

Make A Difference



RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

April – June, 2013 Volume 12, Issue 1

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a federal program charged with leading efforts to expand the use of service and volunteering as key solutions that respond to our nation’s most pressing challenges. Our mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement, through service and volunteering. RSVP is sponsored locally by the Etowah County Commission, and federally by the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS).

Director’s Corner

In the News

- Tax Season – so far!
- Habitat volunteer recognized in Montgomery

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Spring is a gift with endless possibilities! Most of us are busy with spring cleaning, starting gardens & planting flowers. At RSVP we are busy getting things in order also. Our tax program is winding down, but we are just beginning to get ready for our Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. We are working intently on our theme, entertainment and decorations for this year.

In the process of getting ready for *your* big day, we go through our volunteer records to make sure everything is correct and that we have all of the right information on you. So don’t be surprised if you get a phone call from us, & if you are responsible for turning in your own time sheets or time sheets for a group, make sure they are current!

We get very excited this time of year, with so much going on. I’m sure everyone does! But I hope you always remember to make time for the things in your life that are the most important, be kind to everyone around you, and don’t forget to stop and smell the beautiful spring flowers!

News

As most of you know, RSVP offers a free tax preparation service every year. This is an IRS program available to almost everyone, but we do target low income and senior citizen taxpayers. Our program grows every year, & this year is proving to be no exception. Last year we filed 1,201 federal returns and so far this year (as of March 15th) we have filed 1,034 returns. We have 25 volunteers this year, who have given over 800 hours of their time to file these returns!

We would like to thank all of you who help us spread the word about this great program that benefits so many people! Also, we will be open through the April 15th deadline – so it’s not too late to get help with your taxes!

Habitat for Humanity volunteer Don Whitt was recently recognized in Montgomery by the Alabama Association of Habitat Affiliates as the Volunteer of the Year! Don has been a construction volunteer for 5

years, driving into Gadsden from Centre for almost every workday. The only time he misses a workday is when he is volunteering for Carpenters for Christ or visiting his children & grandchildren. What a great example of a dedicated volunteer!

Our quarterly workshop in January was very interesting. Yoga instructor Lori Howell taught us how to do simple yoga exercises in a chair!



"Spring is nature's way of saying – 'Let's Party!'"
~ Robin Williams

STATISTICS

- New volunteers – 6
- Total volunteers – 371
- Total stations – 50
- Volunteer Hours – 9,645
- Value of Hours – \$170,716.50

(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time is \$17.70 per hour)



Gadsden Health & Rehab would like to thank the RSVP Friendly Nursing Home Visitors for all of their help with activities!

Success Story

One of our own programs that we are so proud of is the Tele-Chek Program. We have several volunteers who like to work from home (and they also like to talk!). These volunteers make reassurance phone calls each weekday to other senior citizens who are homebound or alone for most of the day. This activity is not only helping the people being called, but it also gives their family members and friends a

better sense of security & piece of mind.

Clients can specify what time of day they would prefer to be called, and volunteers also can remind them of certain things if needed (such as, have you taken your medicine or did you eat breakfast?). We provide each of our volunteers with a picture of the clients so they can "see" who they are talking to, & volunteers and clients have

become good friends because they get to know each other so well!

RSVP and the Sheriff's Dept. work together in this program, & if a volunteer does not get a response, we can get a deputy to go check on that person.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from this service, let us know & we'll send you a registration form!

Volunteer Opportunities

- **DAV Van Drivers** – people are needed to drive veterans from the VA Clinic in Rainbow City to the VA hospital in Birmingham one day each week.
- **Courthouse Information Desk** – we need volunteers to man the information desk & help give directions!
- **It's a Birthday Party!** – Baptist Retirement Village would like some volunteers to bake a birthday cake & help their residents celebrate once a month.
- **Etowah Historical Society** – volunteers are needed to greet visitors & inform them about the exhibits.
- **A day at the Park!** – the newly formed Cherokee County Park Board is in need of volunteers @ Cherokee Rock Park, Cornwall Furnace Park, Ethel Morrison Park & others, or in their office.
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

Volunteer Recognition

Do you know that person who never says "No"? Well, RSVP is fortunate to have several of that kind of person, but let me tell you about one in particular – Ms. Sandra Jackson. Ms. Jackson has only been volunteering with RSVP since August of 2011, but in that short amount of time she has become

indispensable, rarely turning down the opportunity to volunteer! Kristina Taylor at Etowah Community Action says, "A Volunteer makes every act of service more vibrant. Sincere thanks to you Ms. Sandra Jackson for your time, dedication, and service." Congratulations Ms. Jackson for being our Volunteer of the Quarter!

