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1992, April - June

# Ray City Community News

Vol. 3 No. 2

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# Ray City Community News



Vol. 3 No. 2

April May June  
Published by Ray City Community Development Council

Quarterly

## CDC Update

By: George Skinner

CDC/CITY TREE PLANTING PROJECT - Five hundred crepe myrtle trees, approximately three feet tall, were available on March 19 for citizens who live within the city limits of Ray City for planting on their streets. This was a Community Development Council (CDC) project coordinated by the Council's Beautification Committee. The cost of the trees was paid by the City of Ray City in support of the efforts to enlarge the city's Beautification Project.

The crepe myrtles were free to city residences and people were encouraged to plant them on their property located within the city limits. This project will pay beautiful dividends for years to come.

Appreciation is expressed to the Beautification Committee members Jeane Camp, Dianne Herring and Della Purvis, and to the Ray City Mayor and Council for making these crepe myrtle trees available and encouraging continued beautification efforts for our town.

SENIOR CITIZENS' STUDENT INTERN - Treala Harrellson, senior Valdosta State College Sociology major, accepted a student internship for the spring quarter with the Ray City community senior citizens. Miss Harrellson began her duties directing

the senior citizens' activities on March 31. She will be at the Senior Citizens Center from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday of each week. Miss Harrellson is made available to our senior citizens through the cooperation and support of Valdosta State College and Dr. Ballard, Professor of the Department of Sociology. Our community is indeed fortunate to have the services of a VSC student intern to work with our community's senior citizens.

CABOOSE PROJECT - At the time of this writing, the underground sprinkler system has been installed and the caboose lot has been landscaped. Also, lights have been installed inside the caboose. The sheetrock walls and ceiling are finished, and the paneling is ready to be installed. When this is completed, the wall covering will be ready to hang. We are getting in the short rows with this project and still think it will be completed by the end of April, 1992. Thanks to all the community citizens who have helped with this project. You will be proud of the finished results.

ANNUAL BEDDING PLANTS - It will soon be time for annual bedding plants to be set out for beautiful, colorful flower beds to be enjoyed a little later in the spring and summer. Doris Rouse and Polly Napier are again going to adopt the plant bed around the well in the city parking lot. The CDC

Beautification Committee has adopted the bed areas in front of the caboose.

The interest and commitment of these five ladies set a good example of what it takes to make our little town stand out from the typical little town you might ride through. Thank you ladies for your personal efforts to make our city beautiful.

## July 4th Sneak Preview

The Ray City Homecoming Committee met to plan the July Fourth Homecoming activities. Some of the activities planned are: parade, arts and crafts, horse show, street dance, children and adult games, cake baking contest, horseshoes (singles and doubles), pick-in, male beauty contest (Miz Ray City) and fire works.

Those interested in an arts and crafts booth should contact City Hall - 455-2501, or Jeane Camp - 244-6480. We also need volunteers whose time and ideas could help make this July Fourth the best ever.

A schedule of the day's events will be posted at various businesses in time for you to plan your day. Volunteers should contact City Hall, Della Purvis - 455-4802, or Betty Langford - 455-4663.



## Raising Them By Two's

by: Daphinne Cooper

"Stop! Don't bite him!"

No, you better not hit him."

"Stop pushing him!"

"What am I going to do with you two?"

This is how my day goes from morning until night with my twin boys, Darren and Derrick. Everything I say, I say twice. I am still wondering how and why God chose me to have twins. Whatever the reason, I am very happy and dearly love my sons. I just wish they had come with a step-by-step instruction manual.

Michael and I had been married for only seven months when I learned I was expecting our first child. I was just nineteen, and although some would not have been very happy, my husband and I were thrilled with the news. Four months into the pregnancy, I had a routine ultrasound. I began to worry as I watched the doctor's facial expressions. I can still hear her words ringing in my ears, "Twins!" No matter how badly I wanted to prove her wrong, the little T.V. screen said it all.

