



# THE BULLETIN

FLORENCE EXCHANGE CLUB  
THE OLDEST SERVING SERVICE CLUB IN THE SHOALS BEGINNING JUNE 1921

**2015-2016  
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“Norm brings today a gentlemen that every FEC members knows. Mayor Mickey Haddock has a tremendous resume of leadership experiences including Chairmanship or Presidency of Safeplace, Kiwanis Club, American Heart Association, United Way, NCAA Committees, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Florence Country Club to name a few.

Mayor Haddock celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday August 17 and has been married to Mrs. Linda for 46 years. The two have 2 sons and several grandchildren. Mayor is a graduate of Central High School, Northwest Shoals Community College and Faulkner University. He attends Crosspoint Church of Christ, where he serves as a deacon. Mayor spent many of his Fridays and Saturdays as an official SEC Referee for football, baseball, basketball, softball and volleyball collegiate games.

Mayor began his career of service many years ago. As a member of the National Guard (for 34 years) he served alongside our very own Frank Eastland – once riding in the helicopter with the brave pilot, who decided to test the abilities of his helicopter on a weekend maneuver to Courtland. A trip that Mayor laughing vowed to “Never make again.” Mayor has also served the community as a Florence Firefighter, the Lauderdale County License Commissioner... all leading up to his election as the Florence’s Mayor.



Mayor Haddock reports that in his position as the City’s leader, every day he has challenges, but that most days are fun. It’s easy to see that as the acting head of the City’s government, including utilities, transportation issues, law enforcement, ect. that the Mayor’s office is the “Last stop” for many community members who have questions and concerns. Mayor takes many calls from the community to address individual concerns, and he relies heavily on his Department Heads to ensure that these concerns are informed.

“My desire, is to be a part of the job creation in Florence. If we can get the jobs here, then so much of our community will thrive,” noted Haddock. Mayor has taken many trips during his term to advance the potential for companies to locate and grow their business in Florence. He’s traveled with a team to Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois, Arkansas, even Korea and Japan, in his attempts to build positive relationships with parent companies who have a presence in the Shoals, or who may be looking for the perfect place to expand their business.

**UPCOMING  
PROGRAMS**

**Sandra Sockwell  
August 28**

**Parrish Riedel  
Sept 1**

**Bill Sutherland  
Sept 8**

**Board Meeting  
Sept 14**

A second focus of the Mayor's office is the continued efforts to raise education efforts in the community. Mayor works closely with UNA's President Kitts to increase and maintain the enrollment at the prestigious University, because the Mayor knows that each student enrolled at UNA is making an investment in Florence. Since 1818, when the first plans were drawn for the City of Florence, a commitment to education is apparent: the original survey for the town included a dedicated space for a teaching facility. Today, education in our community consistently ranks in the list of Top 10s in Alabama.



Mayor notes that the Wood Avenue repaving project started with a scope of proactive restructuring of 100 year old water and sewer lines (to avoid the likely re-paving of the road) and re-paving that quickly turned into a Alabama Historical Society (AHS) Committee agenda item. According to Haddock, the AHS determined that any work on property beyond the curb of Wood Avenue would impact property protected by the Society – resulting in a project that could lead to years of wait-time and thousands (if not millions) of dollars in cost. In an effort to move forward with the much-needed paving of Wood Avenue, Mayor and his Council voted to move forward with a 're-paving only' project that he expects to be underway by the beginning of 2016.

Haddock has worked closely with Regional Health Care representatives to move forward with the development of a new hospital facility. Recently a Certificate of Need was issued to begin construction of the new hospital and Mayor hopes that the City is about 3 years away from seeing Regional

Health Care's new facility being open to the public. As for the old ECM Hospital that will be vacated when the RHC's new build is complete..... Well, there are lots of questions still to be answered. Could the old

facility be renovated for a Veteran's Hospital? A nursing home/ assisted living facility? A rehabilitation facility? A UNA facility? Perhaps. Will it need to be demolished? Maybe. And that could cost anywhere from \$2-\$4 million. There's still time to ask and answer many questions as the new facility breaks ground and is constructed. Rest assured, your Mayor is working on it.