The winner of our On-Time Time Sheet drawing for this quarter is Ms. Lois King! Ms. King volunteers at the Cherokee Medical Center & H.D. Buttram Senior Center. She has been volunteering with RSVP since October of 2010, and has 691.5 hours on record! Congratulations Ms. King!

Upcoming Events

April 6 – Extended Family for Kids Workshop, 9:00 – 4:00 @ Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. This workshop is designed to train program leaders for Extended Family for Kids presentations. Call 256-927-7997 or email extendedfamily@tds.net for more info.

April 12 & 13 – Etowah Master Gardeners plant sale @ the Extension office, 3200 W Meighan Blvd.

April 16 – Pre May Day Celebration & Health Fair sponsored by Etowah County Council on Aging, 9

AM – 12 PM, Convention Hall

April 18 – RSVP Quarterly Workshop, 10 AM, Room 205 of the Etowah County Courthouse.

April 20 – Ancestor Swap Meet, 8:30 – 3:00, Senior Activity Center in Gadsden

May 9 – Choose Life Banquet, benefitting the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center, 5:30 PM, Convention Hall

May 12 – Mother's Day

May 16 – May Day, sponsored by the East AL

Area Agency on Aging, Talladega

May 22 – RSVP Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Senior Activity Center, 10:00 AM

May 27 – Memorial Day, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.

May 31 – Gadsden Riverfest by the Coosa River

June 16 – Father's Day

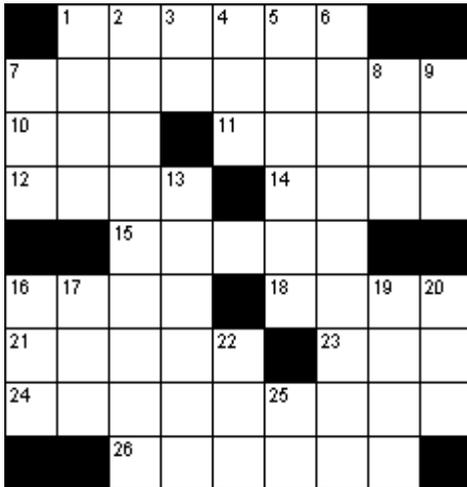
June 19 – Elder Abuse Awareness Day sponsored by Etowah Council on Aging, Senior Activity Center



"Let the refining and improving of your own life keep you so busy that you have little time to criticize others."

~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Puzzle



Across

1. Renowned
7. Little
10. Genus of macaws
11. Refute
12. Expunge
14. Indian music
15. Range
16. Dregs
18. A few
21. Artist's work stand
23. Soviet space station
24. A fossil
26. View

Down

1. Blaze
2. Absence of the sense of pain

3. Michigan
4. Paddle
5. Womb
6. Smaller than atomic
7. Angry
8. Carpet
9. Estimated time of arrival
13. Artist's work stands
16. Permit
17. Hearing organ
19. Glove
20. Before, poetically
22. Chop off
25. After Ay

RSVP Volunteer Stations



AARP – COOSA VALLEY CHAPTER #3337	ETOWAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE	NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	ETOWAH COUNTY DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES	PILOT CLUB
AMERICAN RED CROSS – ETOWAH & CHEROKEE CHAPTERS	ETOWAH COUNTY PREGNANCY TESTING CENTER	RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	ROC-1 ST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CENTRE
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	EVEN START	RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CENTRAL-CARVER FOUNDATION, INC.	EXTENDED FAMILY	RSVP DISASTER VOLUNTEERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHAB.	FIRST CALL FOR HELP	RX HELP
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM	FRIENDLY NURSING HOME VISITORS	SALVATION ARMY
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	GADSDEN MUSEUM OF ART	SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS
CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
CITY OF GADSDEN	GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD	SWAT
COMMUNITY ACTION	GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM
COUNCIL ON AGING	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	TELE-CHEK
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER	HEAD START	THE CHAMBER
EL SENOR CLUB	MANNA	UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH COUNTY
ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER	MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL	VETERANS AFFAIRS

