

The Hoover Historical Log

The official newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama

Arts and Rec programs enhance the quality of life in communities—increase visitorship!

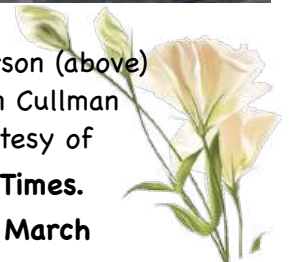
The City of Hoover is pursuing a comprehensive 20-year Parks, Public Spaces and Recreation Plan (often referred to as the “Future Hoover” Initiative) to expand and diversify recreational opportunities. The goal is to focus on enhancing the quality of life, increasing connectivity, and expand non-traditional amenities. —*AI Overview*

Our next speaker has extensive experience in this regard. In 2013, after receiving the nomination to serve as the Director of Cullman's program, he stated, "I...look forward to working with city leaders to continue to enhance Cullman City Parks and Recreation to meet the needs of our community." And, after a brief hiatus in Nashville, he gained the experience in growing the city's annual festivals into "destination events" throughout the region and country.

Nathan Anderson is the Executive Director of Cullman Parks, Recreation, & Sports Tourism (CPRST), where he leads a dynamic agency overseeing 13 parks, 7 recreational facilities, 2 golf courses, an RV resort, a museum, 27+ miles of trails, and a globally recognized water park—welcoming 1.5 million visitors over the past year. CPRST also produces major events including the Cullman Christkindlmarkt, Oktoberfest, and the Alabama Strawberry Festival, which together drew over 550,000 attendees from all over the United States in the last year alone. *Continued on Page 5*



Nathan Anderson (above) at Art Park in Cullman in 2025; courtesy of **The Cullman Times**. Meet him on March 31st at HPL at 1 PM



Coming Events...

ARBOR DAY 2026



Participating Groups:

- Alabama Audubon
- Alabama Hydrangea Society
- Alabama 4-H Clubs
- Aldridge Gardens
- Birmingham Bonsai Society
- Birmingham Dahlia Society
- Cahaba River Coalition
 - Claire Dainow
 - Cool Green Trees
- Freshwater Land Trust
- Hoover Girl Scout Troop #467
- Hoover Green Teams
- Hoover Historical Society
- Hoover Library Bookmobile
- Jefferson County Beekeepers Association
- Jefferson County Greenways Foundation
- Jefferson County Master Gardeners
- Legacy Partners in Environmental Education
 - Myla Southall
 - Shelby County Master Gardeners
- UAB Solar House
- Veterans Association
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Wild Alabama



Joyce Cauthen was the 1st executive director of the Alabama Folklife Association. Her research on early American/Alabama fiddle music led to her toe-tapping talk (with music!): *"Fiddlers, Banjo Players & Strawbeaters: Alabama's First Pop Musicians."* Joyce and her husband are our May 19th presentation at 1 PM at the HPL in this year of America's 250th, and is one of the speakers for the Alabama Humanities Alliance.

WHAT HAPPENS IN SPRING? HHS Open House & Annual Trip!!



You're invited...

Where: The Hale-Joseph Home

When: April 26th, 2026. 2PM-4PM

Who: Public is invited; members of the Hoover Historical Society, and the Hale Family Reunion

Guest Musicians: Jazz Band from Hoover High

VISIT: The Stinson Ole Place, just across the road!

Hosts: The HHS and Carlo & Dianne Joseph



Pam and Deb hosted a table at the 2nd Annual Health & Wellness Fair on Jan. 4th at the Hoover Rec Center; left, member Larry Parks honored by the VFW for his military service.

Choosing sides in the 1950s & 1960s

By Jim Langley

When I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, you had to choose sides. I'm not referring to the classic rivalry between Auburn and Alabama; instead it was all about Ford versus Chevrolet. During that era, many people were still hesitant to buy German or Japanese vehicles due to lingering feelings from World War II.

In my own family, I remember two uncles who would sit around and debate endlessly about which brand was faster, which one lasted longer, and which had the best radio. I admit I'm a bit biased myself since my first two cars were Fords—a 1963 1/2 Galaxie 500 in turquoise with a white top, followed by a 1966 Mustang. I even had a front tag that read "Chevy Eater," though I doubt my car could have really handled a powerful Chevrolet.

On the radio you would hear a low-pitched southern voice saying, "In the long run it's Long-Lewis Ford, ya hear".

Did you know that Hoover is home to one of the oldest Ford dealerships in the United States?

The name Long-Lewis™ dates to 1889, when it first appeared on a hardware store in Bessemer, Alabama. In 1915, Henry Ford began granting Ford franchises, and one of the first was awarded to the Long-Lewis™ Hardware Company.

The owner, William J. Long, had shown interest in automobiles as early as 1911, when he bought his first Model T from a man who had won it in a raffle. Even

after his Ford was destroyed by a train, Mr. Long remained convinced that automobiles were the future. Back then, Fords were shipped to Long-Lewis™ in boxcars, unloaded in Birmingham, and had their wheels attached at the railhead before being driven to the hardware store in Bessemer.

