE
256-739-7171

Los Cabos Mexican Restaurant

1600 2nd Avenue SW
256-775-1777

Lumberjackbbq

32 County Road 1242
256-737-9893

Luna's BBQ

105 Main Street NW
256-352-1950

Lupe's Mexican Restaurant

702 2nd Avenue NW
Cullman
256-739-3888

914 Main Street NE

Hanceville
256-352-2272

McDonald's

1425 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman
256-734-4073

6065 AL Highway 157

Cullman
256-734-4258

231 Alabama 69

Dodge City
256-287-9543

740 Main Street NE

Hanceville
256-352-2120

Moe's Original BBQ

318 1st Avenue SE
256-841-5324

Mt. Fuji Japanese Restaurant

Town Hall Drive
256-737-6045

New China Restaurant

1720 2nd Avenue SW
256-775-6999



Papa Duke's BBQ

256-507-2149

Papa John's Pizza1646 2nd Avenue SW
256-775-7272**Papa Murphy's
Take 'n' Bake Pizza**1850 Cherokee Avenue SW
256-737-7770**Pasquale's Pizza**915 2nd Avenue NW
256-734-4599**Peking**303B 2nd Avenue NW
256-739-7129**Pizza Hut**710 2nd Avenue NW
Cullman
256-734-1010806 Main Street NE
Hanceville
256-352-5355**Pop's Place Barbq**6050 County Road 222
256-734-0450**Porky Hollow BBQ**12203 Alabama 91
256-287-0044**Rally's Hamburgers**724 2nd Avenue NW
256-739-0390**Rice & Soy Chinese
Restaurant**1204 4th Street SW
256-734-1000**Rodney G's Hickory Grill**1610 Main Avenue SW
256-841-5297**Ruby Tuesday**6076 AL Highway 157 NW
256-734-7616**Rumors Deli**105 1st Avenue NE #100
256-737-0911**Ryan's**1720 Cherokee Ave SW
256775-1277**Salsa's**609 Graham Street SW
256-739-4530**Shaw's Catfish Restaurant**11495 US Highway 278
256-796-5017**Shogun**1702 2nd Avenue SW
256-735-2288**Smokin' Pig**6050 County Road 222
256-736-9991**Sonic**1713 2nd Avenue SW
256-734-3917**Southern Hickory
Barbecue**212 Broadway Drive SW
256-737-9100**Starbucks Coffee**1879 Cherokee Avenue SW
256-736-5687**Subway**626 Olive Street SW
Cullman
256-739-95265982 AL Highway 157
Cullman
256-734-06601705 Cherokee Avenue SW
Cullman
256-737-933369 County Road 520
Dodge City
256-287-2777**Subway**720 Main Street NE
Hanceville
256-352-2444**Sweet Peppers Deli**303 2nd Avenue NW
256-736-2600**Taco Bell**1669 Cherokee Avenue SW
Cullman
256-739-18895961 AL Highway 157
Cullman
256-734-0990**Taqueria Fatima**509 Main Avenue SW
256-734-7070**The Angler Seafood House**3261 County Road 438
256-775-6080**The Downtown Grill**108 4th Street SW
256-734-4740**The Hutch Restaurant**30 Wesley Avenue N
256-796-8675**The Local Standard
Restaurant**116 4th Street SW
256-737-7475**Trusty Dragon**193 County Road 404
256-595-0403**Waffle House**1900 Commerce Street
256-737-6019**Waterbrook Restaurant**127 County Road 785
256-796-9010**Wendy's**5801 AL Highway 157
256-739-2252

Williams Barbecue

2021 2nd Avenue SW
256-734-4292

Wing Nutz

106 Commercial Street SE
256-352-5050

Woody's Snowcone & Pizza

1415 Arkadelphia Road NE

Yogurt Mountain

1877 Cherokee Avenue SW
256-775-8003

Zaxby's

622 Olive Street SW
256-739-9400



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Visiting the Shrine



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE SHRINE

Thousands of people journey to it every year, taking in an atmosphere of peace and serenity that engulf them as they approach the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery. A long white picket fence leads visitors to the gates of the 380-acre property through which they see the Shrine.

Mother Angelica, the Foundress and Abbess of the monastery, built the Shrine in the 13th century style, resembling the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy. From the inlaid marble floors to the breathtaking nearly

eight-foot monstrance, every detail of the Main Church leads the soul to contemplate the transcendent beauty of God. The Daily Conventual Mass with the Nuns is at 7 a.m., with Priests available to hear Confession after Mass. The Nuns chant the Liturgy of the Hours daily at 6 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 5 p.m.

The Shrine includes a permanent display of full-size photographic images of the Shroud of Turin. The images stand eight feet tall in glass cases and are backlit for viewing. They are on display in the entrance of the Shrine's Lower Crypt Church.

