



THE CANTON NEWS

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Canton News
P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

On Location November 5, 2015 • Volume 1, Number 1 • Canton, Mississippi

Canton High names Homecoming Queen



Special to *The Canton News*

CHS homecoming queen Aireanna Taylor is escorted by Jontavious Jackson.

Canton Academy names Homecoming Queen



Special to *The Canton News*

CA homecoming queen Kate Carter is escorted by her dad, Jay Carter.

Dear New Reader,

No it is not just a rumor...*The Canton News* has arrived. Our staff and advertisers are excited for *The Canton News* to make its debut as Canton's hometown paper. Over the course of many years, the city of Canton has experienced the void of not having its own written voice, and today, *The Canton News* will correct this by providing the citizens of Canton with a voice and a way to display the great opportunities that our city has to offer. Beginning November 2015, you can look forward to having your very own free copy of *The Canton News* delivered directly to your mailbox the first part of every month.

The Canton News will not only help the citizens, but businesses, as well. Through this publication, businesses and organizations will have an avenue in which they can advertise their services and products. If you have news about your organization, church group, community or school, we would love to see it. If you have information about products or services or a business that you believe needs to be broadcast to the community, we would love to help make that possible. Residents and businesses alike are already showing genuine excitement at the prospect of having a Canton-based advertising venue, and we are eager to help in this endeavor.

Through talking and visiting with other Cantonians, I have discovered that the community needs a place to exhibit its accomplishments. *The Canton News* is excited about partnering with the community in showcasing the achievements of the businesses and citizens of Canton. Readers, please support the advertisers and people you see in this and future issues, and let them know that you are thankful for their contributions to Canton and this newspaper. Without their commitment to our cause, our staff would not have been able to even produce this paper; and, without your support of their businesses, we will not succeed.

Even though our newspaper is starting small, *The Canton News* is excited to be a part of the Canton community and to be the voice of such a progressive city. With the continued support of our advertisers and readers, we will only continue to grow and evolve each and every issue. We are dependent upon our readers to help us continue this effort and welcome any opinions and input. After all, this is your community and your community newspaper; but, most importantly, this is YOUR opportunity to use YOUR voice to help our community shine.

Thank you and happy reading!

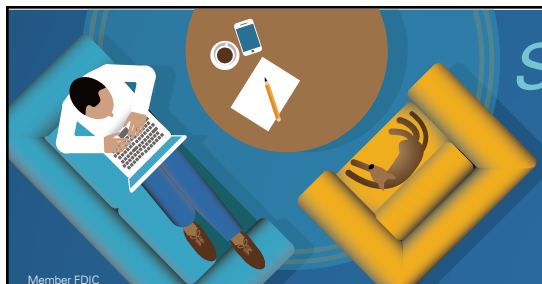
Clay Mansell, Publisher

Susie A. Wolfe, Managing Editor

Inside this issue

A Victorian Christmas.....2
CVB Director Retires4
Nissan Holds Family Day6
Noble-Watts Jewelry Closes7

Third Monday Group Prays for Canton11
Canton Flea Market Celebrates 50 Years12
McNeal Elementary Opening in 2016.....14
Courtroom Named in Honor of Flonzie Brown Wright.....15



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Holidays herald Canton's City of Lights Victorian Christmas

Special to *The Canton News*

By Katherine R. Dougan

The city of Canton, Mississippi, promotes itself as the “City of Lights,” and proves 200,000 times worthy of the title when the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau brings a “Victorian Christmas” to life each year on the city’s downtown streets.

Director of the Visitors Bureau Jana Padgett handles special events for the city of Canton, including the Victorian Christmas, which Padgett started preparing for all the way back in July of this year.

The event begins the day after Thanksgiving and continues until December 23. Visitors can stroll the courthouse grounds, where more than 200,000 lights are on display, or pause and listen while Mrs. Claus reads a book at her story house.

“This year, we have partnered with Storybook Adventures, and they will perform choreography and a dance,” Padgett said. “Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night is a light and character parade, with characters singing and dancing at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.”

The movie museum in Canton was magically transformed into a cookie factory operated by animated characters in July. In September, Santa’s Workshop was constructed, and, in early October, two 14-foot Christmas trees were set up and decorated.

Those who want to enjoy the magic of stepping under the mistletoe will have a special place to celebrate that tradition, as a Mistletoe Booth is a new attraction this year.

The lighted displays at the court-

house and the lighted parade with dancing characters is free. However, those willing to spend just a few dollars will be in for a very special treat by visiting the two animation museums. One animation scene is the history of Canton, including artifacts from the early 1900s. What began as twenty-two antique window decorations became a holiday event highlighting Canton’s rich history. The museums, which include thirteen full-sized animated figures from fairy tales, history and favorite children’s stories, contain displays that are artfully crafted and a delight to behold.

An entirely new scene is set up for the second animation museum every year. Padgett describes the second museum as “whimsical and child-friendly for all generations.” The cost of admission per person to each museum is \$4.