Birthdays This Quarter

Julian Yates	04/02	Eloise Ramer	05/06	Randall Harvey	06/03
Tom Roper	04/04	Danny Wagnon	05/06	Deborah Henderson	6/03
Pat Trotter	04/04	Jerry Howell	05/09	Dorothy Jones	06/04
Rick Lankford	04/05	Joyce Howell	05/10	Gordon Maddox	06/05
Carol Gillin	04/09	Freda Wintermyer	05/13	Sarah Vance	06/05
Molly Cheatwood	04/10	Ruby Jo Boyle	05/17	Annie Leeth	06/06
Edith Sitz	04/11	A.C. Boyd	05/18	Jerrie McNeal	06/06
Gary Batson	04/12	Gloria Derousse	05/18	Sarah Spear	06/07
Vanessa Evans	04/12	Sue Tidwell	05/18	Martha Yates	06/07
Emma Cylar	04/13	Edna Brittain	05/19	Patricia McGee	06/08
Loyd Watkins	04/13	Katherine Buchanan	5/19	Bobbie Reeves	06/12
Linda Gooden	04/16	Lessie Fluharty	05/19	Beatrice Brooks	06/14
Mary Ann Hill	04/17	Ruth Farmer	05/20	Louise Mullican	06/14
Jean Pettis	04/17	Mary Jo Wilson	05/20	Charlotte Edwards	06/16
Virginia King	04/18	Jan Kelley	05/21	Doug Belyue	06/17
Geraldine Gooden	04/19	Carol Warmack	05/21	Lucille Nix	06/17
Margaret Long	04/20	Georgia Echols	05/22	Mildred Thompson	06/17
Gloria Hope	04/20	DeAnna DeVille	05/24	Delores Cerecke	06/18
Joyce Hilburn	04/21	James Thornton, Jr.	05/24	Orena Starling	06/19
Mildred Battles	04/25	Joyce Wheeler	05/24	Marcia Hardney	06/21
Gerrie Parker	04/27	Kathryn Barrett	05/25	Sara Higginbotham	6/21
Louise Anderson	04/28	Alma Boswell	05/25	Suzanne Scharfenberg	6/21
Kathy Garner	04/28	Bettie Jones	05/25	Ann Boatwright	06/22
Mary Sue Grissom	04/28	Jenell Twilley	05/28	James Holcomb	06/24
Ping Pondick	04/28	Marie Cylar	05/30	John Parks	06/24
John Saffa	04/30	Jack Gooden	05/30	Dorman Robinson	06/24
Craig Scott	05/01	Bettye Knowles	06/01	R. V. Amos	06/25
Charles Hubbard	05/02	David Rogers	06/01	Shirley Johnson	06/28
Hattie Johnson	05/02	Alvatine Blackwell	06/02	Carolyn Chaviers	06/29
Wanda Neal	05/02	Amelia Collins	06/02	Mary Owens	06/29
Jean Foster	05/04	Earline Harrison	06/03	Jerry Campbell	06/30



*"It takes a long time to
grow young."*

~ Pablo Picasso

RSVP

800 Forrest Avenue
Room 219
Gadsden, AL 35901

Phone

256-549-8147

Fax

256-549-5351

E-mail

tpondick@etowahcounty.org

sharrison@etowahcounty.org

frussell@etowahcounty.org

RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick

Van Driver/Volunteer

Coordinator – Faye

Russell

Secretary/Bookkeeper –

Samantha Harrison



We're on the Web!



See us at:

www.etowahcounty.org

RSVP Advisory Council

Chairperson – Pat Hill

Vice Chairperson –

Joyce Farrell

Treasurer – Deborah

Lankford

Secretary – Wanda

Neal

Jane Brittain

Lisa Dobbins

Thelma Edgar

Juanita Elrod

Jerre McNeal

Joe Neal

Jean Pettis

Nettie Robinson

Doralynn Thomas

Ila Mae Wright

CiCi Whiteside

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Absolute Fitness

Applebee's

Belk's

Burkes Outlet

Chili's Restaurant

Dad's BBQ

Sheriff Todd Entrekin

Family Christian Bookstore

Representative Craig Ford

Gadsden Outfitters

Gifts on Wings

H. M. Freeman Motors

JC Penney Salon

Joy's Flowers

Little Faces Doll Shop

Moman's Optical

Pack's Nursery

Performance Chiropractic

Premier Cinema 16

Rainbow Auction

Regis Hair Salon

Samson & Delilah Salon

Southside Family Drugs

Sutton Bridge Exxon

Wells Fargo

Academy Sports

B & B Pawn

Books-A-Million

Cadence Bank

Cothran's Bakery

Discount Pest Control

Etowah Foot Specialists

Family Savings Credit Union

Gadsden Eye Associates

Gadsden Regional

Gold's Gym

Hokes Bluff Drug Shoppe

Jerry's Pharmacy

Keystone Bank

Mater's Pizza

Northeast AL Audiology

Peoples Independent Bank

Physician's Home Health

Professional Opticians

Red Lobster

Renu Salon & Spa

Shear Class Salon

Sports Mania

Uncle Sam's BBQ

Western Sizzlin

Advance Auto Parts

BBVA Compass Bank

Brown's Framing

Chic-Fil-A

Cravings Bakery

Downtown Deli

Exchange Bank

Flipside Café

Gadsden Foot Clinic

Gadsden Variety Store

Hick's Family Shoes

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Regions Bank

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