Other sites to see on the grounds include: Castle San Miguel, which houses the El Nino Gift Shop, a conference room, dining facility, and hall that

displays medieval armor and manuscripts; a year-round indoor nativity scene displaying life-like figures made by Fontanini in Italy; and a replica of the Lourdes Grotto that rests alongside the Black Warrior River, which surrounds the Shrine property.

If you would like to bring a church, school, or family group on a tour or plan a catholic Pilgrimage, please contact our Pilgrimage Department at: 205-795-5717 or 205-795-5722 or email: pilgrimages@olamshrine.com.

The Shrine is located about six miles from the intersection of Alabama 91 and U.S. Highway 31 in Hanceville. On I-65, take Exit 291. Turn right on County Road 747 and right again on County Road 548.

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

*"Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while."
Mark 6:31*



The Nuns of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament invite people from all walks of life and faith to see what the Lord has accomplished here and join them in prayer.

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The Grotto



PHOTO: AMANDA SHAVERS-DAVIS/THE CULLMAN TIMES

Shortly after Brother Joseph Zoettl, O.S.B., came to St. Bernard Abbey in 1892, he began working in the Abbey's power plant. In his spare time, he developed a hobby of building miniature shrines.

For 40 years, Bro. Joseph continued to build the small shrines. Because of the large crowds the little buildings drew, they were moved from the monastery's recreation grounds to a new site. The new site, the Ave Maria Grotto, was dedicated on May 17, 1934 and has continued to draw crowds of faithful Christians ever since. More than 35,000 visitors walk through the Grotto each year.

The Grotto gift shop has added new products, focusing on obtaining items unique to the facility. It has added some hand carved Bernardi artwork from Italy.

It also carries a line of items that are made by other monasteries including handmade soap from St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana, jellies made by Trappist monks in Kentucky, coffee that is bagged and grown in Venezuela by another monastic group, and olive oil and vinaigrettes bottled by monks at St. Gregory's Farm in Mexico, New York.

The Grotto recently renovated the bathroom facilities and added a small theater to show videos of the Grotto's history, a large reading room, and a snack area with a panoramic view of the gardens.

Meanwhile, Grotto staff continue to work to preserve and restore Brother Joseph's creations and make improvements to the grounds.

Brother Joseph built his last miniature – the Basilica in Lourdes – in 1958 when he was 80 years old. It became the last of 125 miniatures on display on three acres of the Grotto. Known as the Jerusalem in Miniature, the display includes famous buildings from the Holy Land, Roman landmarks and famous Spanish Missions.



THE GROTTO

RED CLAY PICTURES DOCUMENTARY

Brother Joseph and the Grotto tells the “true fairy tale” of Brother Joseph Zoettl, the tiny Bavarian hunchback monk who built Ave Maria Grotto, a miniature city of recycled materials in the Alabama woods of Saint Bernard Abbey.

www.brotherjosephmovie.com

Brother Joseph passed away in 1961 and is buried in the Abbey cemetery, not far from the gift shop through which visitors enter the Grotto.

His memory is kept alive as the Abbey opens its doors to individuals and groups almost every day of the year.

For more information, call the Grotto at (256) 734-4110 or visit the website at www.avemariagrotto.com.

A FAMILY ATTRACTION



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1600 St. Bernard Dr. SE ~ Cullman ~ 256-734-4110
 (exit 308 off I-65 then East 4 miles on Hwy. 278) avemariagrotto.com
 Open Daily 9-6 April - September: 9-5 October - March



Fairs & Festivals



PHOTO: AMANDA SHAVERS-DAVIS/THE CULLMAN TIMES

Cullman County offers events and festivals throughout the year which draw not only locals, but folks from all over. Three of the biggest events are the Cullman County Fair, the Bloomin' Festival and Oktoberfest.

CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR

Celebrating its 55th year the third week in September, the Cullman County Fair, sponsored by the Cullman Lions Club, has welcomed millions of people to the fairgrounds in northwest Cullman. Each year about 30,000 people flow through those gates to walk the midway, take a spin on all the rides and walk through the exhibit halls.

The Cullman Lions Club started hosting the annual parade in 1954 and has tended it as carefully as an exhibitor

tends a blue-ribbon entry. They've earned their own blue ribbons. They've been recognized as the best of the best at the state and national levels. In 1996 they were featured in a National Geographic book as one of the best county fairs in the nation. Each year, about 30,000 people flow through those gates to walk the midway, take a spin on all the rides, and look through the exhibit halls.

Over the years, the fair has kept its small-town feel. The fair is kicked off each year by the Cullman County Fair Parade. Held on the Saturday before the fairway opens on Monday, the parade takes a straight shot down U.S. Highway 31 from Seventh Street to the Cullman Shopping Center.