Telling Michael was my next step. That whole afternoon was filled with mixed feelings. My heart in my throat, I tried to be calm; but as soon as I saw Michael, I blurted, "Look at these pictures from the ultrasound." Staring at the pictures, he turned pale and said, "I need to sit down." Soon, with a big smile he said, "Twins. What are we going to do with two babies?"

Our prayers were soon changed from, "Thank you, God, for this blessing," to "How will we ever make it?" Little did we know that patience, not money, should have been the highlight of our prayers. Before we knew it, delivery time (September 21, 1990) had come. We had two healthy, very handsome, and very small baby boys, Michael Darren and Kevin Derrick. Our world was about to change more than we could have ever comprehended.

I wish I could say it's all peaches-and-cream. But, believe me, it's not. I

worried if I would feed the same one twice and starve the other; or, give the same one two doses of medicine and the other none. Fortunately, I've been able to tell them apart from the beginning. Soon, I had worries like teething. Most children use teething rings to cut their teeth. My children used each other! As you've guessed, I soon had another problem. Even though they still chewed on each other, they began hitting each other. I am slowly coming to realize that being a referee is just part of being a parent.

As days go by so quickly, I have come to understand how precious time is. Our sons are growing and learning every day. I love to watch them play and copy each other. It seems they even have their own language. They share a special closeness in the way they hug and kiss, share, and yes, even the way they yell and fight. It's amazing how they are different and more unique than anything I have ever imagined. It's a true blessing from God. Even though I change twice as many diapers, fix twice as many bottles, and say, "No!" twice as many times, their love is two thousand times more than I deserve.



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& DARREN COOPER  
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# Did You Know!

By Bettye Shearl

Did you know that . . .

\* Aside from the female representations of Justice and Liberty, only three women have appeared in commemoration on United States currency? These three females were Martha Washington on the face of the 1886 and 1891 silver certificates, Pocahontas on the back of the 1875 twenty-dollar bill, and Susan B. Anthony on the 1979 one-dollar coin?

\* The first news event to be televised was the nomination of Alfred E. Smith for President of the United States? This event took place in Albany, New York on August 22, 1928.

\* The first suburban shopping center was built in 1928 in Ardmore, Pennsylvania? Called Suburban Square, it offered two department stores, a movie theater, doctors' offices and seventeen other shops.

\* The first laundromat opened for business in Fort Worth, Texas in 1934? There were four washers and two dryers.

\* The first blood bank opened in New York City in 1940?

\* The first radio station broadcast was made by KDKA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 2, 1920? Its initial newscast reported that Warren Harding had been elected President of the United States.

\* The first star of Hollywood to place their footprints at Grauman's Chinese Theatre was Norma Talmadge, who started a tradition when she accidentally stumbled into freshly poured cement in front of the theatre in 1917?

\* The first frozen foods were put on the market in the mid- 1920's by Clarence Birdseye?

\* The water we use today is as old as the earth itself? Nature simply moves it around from one place to another, in a vast and marvelous recycling system.

\* The first game of basketball was played in Springfield, Massachusetts in December of 1891 by students of Dr. James Naismith after they became bored with the long winter's routine?

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circular is running now through April and will continue four times a year. Garden seed and fertilizer are now available for spring planting.

Feeling the need for a new game, the students nailed peach baskets on the wall and, as the janitor passed by, he threw a ball into the basket. Today, more than eighteen million people throughout the world enjoy the game.