Canton’s square is on the National Register of Historic Places, and the annual Victorian Festival received an honorable mention from the Arts & Entertainment’s network contest, “Best Small Town Christmas Spirit.”

In addition to the brilliant light displays and animation museums, the city features a merchant’s open house, a carousel on the square, trolley rides, and the Old Jail and Railroad museums.

For more information about Canton’s Victorian Christmas, visit the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau at <http://www.cantontourism.com/>.

Schedule of Events



Christmas Animation Museums Canton Welcome Center

Historic Trolly Hotel on the west side of the Square

Weekends:

Nov. 27 – Dec. 23

Friday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 1 p.m. – 9 p.m.



Weekdays:

Monday - Thursday

Nov. 30 – Dec. 3 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Dec. 7 – Dec. 23 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Admission (includes all animation museums): \$4.00

School groups contact the Welcome Center for special rates.

Tickets may be purchased at the Canton Welcome Center.

Adults and children alike delight in seeing over 150 life-size moving figures that showcase Canton’s past and present.

Children’s Carousel & Vintage Car Rides

Groups by appointment at other times. Families are invited to view more than 250 million sparkling lights and enjoy an old-fashioned carousel. (\$2.00 per ride)

Weekends:

Nov. 27 – Dec. 23

Friday 3 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 1-9 p.m.



Week days:

Nov. 27 – Dec. 23

Monday - Thursday 3-9 p.m.

Historic Trolley Rides

Weekends:

Nov. 27 – Dec. 23

Friday 3-9 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 1-9 p.m.



Weekdays:

Nov. 27 – Dec. 23

Monday - Thursday 3-9 p.m.

Pictures with Santa

Weekends:

Nov. 27 – Dec. 23

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday 5-9 pm



Week days:

Monday - Thursday

Dec. 7-23, 5-9 pm

Horse & Buggy Rides

Weekends:

Nov. 27-Dec. 23

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday 5-9 p.m.



Weekdays:

Monday - Thursday

Dec. 7-23; 5-9 p.m.

Merchants Open House Weekend

First weekend only: Friday, Nov. 27-Sunday, Nov. 29

Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

Shop the Gift and Antique Square of Mississippi.

9th Annual “Sip ‘N Cider”!

Friday, December 11, 4-8 p.m.

Participating merchants offer their version of Christmas Hot Cider, and attendees vote for their favorite.

For more information, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce/
Main Street office at 601-859-5816.

The Railroad Comes to Canton

Located in the renovated depot, 108 Depot Drive.

Includes historical exhibits, including a talking “O Scale” model of the Illinois Central passenger trains that serviced the main line of Mid-America, Chicago to New Orleans from the 1900s to the 1970s.

For more information, contact the Canton Train Museum at 601-859-4733 or Canton Redevelopment Authority at 601-859-3815.



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From the Mayor's desk

By Guest Columnist Arnel Bolden, Mayor of Canton

For this inaugural edition of The Mayor's Desk, I wanted to first give thanks to an awesome and almighty God for his continual blessings upon our great City. I also want to thank the citizens of our community for their prayers and support of our administration during the last two and a half years. I am totally confident that the "Bright Future," which is part of our city's mantra, will come to fruition as we reshape our schools, resurface our streets and sidewalks, and recruit new economic development projects.



Special to The Canton News

Our vision is already in the works as bulldozers are busy tearing down old schools to begin anew, providing a pathway for our young and bright

minds to have the tools necessary to compete in a global society. Neighborhood by neighborhood and block by block, crews have been busy removing blighted homes, fixing dangerous potholes, and keeping our streets clean of limbs and debris. There is no "I" in team, and I must give credit to the many dedicated employees who serve our citizens everyday. We are also engaged in a total collaborative effort, and our partnerships with Canton Public Schools, the Chamber of Commerce, and the offices of Tourism, Redevelopment, Housing and CMU will help make Canton the bold new city we can be even more proud of.

However, we cannot transform our city alone. We need your help. We need your voice to be heard. I encourage you to attend meetings of your City government. Volunteer to serve on one of the many boards which help promote our growth and development. Visit with me or any member of your Board of Aldermen personally to express your thoughts or concerns. The time is now for us to stand together as "One Canton." May God bless you and yours.

CANTON PARKS AND RECREATION Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

November 7
RUN FOR THE PINK BARREL RACING

November 19
SENIOR HARVEST BALL
Sponsored by Mayor, Board of Aldermen

SENIOR CITIZEN THANKSGIVING WORKSHOP
Sponsored by Parks and Recreation and the Madison County Senior Services Agency
Youth and Men's Basketball Registration TBA

DECEMBER

December 3
CHRISTMAS PARADE
6 pm on the Square

BRIGHT LIGHTS
December 4-6
MS HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION
Multi-Purpose
Lori McRee - 601.927.4503

December 13 - 2:00 pm
SENIOR CHRISTMAS GALA
Sponsored by Mayor, Board of Aldermen

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Long-time Canton CVB executive director Jo Ann Gordon retiring

By Susan Gray

Jo Ann Gordon, founding and sole executive director of the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) for its entire 26-year history, has announced her retirement, effective November 5, 2015, to the Board of Commissioners that governs the Bureau.