Lions Club member Chester Freeman said the Cullman County Fair retains its special small-town ambiance



PHOTO: BLOOMIN' FEST/ FLICKR

BLOOMIN' FESTIVAL

through the multitude of exhibitors and because commercial selling is prohibited. The many commercial exhibits offer free gifts, but there are no high-pressure sales tactics.

Cullman County Fair President Jerry Bonner said profits from the fair go to the Alabama Lions Sight, local activities and the sight projects through Lions International.

The club helped build a ball field at Heritage Park, pavilions at Smith Lake and Sportsman Lake parks, and has helped other schools and municipal organizations. About \$30,000 goes back to the public in prize money from competitive exhibits.

Another yearly event that brings thousands of people to Cullman County is the Bloomin' Festival held each April as a fundraiser for St. Bernard Preparatory School.

One of the Southeast's top attractions is found right here in Cullman. More than 150 artists and craftsmen set up on the beautiful grounds, selling their wares and demonstrating crafts such as glass blowing and basket making. The event features live music, great food and some of the best crafts you'll find anywhere.

The festival has been named a Top Twenty Event for April by the Southeast Tourism Society.

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Farm Y'all



The 2nd annual Farm Y'all Festival will take place on August 23rd from 8am to 4pm at the Farmers Market in downtown Cullman. The festival helps to connect the public with local growers, farm commodity groups, and agricultural businesses which is crucial in sustaining agriculture within the local economy.

The event also features producers from all over the south participating in the southeastern giant pumpkin and watermelon weigh in. Cullman's local farmer Trent Boyd holds the Alabama record for the largest pumpkin at a whopping 903lbs.

Come sample cuisine from the chef's table. Local and regional chefs will show the importance and value of using locally grown produce.

Bring the kids to learn where food actually comes from and to enjoy an abundance of kid friendly activities, petting zoo and live music. Make sure to arrive in time for the watermelon eating and seed spitting contest and stay long enough to watch the great pumpkin drop from a 100ft crane.

A great "Family" day full of food, fun and entertainment.



Farm Y'all photos contributed by Jackie Moore



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Oktoberfest



PHOTO: JESSICA WELLS

Throughout the years, Cullman has been host to many festive events from Pioneer Parades and Strawberry Days to Oktoberfest. No matter what event is celebrated, this community shows its pride and support.

The first official Oktoberfest in Cullman was held October 9-17, 1982 and had a theme: Die Duetsche colonie von Nord Alabama-heir the living is good! Events included German Food, genealogical exhibits, prizes, doll collections, polkas, folk dancers, square dancers, games, open house church sanctuaries, a children's fun run, Weiss cottage tours, and more.

Starting the first Saturday in October and continuing until the second Saturday of October, the festival has one goal – to celebrate Cullman's German heritage. Some events change and some sponsors change, but we stay true to our mission. Cullman Oktoberfest is a non-profit under the direction of a 12-member board of directors. In November 2010, the residents of Cullman voted to allow the legalized sale of alcohol within the city limits. This allowed Oktoberfest to include a beer garden.

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PHOTO: Elizabeth Manning Collicott
Facebook/Cullman Oktoberfest

*Burgermeister Marsha Norris
and Miss Oktoberfest Payton
Palmer at Cullman
Oktoberfest 2013.*



OKTOBERFEST



Bass Fishing Hall of Fame



Cullman will be the future home of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame. It is a joint project with the City of Cullman and Cullman County, along with support from the city of Good Hope. This project includes an adjacent convention civic center, all of which will be housed on the 110-acre parcel known as the Burrow property. The convention civic center will be available for events and functions. The BFHOF will enjoy a dedicated 30 acres of the property, which will include ponds, gardens and an aquatic education center.

Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Eyes International Appeal for Cullman



By David Palmer/The Cullman Times

The announcement that the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame plans to locate in Cullman opens up a world of potential for tourism and international acclaim.

Plans for the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame are emerging as a dual concept of educational facility and international tourist attraction.

Hall of fame board president Sammy Lee said a mini-campaign to secure professional fundraisers and lock down designers for the project is nearing completion. Once that money is raised, efforts will kick off to gather \$8 million-\$10 million for the actual construction of the hall of fame building and develop fishing ponds for educational and research purposes.

“The city has given us until July 2014 to conduct our fundraising efforts, and a little longer if we need it. We have more enthusiasm now than even when we first announced the project,” Lee said in October. “The fundraising will be on an international scale.”

Noting that bass fishing is a huge sport in Europe and Japan, Lee said the potential for donors for the project is vast.

“Thousands of Japanese come here to fish. And if you look at how Alabama in the last 20 years has been so successful in attracting international manufacturers, this goes hand in hand,” Lee said during his last visit to the area.