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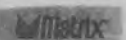
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# Senior Citizen's Center Activities

Terri Staines

The Senior Citizen's Center's first and foremost task is to meet needs of our senior community members. This continues to be done on a daily basis with the Nutrition Program, who now has Betty Buerger as assistant site manager. Mrs. Wilson, site manager, sends out a plea for volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The route is inside the city limits and will only take about thirty minutes to make the deliveries. Please call her at the Center's new number, 455-2236. Also, each Wednesday is Craft day. At this writing, the seniors are working on easter crafts to be sold at the Senior Citizen's Easter Bazaar on Saturday, April 4th. They are continuing with Tuesday night bingo. At their March monthly covered dish supper, "The Bell Pepper Steppers" clogging group entertained them. Informative speakers continue to educate the seniors. In February, Barbara Paulson and Ann Roberson, local representatives of Retired Senior Volunteer Persons (R.S.V.P.) helped organize their volunteer services. Penny Wendel and Patricia Sweeney of the South Georgia Elderly Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) held a Community Education Workshop to educate them on types of legal services ELAP provides. Trela Harrellson, the new intern for the next three months, begins work on March 31st. Mrs. Wilson urges everyone to stop by to welcome and encourage Ms. Harrellson.

Other activities at the center include a literacy class held on Tuesdays from 1-3:00, Ladies Auxiliary Bingo on Thursday nights, martial arts classes, reunions, and parties. A special landscaping workday (March 21st) resulted in the Center's grounds getting a spring "spruce up".

# Students Excel

Congratulations to Ray City School Writing Fair winners: K-2 John Johnson (2nd), Audra Pinson (2nd); 3-5 Hannah Clayton (3rd), Andrew Clayton (5th); 6-8 Jared Rice (6th), Gabrielle Jammes (6th); Deana Malone (7th), Arlene Houston (7th); John Johnson won County Award for second grade.

Congratulations to Aja Chism and Becky Rice, (5th graders) for qualifying in the Valdosta Baptist Associational Bible Drills. They will compete in April on the State level.

The boy's basketball team placed second in county tournament. Reggie Camon set a new scoring record for Ray

City School with 302 points for the season.

Congratulations to Ray City School Spelling Bee Winners: 4th Beth Browning; 5th Nick Clisby; 6th Jared Rice; 7th Arlene Houston; 8th Erica Graham. County-wide was held in Nashville on February 20.

Congratulations to Berrien County Hog Show winners: Rebecca Brogdon - 3rd place in Pre-Club Class; Carl Stalvey - 3rd place in Class 2, 217-233 lb. Held February 25 in Nashville.

Congratulations to Kane Staines from Pine Grove Elementary. His pencil sketch of ancient sailing ships was a part of the "Youth Art Month Student Exhibit" at the Valdosta Public Library on March 1st.

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## Life In The "Fast Lane"

by: Terri Staines

The distant rumbling ripples across our quiet little town. "Rain's coming," you think. The rumbling continues, the suddenly "Vroom, Vroom!" You remember it's the weekend. Two local residents who own racecars are busy fine tuning their power machines for competition in the Saturday night races - one in bracket drag and the other in circle track. Hank Studstill and Gary Mosier co-own a 1966 Chevy II Nova bracket dragster. Hank, the mechanic and driver, races at Southern Dragway in Douglas, Georgia.

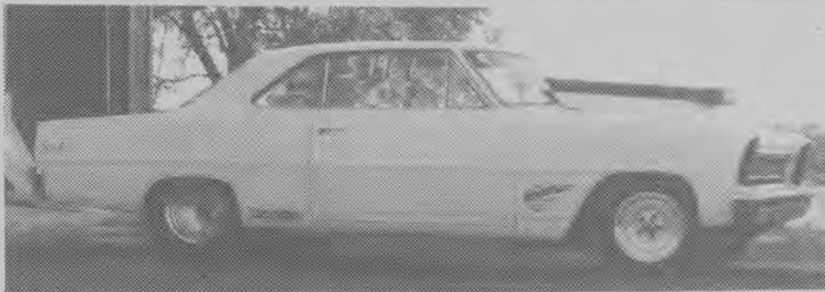
Relatively new to the sport as a participant, Hank has been racing as an independent (no sponsor) for four years, the last two in partnership with Mosier. His success he contributes to the design of the car bumper to bumper. Its tube frame, narrowed rear end and 355 cid engine perfectly combine to send the little white Chevy screaming down the eighth mile track in 8.10 seconds at 89 mph. "Consistency is more important than speed in bracket racing," says Hank. To those of us not familiar with hotrod racing, bracket racing takes practice, patience and perseverance to be successful. In the summer of 1991 Hank placed third in the Budweiser Classic Finals in Douglas.