Gordon, in a letter to the Commissioners, noted she worked with five administrations of City government and was grateful for the support of each. She commended the volunteer Commissioners for helping create an economic engine for tourism and the film industry in Canton.

Gordon says she has learned a lot in her years at the helm of the CVB.

"The shared advice, wisdom and support throughout my career have made me a stronger leader and a better person," Gordon said. "It was an honor to serve as the bureau's first executive director."

"The Canton CVB's success story is directly attributed to the leadership, business acumen and dedication of the Board of Commissioners," Gordon said. "The Board of Commissioners is responsible for the positive image and reputation that our town enjoys today."



Photo by The Canton News

Commissioners' Chairman Jan Collins praised Gordon's accomplishments in establishing and operating the CVB to be a catalyst for improvements.

"For more than a quarter century, Jo Ann has demonstrated what determination, tenacity and creativity can accomplish in turning a little Mississippi town into a destination for tourists from near and far," Collins said. "She has seized every opportunity to enrich Canton's culture and enhance its attractions."

"How do I give one quote on JoAnn Gordon?" said Anne Mansell, who works with Gordon at the CVB. "It is difficult to condense forty years of a relationship. Not only are we

close friends, but we served together on the Canton Flea Market committee for many years; and now I work for JoAnn at the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau. She is an asset to Canton through her dedication to Canton Tourism. Her insight through the years brought into fruition the Hot Air Balloon Fest, the movie industry, Canton as the City of Lights, plus many more endeavors. I thank you, JoAnn, for your dedication and love to the Canton Community."

Canton was a pioneer in the state's film industry, capitalizing on movies shot locally, including *A Time to Kill* and *My Dog Skip*. In addition to its award-winning Canton Flea Market, the town attracts thousands of visitors each year through its month-long Victorian Christmas Festival, which opens the day after Thanksgiving. An annual hot-air balloon race, gospel festival and numerous other events on the historic Courthouse Square add to Canton's tourism draw.

"Jo Ann has been a force in making our charming, historic town a good place to visit and to live," said eight-year CVB staff member Jana Padgett, who succeeds Gordon as executive director. "Her vision of showcasing Canton nationally and internationally and her hard work inspire us to con-

tinue with the enthusiasm and drive she always demonstrated."

Gordon agrees with the Commissioners' choice for her replacement.

"I am pleased that the Board of Commissioners has named Jana Padgett, current assistant director, as incoming executive director. For the past eight years, Jana has dedicated so much time, effort and commitment to the CVB program of work. I know she will be a huge asset to the tourism and film industry."

Gordon said looks forward to having the flexibility to assist her parents and enjoy her grandchildren.

"My precious grandchildren, the fifth one just born, wish that I could spend the holidays with them," Gordon said. "I have worked every major holiday for most of the past twenty-six years, and I am looking forward to enjoying these special occasions with them and many more in the future."

She said she is excited about the additional time she will have to explore "new opportunities and ideas that are of interest to me."

"My journey of almost three decades has been filled with great joy and satisfaction because of you—my mentors, friends and partners," said Gordon. "You have made my time here fulfilling, fruitful and fun. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

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Nissan holds family day/ unveils new Titan/Altima

Special to The Canton News

Nissan family day was like the state fair, but on a little smaller scale, or maybe not. The Canton manufacturing plant welcomed approximately 6,000, employees and their families.

The latest models of Titan and Altima were unveiled in dramatic fashion. After the cover was taken off, guests were allowed to get inside the two

models that will be made at the Nissan Canton plant. There were other Nissan cars and trucks on hand, as well.

There was something for everyone. The midway included fair rides, a zip line, an obstacle course, carnival games, a super slide and blow ups. There were also information booths for questions on insurance, banking, recycling, etc. plus a building set up with a health fair.



Photo by The Canton News

Steve Marsh, VP of Manufacturing, and Tom Sulter, Director of Human Resources, and other senior management welcomed the families.



Photo by The Canton News

Michael Francis, in the green striped shirt, and his sister Amber, in the blue shirt, enjoyed the thrill of the super slide.



Photo by The Canton News

Amber and Will Young took advantage of the selfie station and carnival games.



Photo by The Canton News

Aaliyah Thompson used her skills to master the obstacle course.

Join us!



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Canton, Mississippi

Sunday Small Groups
9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship
10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Nights
6:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting
Children & Youth Activities
Choir Rehearsal



THE CANTON NEWS

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Noble-Watts jewelry store closing after 68 years

by Susie A. Wolfe

Ott Noble and Joe Watts Sr. opened Noble-Watts jewelry store 68 years ago. According to many, it is a Canton Institution and will be missed by all - especially the Santa in the window at Christmas.

According to Alice Jean Hawkins, Joe Watts' daughter, who has worked alongside her brother, Joe Jr., since they were in junior high, Santa was always a big attraction. The same way that people stop by to say hello every day, Cantonians loved to see Santa wave from Thanksgiving to Christmas each year since 1951.

