

# BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB NEWS



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

At the Boys & Girls Club of Montevallo, December wrapped up a great year for our members. The early closing of MES meant we had full days of fun leading up to Christmas vacation, including a visit from Mrs. Santa and many other local friends. Whether we were singing for the Senior Citizens, or being their Secret Santas, doing arts and crafts, playing reindeer games, making it snow inside our building, we have a blast! On the 17th some community friends came in at 6:15 a.m. to help get the Club ready after a busy weekend of rentals here at the Park & Rec building. With their help we are all set up and ready for the fun to start when the first child arrived at 7 (even though he was too sleepy to notice)!



Pictured L-R Joe Landers, Loren McAnally, Joe Williams, Lanny McMinn, John Allen Baggett, Xan Shivers, Bob Doyle, Lois Doyle, Herb Milstead, and John Stewart

As we look toward 2013, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Almost half of our members will be taking music lessons thanks to the UM Community Music School. Members have been able to choose to take piano, guitar or violin lessons and are really excited about this fantastic opportunity. If anyone has any of these instruments sitting unused at home, please consider donating them so kids will be able to practice at home!

Our Torch Club (middle school) members will be conducting a food drive beginning in January. Using our own 'Great Start' slogan as the theme, they will be collecting non-perishable breakfast foods throughout the month of January. Barrels will be available at Lucky's and Piggly Wiggly and you can always bring your donations by the Club.

We are also excited about our new Keystone Club for high school students. This group will be providing community service in a variety of ways, developing their leadership skills and beginning to plan for graduation and beyond.

For more information about any of these items or about membership in our club for kids aged 6-12, please call 665-4466.



## CITY WORKERS' BREAKFAST BREAK

On December 6, 2012 Centrala Garden Club hosted its annual Breakfast Break for City employees. These workers are the people who keep our town running smoothly and this is the club's way of thanking them for their hard work. Mimi Lawley, Joan Pickett, Betty McElroy, Bonnie Campbell, Anne Thomas, Lea Ann Webb, Lisa Thomas and Jan McKinnon provided ham biscuits, donuts and soft drinks to the employees who stopped by City hall.

The club has had this as one of its service projects for many years and is an example of how the proceeds from its main fundraiser, Tablescapes, are used. (Pictured L-R: Bonnie Campbell, Jan McKinnon, and Betty McElroy.)



## STUDENTS WRITE ABOUT JOSEPH PRINCE

The first issue of the "Prentice Village Voice," a newsletter written by 6th grade GRC students about ongoing revitalization efforts in the neighborhood surrounding Montevallo Middle School, was printed in November as a project of the UM Office of Service Learning. While Issue 1 covers a range of subjects, including the Shoal Creek Prentice Village Task Force, the Community Development Block Grant recently awarded to the community, and interviews with Mr. Thomas "Topcat" Lilly and new Montevallo Mayor Dr. Hollie Cost, the following article explains the neighborhood's namesake.

Download the newsletter and find more information online at [www.prenticevillagevoice.wordpress.com](http://www.prenticevillagevoice.wordpress.com).

### "Just Exactly Who Was Rev. Joseph Prentice?"

By Clay, Austyn, Juan, and Thaddeus

"While he was highly respected, Rev. Prentice was never really connected to the school that bore his name." – Retired MMS Principal Johnny McClain.

When we set out to find out about the man for whom Prentice Village and the old Prentice High School were named, we were caught up in rumors, ghost stories, and confusion. However, with a little research and the help of local citizens, we have found what we think is close to the true story.

Rev. Joseph Sidney Prentice was born on Nov. 12, 1857 and died on March 15, 1944. The reason Prentice Village and Prentice High School were named after him was because he was a business man, had a good reputation, was a minister, and was a leader in his community.

Before Prentice High, there was only one Negro high school in Shelby County. At first, Prentice High School was called Montevallo Negro High School. Rev. Joseph Prentice was a good man and was respected in the community of Montevallo, so community leaders decided to name the school after him.

According to former Prentice High teacher and Montevallo Middle School Principal Johnny McClain, Rev. Prentice was never really connected to the school. He was neither a teacher nor a principal. There is a myth that Mr. Prentice's ghost haunts the girl's locker room. We discovered that he died before the school ever opened, so that story is highly unlikely.

Regardless of the myths, there is no question that Rev. Joseph Prentice was an outstanding man and many in this area thought highly enough of him that his name is still recognized in this community.