Hank explains that before the race each car must make a qualifying run in the time trials to get his time registered or "dialed in" with the race officials. If a slow car is paired with a faster car, the slower car is afforded a handicap time which amounts to the difference between the dial in times of each car. This is a fair way of ensuring that each car has an equal chance of reaching the finish line first, providing neither one "red lights" (starts before the green light), or "breaks out" (races faster than dial in time). Bracket drag racing is certainly a highly competitive, fast moving sport definitely not suited for the faint hearted. Hank says that whether you are a spectator or

cont. on page 7



Cooper Brothers' fiberglass replica of a 1986 Iroc Camaro dirt track racer.



Studstill and Mosier's 1966 Chevy II Nova bracket dragster.

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## Ray City Homecoming Committee

Della Purvis - 455-4802

City Hall - 455-2501

## Volunteer Activities Report

by Nell Snipes

A Valentine Luncheon was held February 12th at the Senior Citizens Center for the citizens. Mrs. Jo Webb donated red carnation table arrangements, and Mrs Betty Freeman donated a beautifully decorated red and white cake. Our thanks to the merchants who also made donations: Harvey's, Thrifty Drugs and The Old Butcher Shop of Lakeland, and Earl's Red and White of Ray City. Valentines were given to each person on arrival and were later used to draw for prizes. Several people brought covered dishes



A Valentine feast at the Senior Citizens Center. Food and fellowship was the order of the day.

which were enjoyed along with the regular Nutrition Program menu. The turnout was great as was the food and fellowship.

My deepest thanks to each of you that shared our luncheon.

## From The Postmaster's Desk

by: Jeane Camp, Postmaster

The Postal Service is going through many changes. It is going into the new era of automation by which machines will now sort the mail. This will be done in Macon by the Optical Character Reader (OCR). If you notice a letter with several lines at the bottom, they are called a bar code. The OCR reads this bar code and sorts it to your zip code. All the mail for this area is put in trays and sent to our office. The Postal Service has proposed by fiscal year 1995 mail will come into our office sorted for the routes in order of delivery.

If all of this is to happen, we are going to need everyone's help. All customers must start now to use their correct address. You need to use the correct route number and your box number. If you have a post office box, you need to use your box number, not a street address.

Our goal is to improve the mail service and satisfy our customers. In order to do this, we are going to have to work as a team. Join the team and always use your correct address. Help us to help you so we can speed-up delivery of your mail. If you have any questions, please contact me at Ray City Post Office. We are here to serve you.

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paid political adv.

cont. from page 5

participator, you will experience a rush of excitement every five minutes when there is a burnout and two more screaming machines fly down the track. Having always been interested in fast cars, Hank has learned some very expensive lessons and offers a word of advice to the wise. "Keep the hotrods off the street and on the track."

The Cooper brothers of Ray City are living legends in circle track racing. Their late model fiberglass replica of a 1986 Iroc Camaro is a far cry from the 1954 Ford (driven by Earl Bristol) that Johnny Cooper began figure "8" racing nearly three decades ago. Johnny fondly recalls those early days. "A driver had better be alert when he came to the crossover in the figure "8" or there'd be the biggest tangle of cars you'd ever seen."

By the time his brother James joined the team in the late sixties, Johnny had already been successfully circle track racing with a modified 1956 Chevy driven by Preston Driscoll. Later Harvey Jones continued the tradition by winning over 250 races during his ten years with the team, who, by then was being assisted by the three youngest Cooper brothers. For five years running they won the Florida State Championship. Their current driver, Jimmy Murphy, has driven them to the winner's circle in over 200 races during his twelve years with he team. Currently they are participating in the "Hav-A-Tampa Racing Series", one of the biggest short track events in the southeastern United States. In the four races they've competed in this season, they've placed in the top five finishers.