Joe is pursuing other business opportunities, and Alice Jean said that all of the children have other interests. It is the only life she has ever known, but she will now be able to spend more time with her family and grandbaby, especially during the holidays, when they worked six days a week from 9 am to



Photo by The Canton News

Santa will be missed on the Square as Noble-Watts is closing. Shown is Alice Jean Hawkins and Joe Watts, Jr.

10:30 at night. "We were so blessed to have had the sweetest customers and friends," said Hawkins. The store officially closed October 31."

According to customer Ruby Edwards, "I grew up with the store here. It's sad they are closing. The people are fantastic."

Mrs. Jim Lacy said that she is sick

that they are leaving. "Where will we go to get wedding gifts or watches repaired now?"

JoAnn Gordon, executive director of the Canton CVB for the past 26 years, said Noble-Watts is the epitome of a generational business in small town Mississippi that makes downtowns the heart of the community. "You could sit in the comfort of your home and pick up the phone, have your wedding present delivered, Christmas presents wrapped, and run birthday presents to the car if you needed that done."

Gordon continued. "Canton still has these types of businesses, but, Noble-Watts has been an institution to this community."

John Wallace, formerly with Canton Municipal Utilities, said "their closing leaves a

hole in the business community that it doesn't seem anyone can fill. When a one-of-a-kind business leaves, it makes a difference."

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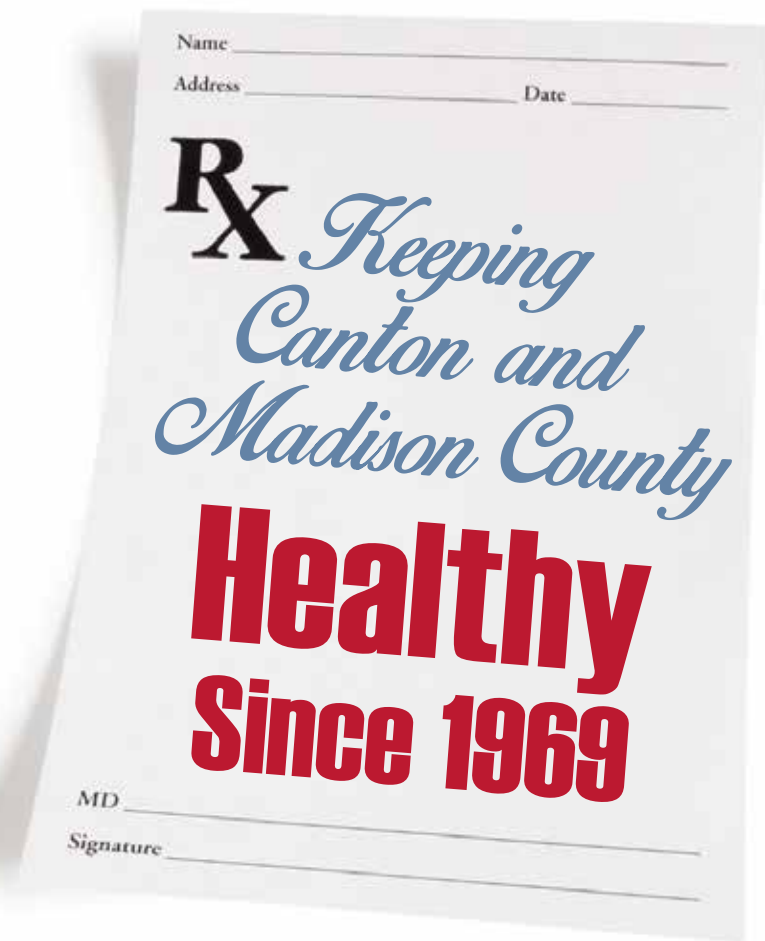


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DECEMBER 2015

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Museum Lighting Ceremony | 5-8 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Polar Express Pajama Party | 5-8 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

MCM's 5th Birthday | 5-8 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Santa Institute | 10 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Evening with Elves | 5-8 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

Go Big, Origami Home | 5-8 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Hotcakes & Snowflakes | 5-8 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

Noon Year's Eve Celebration | 10 AM-2 PM

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\$10 General Admission. Holiday Spectacular! events are free for MCM Members.



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Canton Public Library

Rising Readers Story-time

Preschool (ages 3 – 5)
2 storytimes on Wednesdays:
9:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Story-times for “Rising Readers” incorporate songs, rhymes, movement and storytelling to strengthen early literacy skills as well as an enthusiasm for reading.

No Program on November 11 for Veteran’s Day.

No Program on November 25 in observance of the Holidays.

LEGO Club

Grades 1-5
Mondays - 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Children are invited to discover the master builders within themselves and create incredible structures using provided LEGO kits.

No Program on November 23 in observance of the Holidays.

Chess Club

Grades 6-12
Mondays - 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Learn chess strategies and techniques in this weekly chess club for kids and teens.