The educational and research aspects of the project are coming from Auburn University’s involvement. The development and stocking of the ponds will provide an environment for teaching conservation and studying bass.

The tourist aspect is to have a destination where avid fishermen can visit and learn about the world’s top anglers and enjoy an elaborate aquarium, as well as the experience of fishing the ponds.

Board members are stressing that the hall of fame will not be static, but a facility that offers hands-on activities that bring visitors back time after time.

The City of Cullman is also planning the construction of a civic center on the property along County Road 222. Parks and Recreation director John Hunt explained that the initial concept is to have facilities that join for easy access from conventions to the hall of fame. He stressed, too, that the concepts in place now could change.

The civic center plan at this point is to provide a space that can accommodate some 2,000 people in a large gathering, or smaller groups through an idea of being able to close off portions into smaller rooms.

“We hope to make the hall of fame and civic center work together,” Hunt said in an interview last fall. “We’re excited about having a grand entrance that will be absolutely beautiful for visitors. We’re also wanting to have the latest technology installed for programs where people can do their programs without having to bring a lot of equipment.”

After visitors go through the hall of fame portion, Lee said one vision is to have people come out into the pond areas, including one that will have seating to watch pro fishermen demonstrate various techniques in bass fishing.

“We want this to be as multi-purpose as possible,” Lee said. “The international publicity this will generate will be tremendous. There is already a large market just within driving distance of Cullman, but the appeal will go even beyond this country.”

The state has committed to fund an interchange off Interstate 65 that will benefit the hall of fame as well as industries in that area. The contract could be let anytime from December to the early months of 2014.



Festhalle Market Platz



Festhalle Market Platz is the city of Cullman's vendor space for local farmers and crafters and is the largest timber frame structure in Alabama. It is also host to many special events throughout the year including Oktoberfest and the Strawberry Festival.

The market, which consists of a 7,250 square foot European-style timber frame structure, serves as a multi-purpose pavilion/farmers market featuring 32 individual vendor spaces (16 on each side) measuring 8 feet by 16 feet. The spaces are separated by a six-foot open walkway down the center.



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The clear span (no interior columns) facility features a metal roof which simulates European clay tile for low maintenance and long life, and a concrete floor.

Also included on site is a separate restroom/storage/office building.

An additional display/sales area is available around the perimeter of the market structure.

Directions To Festhalle Market Platz From I-65:

Take the 308 Exit (U.S. Hwy. 278 East) into Cullman.

The fourth traffic light (about 2 miles) will bring you to U.S. Highway 31 (Second Avenue). The Chamber Building will be on your right in the middle of town. Take a left on Highway 31 (Second Avenue) and go to the second traffic light (Arnold Street) and take a right just past the AutoZone on your right. Cross the railroad tracks. The train depot will be on your left. Immediately to your right past the railroad tracks is Festhalle Market Platz, at the corner of Arnold Street and First Avenue Northeast.

You can't miss it! Public parking is available directly across the street (east of the Market) and throughout downtown. Follow the signs!

2014 Market Season April ~ October

Market Times:

Tuesdays
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursdays
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturdays
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Source:

www.cullmancity.org/festhallemarketplatz.htm



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The Evelyn Burrow Museum



The Evelyn Burrow Museum is a museum of fine and decorative arts containing an extraordinary multi-million dollar collection donated to Wallace State Community College by Mrs. Burrow. This is located in the new Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts on the campus of Wallace State in Hanceville. The Burrow Museum is a beautiful, modern space for reflection and learning about art in a building dedicated to the arts. In 2010, the facility was selected as one of 95 award winning facilities nationwide profiled in Educational Interiors Showcase of American School & University Magazine. The Evelyn Burrow Museum is an important aspect of Wallace State's mission to be a cultural center for the community.

From fine examples of delicately crafted porcelain to artful everyday wares, the Burrow Museum's vast collection includes objects primarily of porcelain, pottery, glass and bronze from the Victo-

PHOTOS: Contributed by Wallace State Community College

rian era to modern times. Highlights are on rotating display in the Museum's main gallery and its Porcelain Room. Throughout the Museum, Wallace State shares Mrs. Burrow's appreciation for the decorative arts, her passion for collecting, and her particular love of horses with patrons, inspiring all to see the beauty in objects that surround us every day.

The museum has also hosted a number of visiting exhibitions. The first was a Holocaust survivors art exhibition held in conjunction with the College's English Department. Other visiting exhibitions have featured a Pre-1900s Alabama Pottery, Works Progress-era artwork, a post-war Japanese posters from the Birmingham Museum of Art's collection, a James Audubon lithographs, frescoes by Jurgen Tarrasch. Other exhibitions have featured fall-themed paintings by Bill Sharpton and photographs by John Dersham.



