

April 2013

# The Hartselle



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

## Hartselle Leaders Presents Area Priorities in Washington

Community representatives from Hartselle and Morgan County traveled to Washington DC in February for their annual trip to present members of Congress with a federal legislative agenda outlining federal funding needs and priorities for the area.

The group included Mayor Don Hall, Hartselle Utilities General Manager Bob Sittason, HU Board Chairman Mike Gunter, Hartselle Chamber of Commerce President Susan Hines, Department of Development Director Jeff Johnson, Kathy White Goodwin and Lisa Pittman representing Decatur Morgan Hospital, and members of the City Council, County Commission, and the Morgan County Economic Development Association. They met with Rep. Mo Brooks, Rep. Robert Aderholt, Sen. Jeff Sessions, and Sen. Richard Shelby.

Several of the items presented have been a priority for several years, Mayor Hall reported. These included the ongoing project to extend and widen Highway 36 from Vaughn Bridge Road to I-65. The City of Hartselle and the Alabama Department of Transportation are also continuing work to create an industrial access corridor along Thompson Road.

Members of Congress "continue to support our transportation projects," said Mayor Hall, "and encouraged us to continue to work with ALDOT for funding."

Other projects carried over from previous legislative agendas include:

- Development at the Morgan Center Business Park;
- A study to reclassify historic downtown Hartselle outside of the current FEMA flood zone;
- Federal grants to purchase a firefighting pumper truck;
- Funding to expand the area's Emergency Warning System from three emergency sirens to nine;
- Improvements at the Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport.

New on the agenda this year was a request to revise the Medicare Wage Index. The wage index is intended to adjust for geographic differences in wages across the country. However, Alabama is currently at the bottom of the range of wage indexes, and the reimbursements our hospitals receive is often two and a half times less than what hospitals in other states receive for the same services.

Community leaders explained that the current Medicare Wage Index places Alabama hospitals at a disadvantage. This was shown when owners of Hartselle Medical Center listed disproportionate Medicare reimbursements as one of the main reasons for closing *continued on back*

## New Policy Requires Account Transfer from Deceased Account Holder

If a Hartselle Utilities account holder – the person whose name is on the bill – passes away, the account must be transferred to another person within sixty days following the account holder's death, according to a new policy approved by the Hartselle Utilities Board in January.

"Hartselle Utilities cannot legally hold a deceased person responsible for an account," explained Customer Service Manager Terri Harris. "Should an account that is in the name of a deceased person go unpaid, we have no way to collect, and the costs of that unpaid debt have to be paid by our other customers."

Harris explained the Board felt that sixty days is a reasonable length of time for service to either be terminated or the account transferred.

Completing a short form is all that is necessary to transfer the service, Harris said. "The person assuming the account is required to execute a form attesting that the account holder is deceased and certifying that the signee is now the legitimate responsible party," she said. Customer Service can mail the form or the individual can complete the form in our office.

Once Hartselle Utilities becomes aware that an account holder is deceased, if the account is not closed or transferred within 60 days the account will be closed and services will be discontinued until a responsible party comes in to transfer the service.

"Our Board did recognize that prior to this policy being adopted,

there were accounts where the account holder has been deceased for some time," Harris assured. "In these cases, where we are aware of the situation, we will mail a certified letter to the address explaining the new policy before service is interrupted. But we do encourage all customers to comply with this policy as soon as they can."

If you have questions or need to request a form to transfer service, please call Terri Harris at (256) 773-3340 or email [tharris@hartselleutilities.org](mailto:tharris@hartselleutilities.org).

## New Look for Statements

Starting this month, statements from Hartselle Utilities will have a new look: they will be in color and will feature more information about your account. If you have any questions about reading your new statement, please call Customer Service manager Terri Harris at 773-3340.

| ACCOUNT NUMBER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 111-111-11               | Hartselle Utilities                 | P.O. Box 438        |            |        |          |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|--------|----------|---------|------------|--------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|------|--|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|------|
| CUSTOMER NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | HARTSELLE UTIL. CUSTOMER | 1018 South Main Street NW           | Hartselle, AL 35640 |            |        |          |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |
| SERVICE ADDRESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1018 S. MAIN STREET      | Phone: 256-773-3340                 | Fax: 256-773-3340   |            |        |          |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |
| METER READING DATE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | JAN 20 2013              | Website: www.hartselleutilities.org |                     |            |        |          |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |
| <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SERVICE</th> <th>UNIT</th> <th>PREVIOUS</th> <th>CURRENT</th> <th>MULTIPLIER</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>USED</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tr> <td>WATER (ONE USE PER GAL) (L)</td> <td>100</td> <td>100</td> <td>100</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>100</td> <td>6.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TAX</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>0.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>6.17</td> </tr> </table> |                          |                                     |                     | SERVICE    | UNIT   | PREVIOUS | CURRENT | MULTIPLIER | AMOUNT | AMOUNT |  |  |  |  |  | USED |  | WATER (ONE USE PER GAL) (L) | 100 | 100 | 100 | 1.00 | 100 | 6.00 | TAX |  |  |  |  |  | 0.17 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 6.17 |
| SERVICE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | UNIT                     | PREVIOUS                            | CURRENT             | MULTIPLIER | AMOUNT | AMOUNT   |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                          |                                     |                     |            | USED   |          |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |
| WATER (ONE USE PER GAL) (L)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 100                      | 100                                 | 100                 | 1.00       | 100    | 6.00     |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |
| TAX                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                          |                                     |                     |            |        | 0.17     |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                          |                                     |                     |            |        | 6.17     |         |            |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |                             |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |

| | CHARGE | UNIT | PREVIOUS | CURRENT | AMOUNT | AMOUNT | |--------|------|----------|---------|--------|--------| |        |      |          |         |        |        | | SEWER  | 100  | 100      | 100     | 1.00   | 1.00   | | TAX    |      |          |         |        | 0.17   | |        |      |          |         |        | 1.17   | | | | |
| | CHARGE | UNIT | PREVIOUS | CURRENT | AMOUNT | AMOUNT | |--------|------|----------|---------|--------|--------| |        |      |          |         |        |        | | SEWER  | 100  | 100      | 100     | 1.00   | 1.00   | | TAX    |      |          |         |        | 0.17   | |        |      |          |         |        | 1.17   | | | | |

**COMPARE YOUR USAGE**

| MONTH     | WATER | SEWER | SEWER |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| JAN 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| FEB 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| MAR 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| APR 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| MAY 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| JUN 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| JUL 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| AUG 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| SEPT 2013 | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| OCT 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| NOV 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| DEC 2013  | 100   | 100   | 100   |
| JAN 2014  | 100   | 100   | 100   |

**Customer Account No. 111-111-11**  
**Amount Due \$7.34**  
**Due Date FEB 15 2013**  
**Late Charges \$0.00**  
**Amount Paid \$0.00**  
**Amount Due After Credits \$7.34**

# HU Recognizes Employees for Years of Service

Four HU employees were recently recognized for having over 25 years of service, and five have over 15 years of service. In recognizing these employees, General Manager Bob Sittason said, "We recognize their dedication and longevity of service to our community, and we appreciate the job they do for this company."



**Employees with over 25 years of service:**  
Robert Wright, Tony Vest,  
David Locke and Steve Terry.



**Employees with 20-25 years service:** Chris Burgess and Jonathan Hampton. **Employees with 15-20 years of service:** Bryan Hall, Marcey Howell and Talton Johns.

## Employees with 10-15 years of service:



Mike Cadle, Cleeton Springer, Josh Owens, Luke Smith, Rex Higgins, Lynn Wood, Kris Owens, Sidney Mills, and Glenn Byrum.

Sherry Chenault, Beverly Peterson, David Taylor, Tammy White, Scott Scales, Katie Pope, Greg Sandlin, Laura Watson, and Terri Harris.

## Employees with 5-10 years of service:



Mark Campbell, Chad Henry, Brian Kelsoe, Stephen Johnson, Bo Cowart, James Still, Jason Summerford, and Steve Stinson.

Jerry Bridges, Matthew Reeves, Charlotte Roberson, Johnny Robinson, Peggy Hill, Kyle Laney, Carol Kirby, and Bob Sittason.

## Employees with up to 5 years service:

Jeremy Dorrance, Chris Long, Cody Clemons, Alton Armistead, Blake McNutt, Michael Halbrooks, Ben Atchison, Slade Sparkman, Tim Mitchell, Ryan Halbrooks, Glen Partlow, and Greg Knighten.



## Washington ... cont. from front

the facility in January 2012. Area leaders believe that adjusting the Medicare Wage Index will help bring another medical facility to Hartselle.

"When we explained that there isn't a medical facility within 30 minutes of Hartselle, Senator Sessions' demeanor changed," Mayor Hall said. "He realizes that the system is just not right, and he pledged to do everything he can to fix it."

Mayor Hall explained that while federal funding may not be available this year for all the projects the group presented, it is important to keep our area's priorities in front of the congressmen.

"Senators Shelby and Sessions have written letters of support for our requested funding for additional firefighting equipment, and when the time is right, they pledged their support to help discussions with FEMA about the flood zone changes," he said.

## Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Saturday, April 27

Do you have expired or unused prescription drugs in your home? On Saturday, April 27 bring your unwanted prescription drugs to the Pizza Hut on Hwy. 31 SW, and they will be safely disposed of, no questions asked.

The Annual Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is a nationwide effort coordinated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide citizens a legal and safe way to dispose of prescription drugs.

Prescription drug abuse in the U.S. is alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained – often stolen – from family and friends.

At one time, flushing unused medicines down the toilet or throwing them in the trash were considered acceptable ways of disposal. But medicines in the wastewater stream and in landfills can end up in public water supplies, posing potential safety and health hazards.

Local sponsors of the Prescription Drug Take-Back Day include Hartselle Utilities, Decatur Utilities, Hartselle Police Department, Morgan County Sheriff's Department, Decatur Police Department, Decatur/Morgan Landfill, Morgan County Substance Abuse Network, Nucor Steel Decatur, Tennessee Riverkeeper and Quest Recovery Center.

For more information, call (256) 351-4816.



The Hartselle Connection is published quarterly by Hartselle Utilities.

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