No Program on November 23 in observance of the Holidays.



November 2015 Free events!

Digital Storytime Wednesdays

Grades 1-5
Wednesdays- 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.
In November, children can explore the worlds of pirates and dinosaurs with awesome iPad games and fun story-time activities.

No Program on November 11 for Veteran’s Day.

No Program on November 25 in observance of the Holidays.

Teen Tech Thursdays

Grades 6-12
Thursdays - 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.
Each week will feature popular iPad games and new technologies. Check the library’s online calendar for details.

No Program on November 26 in observance of the Holidays.

Welcome Canton News!



The mission of the Madison County Economic Development Authority is to assist our existing businesses and to attract new investments and higher-paying jobs to Madison County in an effort to increase our tax base and improve the quality of life and economic wealth of our citizens.

100 Depot Drive | Canton, MS 39046 | (601) 859-5816 | www.canton-mississippi.com

Executive Director
Toya L. Veals



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We are pleased to welcome you to the Canton Chamber Main Street Association. Along with our dedicated board members, our Chamber represents a network of businesses and individuals working together to grow our community.

The Chamber offers many opportunities for members to connect with one another by attending our Annual Meetings, Business Breakfast, and The Best of Canton. We are creating new promotional ways to help our businesses grow by offering advertising opportunities in our annual publication, The Canton Insider's Guide. Welcome bags will be given to each new resident that moves into Canton and the surrounding areas. Don't miss these new opportunities to get the word out about your business.

The Chamber is also an organization that promotes and supports our businesses and provides united representation with our local government. We strive to bring community leaders together to create solutions for issues affecting our businesses.

We value our business relationships. Change is not produced by one, but through many collaborative efforts working together. I look forward to working with potential and existing members throughout the year to ensure we continue to grow. By supporting the businesses in the chamber, you are reinvesting in your community. Remember, Shop Local, Shop Canton!

Sincerely,
Toya L. Veals
Executive Director

2015 Annual Friendship Golf Tournament



**First Place Winners
Team AMR**



**Second Place Winners
Team WMGO**



**Third Place Winners
Team Harrell**

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Regions Bank

Subway
TempStaff
Trustmark Bank
Warnock & Associates, LLC
WMGO

*End of the
year events*

Ribbon Cuttings

November 5 - 11:00 - Performance Rehab
November 9 - 10:00
Road Opening at Nancy Drive & Woodland Drive
(At the east entrance of Canton Academy)

Ambassador Luncheon

November 20 - 12:00 pm
Chamber Office

Merchants Open House
November 27-28

Third Monday group meets to pray for the City of Canton

by Susie A. Wolfe

The third Monday of each month, the Greater Refuge Temple has a luncheon for a group that prays for the City of Canton and its mayor. It is made up of ministers from black and white churches, plus anyone else who would like to come. No payment is required, but donations are accepted.

Everyone is welcome, according to Neal Rich, a local Canton businessman, who, along with Pastor Walter Veals of the Greater Refuge Temple, began the luncheon about a year and a half ago. A few local ministers and interested Cantonians from all walks of life meet to fellowship with others who are committed to making Canton a better place.

Pastor Veals prepares lunch himself. It is usually a full course meal for about 85 people. His facility serves as a church, daycare and event location, if necessary. At the October 19 luncheon, the hall was decorated in pink and white for breast cancer awareness. There's live Christian music and a message by a local pastor.

"Jesus always had food at his gatherings," said Pastor Veals. "We are following in Jesus' steps to bring the

people of Canton together."

The Greater Refuge Temple also works with the City of Canton to host an annual Madison County bar-b-que during the summer. This bar-b-que has been meeting in Canton Square for about 18 years and has judges and prizes. According to Pastor Veals, the bar-b-que now has about 500 people attend.

It all started for Greater Refuge Temple when Pastor Veals had a vision for Canton to do something for children in 1990, while he was still a pastor in Memphis. He was helping in a city-wide crusade in Jackson, when he felt the call. He commuted for three years

"Jesus always had food at his gatherings," said Pastor Veals. "We are following in Jesus' steps to bring the people of Canton together."

until a benefactor donated 4.5 acres and a building to get started full-scale ministering to children.

He and his wife started helping 20 children with their homework on Saturdays. That ministry grew into an after-school summer camp program and a licensed daycare. Today, the Greater Refuge Temple still has a daycare and after-school program, but they also teach groups to speak Spanish and have a dining area that hosts weddings,

birthdays and reunions.

All efforts are directed to make sure that each child is successful. "It takes a village," said Dr. Veals, "or a town like Canton where all segments are working together to make a difference."

For more information about the Third Monday Luncheon or any Greater Refuge Temple event, call 601-859-1900 or visit www.greaterrefugetemplecanton.com.



Photo by The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are LaChelle Beeman, Bryan Been (keyboard) and Kenon Veals, providing praise through song for the Third Monday Luncheon at Greater Refuge Temple.



Special to The Canton News

(L to r): Pastor Kevin Carter of the Canton United Methodist Church, Pastor Walter Veals of the Greater Refuge Temple and Canton businessman Neal Rich.