The Coopers have seen many changes in the world of dirt track racing since their early career, mostly in the area of money it takes to get started in the sport. Johnny remembers, "You used to could race a car for \$500 and get spare parts from the junk yard. Nowadays, it would take \$45,000 to build a car from scratch." He relates that it is hard for the "little guy" to race against

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the big money competitors, yet they proudly manage to hold their own with the support of their four sponsors. Their biggest challenge is proving that they can successfully compete on a budget. Recalling cherished advice, Johnny shares, "Our daddy always said, 'You can have anything you want if you work hard enough for it.'"

## School News

Ray City School had a maintenance review on Friday, March 6, by Mr. Twiggs from State Board of Education. This inspection is based on safety factors and cleanliness. Score 100%! A special thanks to all personnel, especially Mr. and Mrs. Leaf, who put in many extra hours.

Also, a big thanks goes to Mr. W.D. Garrison for tutoring several seventh and eighth grade math students.

The Beaver Blast, PTO fundraiser, was held March 21st from 3- 6:00 p.m. It had an Olympic theme and according to Mrs. Watson, school principal, was a big success.

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# Ray City Girls & Boys Basketball Teams And Cheerleaders



**GRILS BASKETBALL**--Front row (l-r) Leanne Stalvey, Alisa Camon, Barbara Camon, Jennifer Manders, Teresa Browning. Back row (l-r) Stacey Clements, Clint Ashley (Manager), Aisha Ward, April Garner, Shannon Crews, Patience Bumgardner, Coach Bud Marcrum.



**BOYS BASKETBALL**---Front row (l-r) Clint Ashley (Manager), Carl Stalvey, Elliot Ryan, Nick Clisby, Daryn Snipes. Middle row (l-r) Brandon Rice, Jason Booth, Jackie Sheffield, Marcus Ryan, Trent Exum, Phil Burkhalter. Back row (l-r) Joseph Meeks, Scottie Brogdon, Reggie Camon, Ashley Back, Rashad Simonton Wright, Coach Bud Marcrum.



**CHEERLEADERS**-- Front row (l-r) Della Cumbus, Amanda Shearl, Erica Graham. Back row (l-r) Sheila Rice (Sponsor), Tina Fender, Summer Strawder, Crystal Tyler.

## Spring Calendar Of Events

by Bettie Langford

- April 5- Family of Doris Rouse's reunion
- April 12- Family of Joyce Harrell's reunion
- April 18- Easter Egg Hunt at city park at 3:00 pm hosted by the City of Ray City. Eggs and sodas compliments of Earl's Grocery in Ray City. Parents are asked to bring cupcakes or cookies for the party afterward.
- April 25- Snipes family reunion (family of Walter Snipes)
- April 26- Morgan family reunion (family of Clyde and Marie Morgan)
- May 2- Mullis family reunion (family of Lizzie Gaskins)
- May 5- Odum family reunion (family of Ann Smith, Hilda Cowart and the late Mrs. Flossie Gaskins)
- May 17- Cribbs family reunion
- May 23- Bennefield family reunion (family of Rita Bennefield, Raymond Bennefield and Joan Royals)
- May 24- Martin family reunion (family of Jimmie Ree Martin)
- May 30- Cook family reunion (family of Bettye Shearl)
- May 31- Mikell family reunion (family of Clem and Verda Mikell)
- June 7- Family of Evelyn Harrell reunion
- June 14- Taylor family reunion (family of Barbara Ray)
- June 27- Woods' family reunion (family of Remer and Jewell Woods, and Johnny W. Woods)
- June 28- Moore family reunion (family of Eloise Johnson)

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Sherrie Graham, Ed. Assl.  
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