### *Birthday Wishes*



*Howard Tinsley  
Aug 31*

Mayor Haddock reports that Florence operates on about \$53 million dollars annually and, he adds "Financially,

Florence is in good shape." With 58% of the City's budget generated by ad valorem tax, any decline in retail sales has a tremendous impact on

funding. Despite recent industry closings, the downtown Florence area is filled with shoppers. "It's better to have a problem of no parking in downtown, than to have the problem of no business downtown," commented Haddock. Residents should look forward to improvements to more downtown sidewalks and street corners as the City's leadership knows how important a beautiful downtown area is not only to

residents, but to the businesses who enter 'the gates' when discussing locating business in the area.

Regularly, Mayor Haddock is working to improve the quality of life for citizens in Florence. His work consists of grant-seeking for roads improvement; infrastructure; and overall well-being of residents. Mayor believes in a balanced budget for Florence residents and consistently works with his Departments to save dollars everywhere possible. The 'open-door' policy of Mayor Haddock is extended to everyone in the Florence community. If you have a question, all you have to do is ask!

### *Member Club Anniversary Dates*

#### **SEPTEMBER**

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Carl Madewell    | 47 years |
| Harold Parker    | 38 years |
| Joe Patterson    | 16 years |
| Teresa Robertson | 17 years |

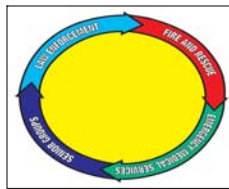
### In the News:

John Dupuis is found to be officiating a funeral for a friend; Bert Bretherick is spotted in the Courier Journal letting us know that he can help with mortgage needs; Doug Evans made the paper, noting that he is most definitely not a Judge; and our very own Dr. Wells and his beautiful bride made the papers for his recent 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Teresa reports that her nephew is out of ICU and making good strides in his recovery from a recent auto accident. She notes that the next step is likely rehab for Austin, and the family continues to appreciate prayers for his speedy healing.

Also, FEC extends deepest sympathies to Dr. Joe Flippen in the recent passing of his brother.

Mike Doyle noted that the gentlemen who was missing as a result of the recent boating accident near Wheeler Dam has been found by emergency search teams. FEC members will keep the individuals and the family members of those involved in the tragic accident in our thoughts and prayers.

Teresa reminded of the upcoming "Inspiration from Anytown, USA" book release event on September 6, 2015 from 2-4 at the FLPL. Hope all FEC members will join the Mayor at the event as one of the featured leaders of our own little 'anytown.'



## The National Exchange Club and Veterans Matter Declare a State of Urgency to End Veteran Homelessness Nationwide

There are over 49,933 homeless veterans on the streets of our nation. Many of them qualify for voucher-assisted living provided by HUD-VASH, but they lack the initial rental deposits necessary to secure their housing. That's where we come in: Veterans Matter raises money and works directly with HUD and the VA to ensure funds go straight to the landlords for the vets in need. This what gives us the 100% success rate. We seamlessly integrate local communities, foundations, corporations, veterans groups and your donation with the VA and HUD to move local chronically homeless veterans off the streets and into permanent, supported housing. Once housed, services are lined up to help veterans and their families recapture their lives and return to domestic autonomy.



Hosting an event on Veterans Day at 7 p.m. will make a national statement and will garner national and local press for your club and Exchange Clubs nationwide. This is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate how clubs work collaboratively to make America a better place to live. That is **EXCHANGE STRONG!**

For more info log on [www.veteransmatter.org/nec](http://www.veteransmatter.org/nec).

**STATE FAIR DRINK SALES SCHEDULE SEPT 22 to 27 2015**

**(Please PRINT name)**

**TUESDAY SEPT 22 5 PM TO 10 PM**

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**WEDNESDAY SEPT 23 5 PM TO 10 PM**

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**THURSDAY SEPT 24 5 PM TO 10 PM**

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**FRIDAY SEPT 25 5 PM TO 10 PM**

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**SATURDAY SEPT 26 12 NOON TO 6 PM**

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**6 PM TO CLOSE**

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**SUNDAY SEPT 27 12 NOON TO 6 PM**

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