Photo by The Canton News

Pastor Veals prepares the meal each month for the luncheon. Pastors from other area churches and volunteers served approximately 80 people for the luncheon in October.



ALLISON'S WELLS **art & antique WALK**

the **3**RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

November 19 {Give Thanks}

{Live Music on the Sidewalks}

The oldest, and the original, Canton Flea Market Arts & Crafts Show is the catalyst in the creation of the Allison's Wells Art & Antique Walk, which will feature antiques, collectibles and arts. Take a stroll through

the Historic Square, experience a unique, creative small town brimming with art, antiques, gifts and collectibles. A unique architectural setting is the perfect backdrop for an evening of fun & inspiration.



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We support a wide range of community initiatives including the Canton Public Schools. Our employees have logged thousands of hours volunteering in the area working with children, building homes and contributing to Canton's future. Nissan is part of the Canton family, and we look forward to being here for years to come.



Canton Flea Market celebrates 50th year

By Katherine R. Dougan

In 1965, Lyndon B. Johnson was the U. S. president, *My Fair Lady* won the Academy Award for Best Picture, and twelve ladies never imagined what they were starting when they hung their paintings on the iron fence surrounding the Canton Courthouse in hopes of selling their wares.

Held the second week of October and May every year, the Canton Flea Market celebrated its 50th anniversary in its usual quiet manner, with more than 1,000 vendors and more than 50,000 visitors coming to this quaint Southern city's nationally-known Canton Flea Market Arts and Crafts Show. The event is still held on the lawn of the historic Madison County Courthouse; but since those twelve ladies started it five decades ago, it has steadily grown to become one of the largest outdoor craft markets in the South. Voted one of the Top Twenty Events in the Southeast, the show attracts more than 1,000 artists and craftsmen from across the country.

"Actually, I cannot even say how many years I've been going [to the Canton Flea Market], maybe eight to ten," Laquita Brooks, an entrepreneur from New Orleans, said. "Now that I've started, I can't stop. I fell in love with it the first year. It's a real treat."

For Brooks, it is a longtime girls' adventure that includes her mother, Rose Wilson, and two aunts, Marie Martin and Clem Blakes. She admitted she and her entourage, who refer to themselves as the "Golden Girls," were crazy enough to go one year in the rain. "We gossip, we eat wonderful food, we laugh, and we have a wonderful time," Brooks said.

One year, Brooks did have a booth to sell her jewelry. However, she said it was a lot more fun for the "Girls" to just hang out and have a good time.

With the success of the first market, Canton's Chamber of Commerce realized the flea market could be a won-



Photo by The Canton News



Photo by The Canton News



Photo by The Canton News

derful attraction and formed a flea market committee, said Canton Visitors Bureau Director Jana Padgett. The flea market just kept growing, the news of the market spreading by word

of mouth, with more and more vendors and shoppers coming every year. At that point, the Canton Visitors Bureau stepped in to handle coordination of the bi-annual event.

Not only does the flea market offer the work of more than 1,000 artisans, craftsmen, and creative works of all nature, but also the town square of Canton has locally-owned businesses throughout the picturesque downtown area.

"We claim to be the arts community," Padgett said, adding that every third Thursday of the month Canton holds the Allison's Wells arts and antiques walk downtown.

In order for everything to run smoothly, the market takes a concerted effort by the whole city, according to Padgett.

"On Wednesdays, the vendors start setting up, and the booths stretch the length of streets around the city's downtown square and down side streets. By Thursday at the end of the market day, booths surrounding the entire downtown area, and many side streets, are all taken down.


Although the official hours of the market are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every year, it isn't unusual to find shoppers lurking around the booths, flashlights in hand, as early as 5 a.m. Just like early birds at a yard sale, some people are just too excited to wait.

The next market will be the second Thursday in May, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in downtown Canton. Those who miss the May market will have to wait until the second Thursday in October, 2016.

To learn more about the bi-annual flea market, visit the market's Facebook page

at <http://www.cantonmsfleamarket.com>, or visit the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau at <http://www.cantontourism.com/>.



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Performance Rehab holds open house at new Canton location

by Susie A. Wolfe

Performance Rehab, a Jackson-area physical and occupational outpatient operation, opened its Canton medical facility July, 2015, and will hold the Canton clinic's open house on Thursday, November 5. The ribbon cutting ceremony is at 11 a.m., and the open house is from 5-7 p.m. with tours, music and refreshments.

Opening its first clinic in Jackson in 2004, others soon followed, Byram in 2006, Ridgeland in 2008, Brandon / Reservoir in 2011 and Richland in 2013. Beyond Therapy, offering children's speech, physical, occupational and behavioral therapy, joined the team in 2012.

Performance Rehab outpatient facilities are a part of Drayer Physical Therapy Institute®, one of the fastest growing operators of outpatient physical therapy clinics in the United

States. They have an expanding network of more than 130 clinics across 15 states.