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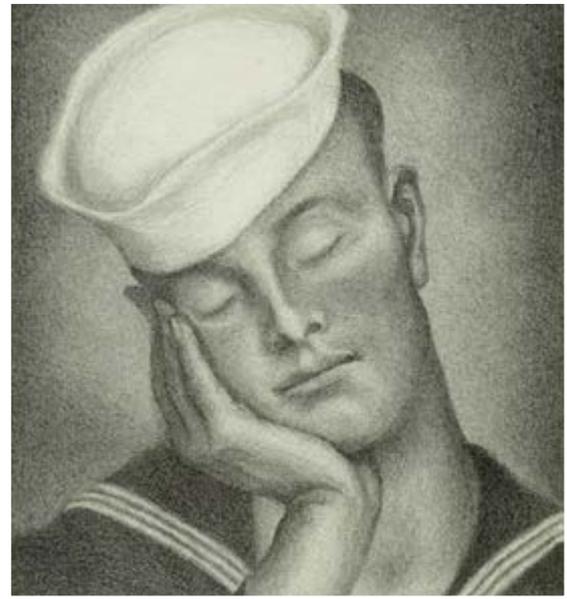
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- * pointe'
- * ballet variations
- * jazz
- * tap
- * adult ballet
- * pilates/yoga





Sailor is from WPA Exhibit

The Museum officially opened in April, and has drawn record numbers of visitors since moving from its previous location on County Road 222 in Cullman. Information about the museum has spread to social media sites like TripAdvisor, YouTube and Facebook. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free to all visitors.





Visit burrowmuseum.org for more information and to download a Museum Guide, or contact Evelyn Burrow Museum Director Donny Wilson at 256.352.8457 or email burrowmuseum@wallacestate.edu.



Golf Courses Plentiful



Golfers love Cullman County and for a good reason. The county is home to a handful of quality golf courses, all of which are 18-hole championship-caliber courses that host a variety of tournaments throughout the year.

Chesley Oaks is a course based on the design of those in the birthplace of golf - Scotland. Cullman Golf Course and Terri Pines Country Club are both well manicured and countered.

Golf professionals staff the three courses, and individual lessons are available year-round at each course. Clinics are offered throughout the year, including youth clinics at the Cullman Municipal Golf Course taught by golf pro Ches Harris.

Buddy Shear was one of the driving forces behind the construction of the Cullman Golf Course, which provided Cullman its first public course. An annual Buddy Shear Tournament is held at the Cullman Golf Course in remembrance of Shear's contribution to the course and its founding.

The McGriff family, who owns Terri Pines Country Club, played an inte-



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gral role in the construction of Cullman's next golf course built at the country club, which featured an eloquent and classy course.

In the late 1990s, the Andrews brothers led the effort to bring another course to town - Chesley Oaks Golf Club on Highway 69 in Fairview. The ownership changed hands, but the commitment to maintain a quality golf course in the Fairview community remains the same.

The Cullman Regional Medical Center's Million Dollar Hole-in-One Contest and the Buck Shear Tournament are both held annually at the Cullman Golf Course. An annual CorrWireless charity tournament held at TP Country Club each spring brings out college and professional athletes. Tournaments at Chelsey Oaks, including the Alabama Senior Open, the Alabama Left-Handers Classic and the YellowHammer Open, are held each year.

Quick Guide

CULLMAN MUNICIPAL

2321 County Road 490, Hanceville
Phone: (256) 739-2386

Details: This course offers enough variety of terrain to challenge the most experienced golfer. You will cross scenic bridges while playing here, and a lake comes into play on a few holes.

Green fees: \$20 or less

TP COUNTRY CLUB

700 Pine Hill Dr., Cullman
Phone: (256) 739-0720

Details: This hilly course offers enough variety of terrain to challenge any level of golfer. There are water hazards that come into play at least 14 times.

Green fees: \$24-49

CHESLEY OAKS

1035 County Road 1583, Cullman
Phone: (256) 796-9808

Details: This course is ideal for the average skill level. Ponds come into play on four holes. Friday is included in the weekend green fee rate.

