



# Creating a BETTER West Alabama

## Quarterly Update

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April 2022

### What's BETTER in West Alabama?



### New Fayette Junior City Council

The City of Fayette has recognized that the future of the city is linked to its future leaders. The new Fayette Junior City Council is on its way to serving the city after presenting and receiving approval of their by-laws at the regular council's March 8th meeting.

The idea for the council germinated in part from Mayor Rod Northam's participation in the BETTER Leadership training program and led to the city deciding that encouraging the participation of youth in the community through service on a junior council would bring long-term benefits and increased civic engagement to the city.

The Fayette Junior City Council developed their own selection criteria and guidelines. It will have up to 15 members and meet at least twice a month. “The City of Fayette is excited to welcome the members of the Fayette Junior City Council and add a youth perspective to matters being addressed by the Fayette City Council. We will do all that we can to support the mission of the Fayette Junior City Council which is to improve youth engagement and outreach in the community.” said Mayor Northam, expressing his encouragement of the new council. “It is our hope that by working together, we will make the City of Fayette appealing for residents and visitors for many years to come.”

Photo: shown from left front: Alexis Wilson (Treasurer), Aeilya Walker (Mayor Pro-Tem), Shanti Enis (Mayor) and Azya Wilson (Secretary). Middle row: Semira King, Emily Haung, Abby Turner and Leeanna Burkhalter. Back row: Oscar Haung, Kealand Savage, Canon Nalls and Benjamin Olive.

## BETTER Events



JOIN THE LEAGUE IN  
**TUSCALOOSA**

2022 CONVENTION  
BRYANT CONFERENCE CENTER

**MAY 11 - 14, 2022**

ALM  
ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES  
1935

The Alabama League of Municipalities will host its Annual Convention and Expo May 11- 14 at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa. This multi-day convention is the largest event hosted by the League and is carefully planned to maximize the time and attention of attendees. League leadership is also elected each year at the Annual Business Session held during the Convention.

Visit [the League's website](#) for registration and additional details.

# Who is Making West Alabama a BETTER Place?



## Project Horseshoe Farm

Project Horseshoe Farm is a community-based nonprofit that works with and builds on the strengths of local communities, improves the health and quality of life of vulnerable neighbors, and prepares citizen service leaders for tomorrow's communities. Horseshoe Farm launched with its first site in Greensboro but has expanded to Marion and Uniontown, Alabama.

Since 2009, Horseshoe Farm has worked with more than 150 top recent college graduates from around the country who participate in a year-long residential volunteer service and educational fellowship to prepare them to become citizen community health leaders.

Horseshoe Farm Fellows work to help strengthen local communities by providing valuable relationship-based support to hundreds of individuals in local elementary schools, community center programs and senior centers, nursing homes and enhanced independent living housing programs, community health clinics and other organizations throughout the community.

Relationships act as the glue that holds Horseshoe Farm together. "If a pharmaceutical company developed a prescription that delivered all of the benefits of supportive, caring, and consistent relationships, it would be one of the biggest blockbuster drugs ever," said Horseshoe Farm's founder and executive director, Dr. John Dorsey.

A prime example of these caring relationships is Horseshoe Farm's "Health Partners" program. Each Horseshoe Farm Fellow volunteers with 6-10 health partners, who could be seniors, adults living with a mental illness, or other

vulnerable or isolated adults. Fellows provide home visits, take their partners for walks and encourage healthier behaviors, give rides and accompany their partners to their doctor's visits, and provide personal support and care.

Dr. Dorsey reports that the health partners have found the program to make a positive impact on their lives. They value that the fellows listen to them and care about them, and that these qualities will make them good doctors.

Dr. Dorsey believes this focus on relationships is foundational to helping others, strengthening communities, and preparing the next generation of future leaders for lives of service grounded in human relationships. Dr. Dorsey and everyone at Horseshoe Farm is grateful for the opportunity to work with the wonderful people and organizations in our region of Alabama.

Go to [www.projecthsf.org](http://www.projecthsf.org) to learn more.



# Tools to BETTER Your Community



## CALLING ALL ENTREPRENEURS

### Business Resources from Alabama Extension

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/business-community-urban/the-business-model-canvas/>

Do you have a business idea, but don't know how to get started?

The Business Model Canvas (BMC) can help you organize your thoughts and get a clear picture of where to begin. The BMC template can be used as a continuous, living document that changes and adjusts as your business idea grows. You can access a blank **Business Model Canvas** from Alabama Extension to complete at your leisure.

Alabama Extension offers the Business Model Canvas for Beginners class that can help individuals work through the different sections and ask questions about their business. We also offer a complete business building block series that teaches these concepts in greater detail and allows you to further explore the viability of your business idea.

In addition, one-on-one coaching and resources are available from the community resource development team.

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