Specializing in the treatment of joints, back, muscles, tendons, ligaments and movement, Performance Rehab pro-

vides manual therapy, motor vehicle accident injuries and pain management therapy. They also have a social worker on staff who provides the more untraditional service of assisting patients to facilitate their complete healing,

itiation, fall prevention and balance training, work hardening and conditioning, functional capacity evaluations and rehabilitation and children's services. Approximately 150 Jackson-area doctors refer patients to the clinics according to Meagen Mallett, also a regional manager with the company.

Performance Rehab has the only Interactive Metronome (IM) professionals in the Jackson area. Their therapists, with certifications in physical, speech and occupational therapy, offer this assessment and treatment tool for patients with neurological conditions. The clinic also offers the EvalTech™ functional testing system which provides the most peer-reviewed and legally defensible evaluation for employers.

Other key equipment includes an indoor pool featuring an underwater exercise system which combines traditional treadmill training with buoyancy, resistance and heat for a cardiovascular workout with reduced impact and stress on joints.



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vides individualized treatment plans for sports and work injuries, acute and chronic pain, flexibility, strengthening and arthritis, post-surgical rehab and

according to Regional Manager Tanny Crawford, MPT.

Services include aquatic therapy, orthopedic and neurological rehabil-

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New McNeal Elementary to open in December or January

By Susie A. Wolfe

Barring any unforeseen delays, construction of the new McNeal Elementary School is expected to begin in December or January, said Cleo Brooks, executive director of operations and technology for Canton Public Schools. Construction is projected to be complete by next summer.

The \$13 million elementary school is being built on the existing school site, and is being funded by the \$33.5 million bond referendum that was passed March 31. In addition to McNeal Elementary being rebuilt, Canton Elementary is also scheduled to be rebuilt in 2017 for \$13 million. The school district will also use some of the bond funds to purchase portable classrooms to begin a ninth grade academy at Canton High School at an estimated cost of \$5 million. Other funds are designated to provide instructional technology upgrades like smart

boards at all schools, as well as provide every student in grades 9-12 with a laptop. Installation of smart boards and distribution of laptops began in October, according to Ike Haynes, Canton Public School superintendent.

McNeal Elementary will house kindergarten through fifth grade. Until construction is complete, students are being temporarily housed in portable classrooms on the Nichols Middle School campus.

The new elementary school is poised to impact twenty-first century learning by meeting the needs of a new generation of learners. The new environment will be more con-

ducive to learning with improved safety, security and accessibility.

“McNeal Elementary has been a school that has provided the founda-

tion to the next level, in fact, a two-story level.”

The two-story building will be oriented around a secure student courtyard. The facility will include: an interior physical education room with a stage; a cafeteria that can open up to the P.E. area for large events; and spaces for special education, art and music.

The school will also include the integration of historical artifacts preserved from the old school, originally built in 1952. Haynes said that, for 63 years, the school served a variety of needs for the Canton community, primarily education. It was also a meeting place during the civil rights era.

“Although the building is going, the memories and the lives it has impacted will continue the legacy of parents, teachers and students who toiled at the old facility,” said Haynes.



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Canton Public School Superintendent Ike Haynes begins demolition of McNeal Elementary

tion for so many lives as it helped students get to their next level in life,” said Brooks. “Now that will take it



Canton High School NJROTC Cadet promotions

The Canton News
P.O. Box 1163
Canton, MS 39046

Volume 1 | Issue 1
Circulation: 14,000

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The Canton News is published on the first
Thursday of every month in Canton, MS.

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Special to The Canton News

Cadet Petty Officer Third Class Jabari Townsend was recently selected as the Cadet of the Month for September 2015.



Special to The Canton News

Several Canton High School NJROTC Cadets were recently promoted to Cadet Seaman Apprentice: Ric'javius Carter, Jaqwundria Daughtery, Demecia Edmond, Jajlyn Graves, Kai Hoskins, Brandaisha Jasper, Brianna McCoy, Kenna Pierce Jr, Alexia Ross, Angel Wilkes. NJROTC Cadets who were promoted to Cadet Petty Officer Third Class included Christina Degado, Myiesha Hunter, Shyquana Luckett, Tameria Payton, Shondrae Robinson, Jameshia Thomas, Jabari Townsend. Instructors Phillip Branch and Alonza Myers were also recognized for their hard work.

CPS adds technology to classrooms

By Susie A. Wolfe

Thanks to the passage of a \$33.5 million bond referendum, the Canton Public School District is integrating technology into classroom instruction. School Superintendent Ike Haynes said, “\$4.2 million of the bond referendum is being put into technology to create a learner-centered environment and increase student involvement.”

During October, promethean boards



were being installed in classrooms throughout the district. iPads have

been delivered to classrooms for use by students in grades K-8, and Macbooks were given to students in grades 9-12.

“Canton Can Integrate Technology” is an initiative, said Haynes, which gives the students the same opportunity that every other student has across the country. They are familiar with computers, so opening the world of technology to them makes learning more interactive and fun.