In 1921, a two-story addition was built onto the hardware store to house the new "Ford Division" of the company. By 1929 Long-Lewis™ had opened a second hardware store in downtown Birmingham.

In 1965, the Ford Division relocated from the original hardware store in downtown Bessemer to a separate site on the Bessemer Super Highway. The Bessemer location eventually closed in 1982. Vaughn Burrell, the long-time General Manager, purchased the business from William Long in 1986, becoming the sole owner of Long-Lewis™. Finally in 1999, Long-Lewis™ Ford Lincoln moved from Bessemer to a new facility in Hoover, Alabama, where it continues its legacy as one of the nation's oldest Ford dealerships.



This 1963 Ford Galaxie 500 recently sold for \$22,900

HHS Annual Spring Trip: A Day in Alabama's Oldest Town!

On **April 10**, the Hoover Historical Society will set out on a special journey into Alabama's earliest past. Our group will depart from the **Hoover Public Safety Center at 8:30 AM**, traveling north to the remarkable town of **Mooreville, Alabama**—a place where history is not just preserved but still lived in.

Founded in **1818**, one year before Alabama became a state, Mooreville holds the distinction of being the **oldest incorporated town in Alabama**. With fewer than 60 residents and streets lined with white picket fences, historic homes, and centuries-old churches, Mooreville feels like a step back in time. The entire town is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and its charm has made it a filming location for several period productions.

Visitors often remark that Mooreville is less a destination and more an experience—quiet, walkable, and beautifully preserved. Our tour will highlight its iconic structures, including the 1840s Stagecoach Tavern and the 1818 Post Office (shown below), one of the oldest still in operation in the United States. Following our morning in Mooreville, we'll break for **lunch at a local eatery at your own expense**.

Afternoon at Constitution Hall Park, Huntsville

In the afternoon, we'll travel to **Constitution Hall Park** in Huntsville, an immersive living-history museum that recreates the world of early 19th-century Alabama. The site commemorates the drafting of Alabama's first constitution in 1819. Visitors can explore period workshops, historic buildings, and demonstrations that bring the era to life. It's a vivid look at the political and daily realities of the people who shaped the state's earliest government.

Trip Details

- **Date:** April 10
- **Departure:** 8:30 AM from Hoover Public Safety Center
- **Cost: \$30 per person (Includes Transportation, walking tour fee and admissions)**
- **Lunch:** At your own expense
- **Activity Level:** Moderate — **some walking is required**

This promises to be a memorable day filled with history, fellowship, and the rare opportunity to explore two of Alabama's most significant early sites. We hope you'll join us for this enriching spring excursion.



Reserve your seat now, trip will probably fill early.

Email Jim Langley JL091649@Yahoo.com or text 205-999-1318. Reservation is finalized upon receipt of fee of \$30. Mail check to Jimmy Langley 1120 Danberry Lane, Hoover, Alabama 35242 or Venmo @ Jimmy-Langley-2 or Paypal Jimmy Langley JL091649@YAHOO.Com



Nathan Anderson

Continued from Page 1

Under Anderson's leadership, CPRST became the first agency in Alabama to achieve national accreditation and has earned prestigious honors such as the AAPRA National Gold Medal and two international awards for innovation at Wildwater Park. He holds a business degree and two international awards for innovation at Wildwater Park. He holds a business degree from Wallace State Community College and Athens State University and is a proud husband to Anna Anderson and father to two boys, Graham and Rhett. You are invited to our presentation with Nathan Anderson at the Hoover Public Library at 1 PM on March 31st in the downstairs meeting room—always free and open to the public!



RC-3 Limber Update

Hoover's Riverchase Career Connection Center (RC-3) is restoring a cannon carriage for American Village for its celebration of America's 250th anniversary this summer. Shown above are Andrew Harney and Isaiah Barthold, two of the students enrolled at RC-3. They and other students spend several hours each week with instructor William Vanderwilt to meet their April deadline.

Although "limber up" now means to warm up when preparing for exercise, it was originally a military term. When artillery pieces were drawn by two-wheeled vehicles called "limbers," to "limber up" meant to attach a gun to its limber in preparation to move. During the Civil War-era, the limber was equipped with an ammunition box and is often misidentified as a "caisson." A CW caisson, also a two-wheel artillery vehicle, was fitted with two ammunition boxes and a spare wheel, and was drawn by a limber of its own. Each gun was supported by a caisson.

— US Army Center of Military History



HOOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Form

Make checks payable to *Hoover Historical Society*
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Or pay online via Pay Pal at our website:
www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org

Types of Membership

Individual	\$20
Couple	\$30
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NAME: _____

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INTERESTS: Archives/Historical Research ____ Folklore Center Volunteer ____ Other ____

SKILLS: Computer ____ Fundraising ____ Publicity ____ Leadership ____

SPEAKERS/PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: _____

The Hoover Historical Society
P.O. Box 360233
Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233

Recipient

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