Green fees: \$20 or less

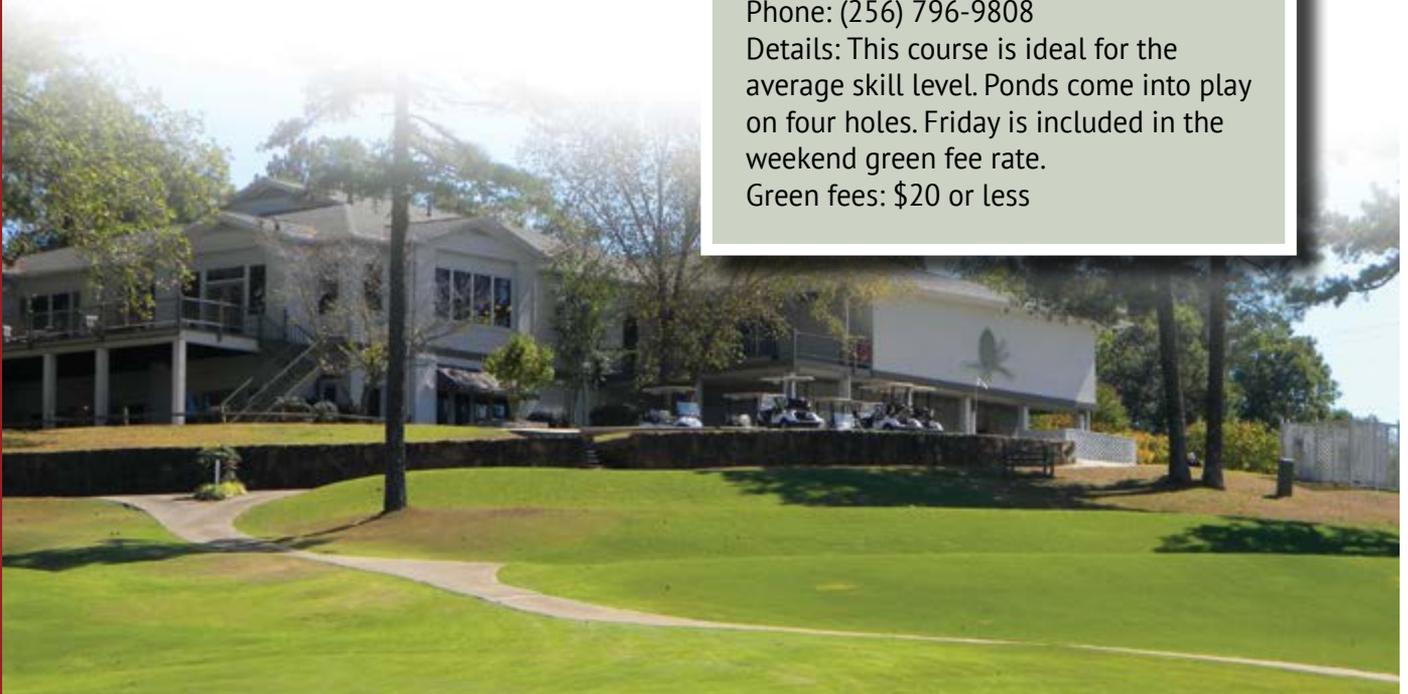




PHOTO: ROB KETCHAM/THE CULLMAN TIMES



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Skydive Alabama



PHOTO: COURTESY OF SOULCAMERAFLYER



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We are only a few minutes away from the town of Cullman where restaurants, stores, and hotels are available. Folsom Field features a restaurant on premises.

Skydive Alabama is a group member of the United States Parachute Association (USPA).

Source: www.skydivealabama.com

231 County Road 1360, Vinemont, AL, 35179 USA | Tel: 256-736-5553 | Fax: 703-940-7387

Hurricane Creek Park



PHOTO: HURRICANE CREEK PARK/FACEBOOK

Hurricane Creek Park is a 67+ acre natural area, nestled in a 500 foot deep canyon in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The park was founded in 1961 by William “Buddy” Rogers. He ran the park as a day-hike/picnic area for forty years. In 2003 he donated his beloved park to the Alabama State Lands Division.

There is something here for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. The park features several waterfalls that are rain fed and run about eight months out of the year. We have several miles of established hiking trails.

In addition to hiking, visitors can picnic beside the creek under the covered pavillion or at individual tables in the same vicinity.

Rock climbing is also offered to the seasoned climber, or our “My First Time Rock Climbing” program.

The park is open year-round!

Friday from 12:00 noon to *Sunset.

Saturday from 9:00 am to *Sunset.

Sunday 9:00 am till *Sunset.

The park is closed Monday thru Thursday.

Admission

\$3.00 for adults | \$2.50 for 17 & under.

Admission for groups of ten or more is \$2.00 per person.

HCP accepts cash or checks only.

Source: www.hurricanecreekpark.com

22600 US HWY 31 North | Vinemont, AL 35179 | Tel: 256-734-2125



Places to Visit

Stony Lonesome OHV Park



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

>>

With approximately 1,500 acres of forest land available and more than 150 miles of trails, Stony Lonesome OHV Park has the potential to open new trails for years to come. The OHV Park, a \$3 million project, is located near Bremen and features trails for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), cyclists, hikers and horseback riders. The Park also has two cabins available for rental and areas for both tent and RV campers. The camping area offers water hookup and is wheelchair accessible.