Canton Courtroom named in honor of Flonzie Brown Wright

by Susie A. Wolfe

At the October 6 City of Canton board meeting, the four-man, three-woman board of aldermen approved naming the City of Canton court room after Canton native and Civil Rights icon Flonzie Brown Wright. Mrs. Wright, who is president and CEO of FBW & Associates, Inc. attended the board meeting.

Today, Wright is a freelance consultant, lecturer, teacher, speaker, trainer and author. She was the first African American female elected official in Mississippi, pre- or post-Reconstruction. She served as the election commissioner for Madison County from 1968-1974.

The great granddaughter of slaves, Wright has a sign hanging in her living room that says "No Colored Allowed" that serves as a reminder to her that her country should never be allowed to go back in time to when men and women are judged by the color of their skin.

Wright got involved in the Civil Rights Movement in June 1963, after Medgar Evers was assassinated. "It was a wakeup call," she said. She decided to participate "because it was the right thing to do, and it was the right place to be."

Canton was a hotspot in the Civil Rights Movement in 1963 and 1964. At one point, Madison County had 10,000 black people who could vote, but only 100 who had registered, which were black ministers and teachers.

Wright was the Canton Branch Manager of the NAACP from 1964 to

1967, when she was a divorced mother of three. She had not finished high school, but she got her GED and was able to attend Tougaloo College while working, sending her kids to Catholic school and buying a home.

She tried to register to vote in Canton in 1965, only to be given the "black"

life and the lives of her three children. She went to jail, was tear-gassed and shot at. She got harassing phone calls at two o'clock in the morning. "But, you keep going," she said.

Martin Luther King, Jr. spent four days in Canton in June of 1966 as he led the "March Against Fear" from

1974, where she served until retiring in 1989 with special citations, including the Chairman's Service Award. She moved to Ohio, but was still involved with organizing, this time recruiting foster families for a church-based pilot program or creating a program called Project Cure that helped addicted moms and dads.

In 2006 and 2007, she was student affairs Scholar-in-Residence at Miami University in Ohio, where she co-wrote the curriculum "Black Issues in Higher Education." She brought Mississippi civil rights legends to speak, including Charles Evers; James Meredith; Dr. Beverly Hogan, the first black female president of Tougaloo College; Constance Slaughter Harvey, the first black female graduate of the Ole Miss School of Law; and Alice Scott, the first black female mayor of the City of Canton.

Wright is still involved in fighting inequalities today, because she said that there is still injustice in the United States. According to Wright, her children and four grandchildren are also trailblazers. Daughter Cynthia Goodloe Palmer is the executive director of Mississippi Civil Rights Veterans, Inc. at Tougaloo College. Her son, Edward Goodloe, now deceased, had a walking trail named for him after his efforts in opening Lake Hico Park in Jackson to all residents. And son Lloyd has broken racial barriers and stereotypes by becoming a successful IT tech in the healthcare field. He moved back to Mississippi in September.

Wright is still involved in Civil Rights, because she "got involved for the right reason and remains involved for the right reason: to help someone along their journey."



Photo by The Canton News



Special to The Canton News

Canton Civil Rights Activist Flonzie Brown Wright with a jelly bean jar like the one she was asked to name the number enclosed in order to register to vote in 1965. And a 1960's photo of her.

questionnaire, which had special questions like how many bubbles are in a bar of soap; how many feathers are on a chicken; how many jelly beans are in a pound of the candy – it even asked "Are you a communist?" Her question, pulled from a cigar box, was "Define Habeas Corpus." Though she couldn't answer that then, she went back later and was able to register. She vowed to get the job of the man who denied her the right to vote - and she did.

There were times during her work in Canton that Wright feared for her

Hernando to Jackson, Mississippi, taking up where James Meredith left off. There were 30 to 40,000 people marching, but approximately 3,000 stopped in Canton to help rally Canton's Civil Rights' efforts. Dr. King asked Wright to supply housing and food for the group while they were there. She said about 100 people with sleeping bags would sleep in one yard. The whole Canton black community helped, she said.

Wright was appointed as an investigator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in



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Alderwoman Daphne Sims serves Ward Four

By Susie A. Wolfe

Daphne Johnson Sims, a native of Canton, has served as Alderwoman of Ward Four for the past three years. Her ward includes the City swimming pool, Merit Madison Hospital and the Multi-Purpose Complex.

A graduate of Canton High School and Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, Sims says she takes public service seriously, as others in her family have or are currently serving. She is the daughter of Ruby Lee Anderson Johnson and the late Thomas (Oop) Johnson, a retired Jackson Public School principal who also served Canton on many boards through the years. Sims' husband, Johnny Sims, is currently serving as a Madison County constable.

Sims is an Algebra Two teacher at Canton High School. Her children, Johnathan, Jalise and Jordan attend Canton Public Schools, the high school and Goodloe Elementary.



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"My goal as alderwoman is to improve the city and wards. I want all citizens of Canton to obtain a safe, secure, healthy and enjoyable life," said Sims. "In doing that, I will vote on policies and changes that are fair and just to all."



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