

Summer 2010

The Hartselle



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

Cracker Barrel Expected to Make Economic Impact

When Cracker Barrel opens next February – as is currently scheduled – Hartselle leaders expect the family-style restaurant, because of the included retail store, to have “the largest economic impact” of any restaurant to locate in Hartselle to date, says Mayor Dwight Tankersley.

“Obviously, the sales tax generated by Cracker Barrel will benefit Hartselle,” he explains. “Equally important, overall, is the number of jobs that will be created. Cracker Barrel typically employs 120 - 200 full and part-time employees,” he says. “Their wages turn over back into the local economy.”

Cracker Barrel, based in Lebanon, TN, has 594 restaurants in 41 states. The average restaurant, according to the company, has 7,350 guests per week and \$4.18 million in annual sales.

Typically, Mayor Tankersley explains, Cracker Barrel attracts other businesses to an area, including major hotels and fast food restaurants. And it appears that Hartselle is getting attention: At the International Council of Shopping Centers Convention held earlier this summer in Las Vegas, the mayor said several hotels expressed an interest in Hartselle.

In 2006, the city purchased 19 acres of land near the Highway 36 / I-65 interchange, to make sure it would be available for commercial development. Two years ago, Hartselle Utilities worked with the city to build infrastructure, including boring a tunnel under I-65 to provide water, natural gas, telecommunications fiber and sewer lines to the site.



Cracker Barrel plans to open its second restaurant in Morgan County in February. The restaurant will be the first development on the 19-acre tract Hartselle purchased in 2006. Hartselle Utilities partnered with the city to provide utilities to the site.

In May, Cracker Barrel purchased three acres of the land from the city. “Without the sewer infrastructure in place,” says Mayor Tankersley, “Cracker Barrel would not have considered this site.”

Cracker Barrel is the first of what will hopefully be several retailers at the site, the mayor says. “There will be two more parcels that front Highway 36, and several others internally.”

Cracker Barrel plans to break ground this month.

SNAP Opens Water Splash Pad for Area Children of All Abilities



Connor and Carson Lovelady and Brandon Woods ‘tested’ the Splash Pad during a trial run in early July.

The “Splash Pad” – Phase 2 of the John Mark Stallings Special Needs Accessible Playground (SNAP) of Morgan County – officially opened July 24, just in time for children of all abilities to cool off in the summer heat. The SNAP site was designed for the 1,700 physically challenged children in Morgan County who cannot safely play on standard playground equipment. The Splash Pad is a water feature with water spouts, sprinklers and a play area designed to allow children of all abilities to have fun in the water.

After several years of community-wide fundraising campaigns and partnerships, the first phase of the playground was completed in 2008. In November 2008 the playground was dedicated in memory of John Mark Stallings, the son of former University of Alabama football coach Gene Stallings, who died in August 2008.

The total cost for the SNAP project will be \$750,000. Fundraising for a third phase of the playground is underway.

The playground is located at 406 Nance Ford Road, directly behind the Sparkman Civic Center.



Sludge Pond Vegetation Removed To Make Way For Dredging Equipment

Hartselle Wastewater Treatment Plant staff worked long hours during July removing vegetation, including willow trees and tomato plants, which had sprouted in the sludge pond at the plant, shown above left.

Waste sludge in the pond is seven feet deep and must be removed, says HU General Manager Ferrell Vest, to improve the holding capacity of the pond. HU has been approved for a grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for sludge dredging equipment to dewater the sludge and separate the solids, which can then be disposed at the Morgan County Landfill.

Before the sludge dredging equipment could be brought in, however, crews had to remove the vegetation which had almost completely covered the two-acre pond. The photo above right shows the progress crews had made after two and a half weeks.

Salem Road Water Line Project

HU Water crews recently replaced approximately 1,800 feet of 2-inch galvanized iron pipe along Salem Road.

According to HU Water System Operator Steve Terry, the 50-year-old pipe was corroded in places, which sometimes caused rust-colored water to run in the 15 residences along Salem Road.

Part of HU's 20-year Long Range Master Plan calls for a 12-inch loop around the low level district, which covers the southern portion of HU's service area. Because the 2-inch iron pipe was along that loop, HU engineers decided to replace it with a 12-inch main. The \$75,000 upgrade also added fire protection to the area.

Terry says there is about 3,000 feet of old galvanized iron pipe remaining in the water system. Since it is not along the low level loop, the remaining pipe will be replaced with 8-inch water main.

Hartselle PD Reaching Out Online



The Hartselle Police Department is now using Facebook and Twitter to keep local residents informed. "HPD will post crime reports on Facebook in an effort to solve more crime and raise community awareness," says HPD Chief Investigator Justin Barley. "We are also considering adding a Daily Crime Report."

Lt. Barley says the department intends to use Facebook to pass on information to the public regarding criminal activity; publicize events, such as the recent fundraiser for Special Olympics; and encourage residents to interact with the Police Department. Recent Facebook posts by HPD include burglary reports, upcoming road closings and information on a recovered pressure washer, owner unknown.

Twitter is a more immediate form of communication, and Lt. Barley hopes to use that for emergency situations, where quick, accurate information directly from the police could help save lives or lessen confusion in an emergency. One example Barley gives is a missing child situation: "If 2,000 Twitter followers immediately receive notice that we have a missing child, that's 2,000 extra sets of eyes helping us look," he explains.

"We depend on the public for information, and we want to work with them," says Lt. Barley. "We encourage residents with Facebook and Twitter accounts to add the Hartselle Police Department."

To add HPD to Facebook, from your Facebook page search for "Hartselle Police Department." The Twitter address is @HartsellePD. To receive Twitter updates via SMS text messaging, text "follow HartsellePD" to 40404.

Glen Partlow New Engineering Services Manager



Partlow

Glen Partlow is HU's new Engineering Services Manager. He replaces Wayne Roberson, who retired at the end of May.

Partlow is responsible for all engineering associated with HU, from design to project management to plan review. He's excited about his future.

"Hartselle Utilities has a good group of people," Partlow says. "This is a very advanced, well-run utility, and you can tell there's been a lot of hard work and care put into the system. My plan is to keep it running as it has been, and to continue to keep positive progress on the wastewater treatment plant."

Partlow and his wife live in Huntsville with their nine-month-old daughter. He said they both love north Alabama and the outdoor activities in the area.

Hartselle City Services Directory

Below are contact telephone numbers for various Hartselle city services – keep this list handy should you ever need to contact someone at the City of Hartselle.

Call Hartselle Utilities at **773-3340** for:

Electric Service
Natural Gas
Wastewater / Sewer
Water

Call Public Works/Street Dept. at **773-2643** for:

Garbage and Trash Collection
Recycling
Road Debris
Pot Hole Patching
Street Sign Repair

Call Parks & Recreation at **773-2581**

Call City Hall at **773-2535**

Call the Morgan County Animal Shelter at **773-2934**

Hartselle Police Department's non-emergency number is **773-6534 ext 0**

Hartselle Fire Department's non-emergency number is **751-4945**



Hartselle Utilities

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