ADMISSION

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Places to Visit



Stony Lonesome is the first public OHV park of its kind in the state. Open year-round, the 1456+ acre park features trails for ATVs, rock crawlers, dirt bikes, mountain bikers, equestrians, hikers, pedestrians, and much more.

Email: stonylonesomeohv@co.cullman.al.us

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Places to Visit



Heritage Park

1705 Lee Avenue SW
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cullmanrecreation.org

Heritage Park truly has something for everyone in the community with amenities that include award winning softball fields, a top of the line soccer complex, a disc golf course, several miles of walking trails, picnic tables and pavilions, playgrounds, volleyball and basketball courts, a dog park, and more! Opened in 1994, the park is coming up on its 20th anniversary of offering quality recreational opportunities to the community. Over its tenure, Heritage Park has hosted local baseball and softball leagues for youth, adults, and church groups. The park has also become a major part of the local economy bringing in an average of 42 tournaments each year into the Cullman community.

Heritage Park is the winner of numerous awards from around the state, region, and even nation. The park has won awards for its quality facility, friendly staff, and safe home-town environment from the Alabama Recreation & Parks Association, the National Softball League, the National Recreation and Parks Association, and

most recently the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA). In 2013, Heritage Park won its most distinct honor for by winning the USSSA national Facility of the Year Award for the most outstanding facility. "One of the main reasons we were fortunate enough to win this award was due to the outstanding community we have. When people come to Cullman, they feel like it is a safe and family-oriented town with friendly and welcoming people. Whether it's the hotels, the restaurants, or wherever they go, all of the people who come to Cullman can't stop talking about how friendly the people around the community are," said park manager Shelby Williams.

The various tournaments brought in each weekend make a huge dent in the local economy, with each tournament averaging anywhere from 30 or 40 teams all the way up to 125 teams. Most tournaments require teams to stay overnight where they stay in local lodging, eat at local restaurants, and patronize local businesses. Each team brings about 20 people, which

can mean anywhere from 1,000 to 2,500 people coming in to Cullman 42 weekends a year. The tournaments generate almost \$50 million in economic impact annually hosting anything from men's tournaments to Dizzy Dean state tournaments and even national competitions through the USSSA.

With all these awards given by national groups, Heritage Park is one of the best of its kind that residents of Cullman can enjoy 365 days a year. Whether it's taking a walk in the park, playing a little ball, enjoying the splash pad and playground, having a peaceful picnic, listening to concerts in the park every summer, or just enjoying the beautiful award winning grounds, the park has something for everyone. Heritage Park is much more than just athletic competitions; new additions are constantly being added to the park, such as the new dog park and 18-hole disc golf course that opened up in 2012. The park is a major staple of the community, and Heritage Park is here to stay for the long run.





Field of Miracles

Field of Miracles Drive
256-734-9157
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In 2007, Cullman became a visionary example for opening a very unique softball complex at Chester Freeman Park; the Cullman Area Field of Miracles combined 3 softball fields with a mondo-based Miracle Field, incorporating those with special needs in with the rest of the baseball community. The park was one of the first of its kind in the nation built in an effort to bring everyone with all abilities and skill levels together to enjoy one park. The project was a huge success with hundreds participating in the opening season in the Miracle League side-by-side with weekly youth league softball and baseball games played on the other three fields at the park.

The Field of Miracles at Chester Freeman Park takes the name from one of Cullman's visionary leaders who made many of Cullman's Parks and Recreation facilities come to fruition. Chester Freeman, a founding member of the Parks and Recreation Board in 1979, was a visionary leader who

worked to see many projects come to fruition including Heritage Park, the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center, and the Cullman Area Field of Miracles. Chester, who passed away in February 2013 devoted his life to provide quality recreation opportunities to everyone in the community, regardless of their abilities. The visionary idea from Freeman to put everyone together in one central location was a huge success and has been duplicated across the country.

The Field of Miracles hosts both a spring and fall softball league with several teams. Games are played on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights, where people have come from far away to volunteer in the "Buddy" program which partners each player with someone to assist them in play. In 2013, the Hartselle High School baseball team even came to Cullman to work with the Miracle League players for several games. The partnership has put people with special needs and

others together that has created many long lasting friendships. The "Buddy" program has had such a success that the amount of volunteers can sometimes exceed the number of Miracle League players.

On any given night, there is always a crowd at the Field of Miracles. League games are played for spring and fall youth league games, and the players from the youth league often make their way over to cheer for the Miracle League players, and the Miracle League players often love to stick around and watch their friends play in open league games on the field just next to them. The park also plays host to large weekend tournaments, giving Heritage Park an extra 3 softball fields to book tournaments at for an average of 42 weekends per year. The facility is a one of a kind place where it is clear that there is a great service and partnership that occurs amongst every member of the community regardless of their abilities.





Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center

1636 Field of Miracles Drive
256-775-7946
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The Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center opened its doors in 2009 with a huge response from the community. Cullman had its questions at first about how well a facility of this size and nature would go over, but there is no question as to whether the 13,000 are always happy to visit the center throughout the year. In just 5 months, the center met its 5 year goal with members signing up all across Cullman County and even as far away as Birmingham and Huntsville. The top notch facility is still growing, and adding new classes and amenities every year.

The Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center features a state of the art gym that offers cardio machines, free weights, and state of the art Cybex equipment. In addition to several thousand square feet of fitness space, the center offers dozens of classes to focus on the goal of building a stronger, healthier community. Classes include yoga, aerobics, spin classes, Zumba, and dozens of others. The center is continuing its list of classes by constantly certifying instructors in new courses. Personal trainers are also on hand to aid in mak-

ing personal fitness plans for individuals as well wellness and nutrition plans to help meet personalized fitness goal. The fitness center also has a full staff of knowledgeable employees who are there to help with any questions and recommendations of exercises.

The center is also the hub of Cullman aquatics, from swim teams to water aerobics as well as a full scale outdoor waterpark. The center is home to the Cullman Catfish swim team as well as the site of Cullman High School's Swim team, practices, and meets. The Catfish competed at home as the center hosted the ARPA State Swim & Dive Meet in 2013 for the third year since the facility has been opened – over 5,000 visitors were in the area for the meet where the Cullman Catfish took home their first ever state championship. In addition to the swim teams, the facility boasts 2 large water slides, a lazy river, a children's play feature, and high and low diving boards at the outdoor water park that is open from May-September. Many schools, churches, and organizations hold events in the facilities meeting rooms and party room and utilize

the water park as a perfect gathering. In addition to the fun, there are dozens of chairs by the poolside to enjoy reading a book or soaking up some sun. The indoor pools are also open year round for lap swimming, open swim, and various classes including water aerobics and Aqua Zumba. The indoor pool deck also features a spa, and both men and women's locker rooms feature saunas.

In addition to the fitness and aquatic opportunities, the Wellness & Aquatics Center also features a basketball gymnasium with multiple courts, an indoor rubberized walking track, multiple meeting rooms for rental, and much more. Day passes allow full access to the facility for \$10 per day, while memberships for all the facilities' amenities start at just \$40 per month. Discounts are available for seniors and military. The center has brought a fun aspect to Cullman with hundreds of visitors attending the waterpark during the summer months. There is no question that the center is serving the community well with over 13,000 members and thousands more who enjoy daily passes.

Visit www.cullmanrecreation.org or call 256.734.9157 for more information on our facilities & events!



CITY PARKS & REC



Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center

Cullman Golf Course

McGukin Civic Center

Heritage Park

Hurricane Creek Park

Donald E. Green Senior Center

Cullman Gymnastics & Cheer Academy

Festhalle Market Platz

Archery Program



Cullman Lodging

America's Best Value Inn
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Cullman
256-734-8854

AnchorLight Bed & Breakfast
251 County Road 881
Crane Hill
256-338-6554

Best Western Fairwinds Inn
1917 Commerce Avenue
Cullman
877-574-2464

Comfort Inn
810 Main Street NE
Hanceville
866-611-6301

Comfort Suites
2048 St. Joseph Drive NW
866-611-6582
256-255-5999

Country View RV Park
15959 AL Highway 91
Hanceville
256-352-4678

Cullman Campgrounds
215 County Road 1185
Cullman
256-734-5853

Days Inn
1841 4th Street SW
Cullman
256-739-3800

Econo Lodge
1655 County Road 437
Cullman
866-611-6770

Economy Inn
1834 2nd Avenue NW
Cullman
256-734-0122

Good Hope Campground
330 Super Saver Road
Good Hope
256-739-1319

Hampton Inn
6100 Alabama Highway 157
Cullman
256-739-4444

Hanceville Inn & Suites
912 Main Street NE
Hanceville
256-352-0000

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
2052 Hayes Drive NW
Cullman
855-446-6513
800-345-8082

Quality Inn
5917 Alabama Highway 157
Cullman
866-611-6769

Sleep Inn & Suites
2050 Old Alabama Highway 157
Cullman
866-611-6773
256-734-6166

Smith Lake Bed & Breakfast
994 County Road 4230
Crane Hill
256-747-6057

Smith Lake Park
416 County Road 385
Cullman
256-739-2916

Sportsman Lake Park
1544 Sportsman Lake Road
Cullman
256-734-3052

Stony Lonesome OHV Park
10075 Alabama Highway 69S
Bremen
256-287-1133





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