

Summer Activities for Bibb County

So who says there's nothing to do in Bibb County in the summer? The boundless water-based recreational opportunities offered by the Cahaba River, Bibb County Lake and Cahawba Historical Park, along with a scattering of pools and creeks, offer plenty of chances to bond with nature, have a good time and cool off. It is for these and many other good reasons that Bibb County is billed as a "great place to live, work and play."

But what if the nature-based opportunities get old after a while and you long for something different? Well, you may be pleased to know that in June of 2008, 2009, 2010 and hopefully even further beyond, there are new summer activities being offered in Bibb County for the young and old alike. Let's take a look...

First, our county Extension Advisory Leadership Council (EALC) identified a burning need for summer youth activities and programs. Therefore, we are hosting our first Youth Leadership Day Camps at scenic Cahawba Historical Park--Monday, June 23 for ages 8-12 and Tuesday, June 24 for ages 13-17. Each program lasts from 9am-4pm.

For ages 8-12, programs will be offered on teambuilding, communications and public speaking, abstinence, exercise, physical fitness, the Cahaba River and youth gardening projects. For ages 13-17, programs will cover teambuilding, careers, job interviewing, money management, etiquette/manners, and auto and ATV safety.

The registration fee of \$10 per person covers lunch, snacks and program materials for each participant, and the registration deadline has been extended to Tuesday, June 17. Plenty of space is available. To register or receive more information about the Youth Leadership Day Camps, call the Bibb County Extension office at 205-926-3117.

Second, I am really excited about the new Downtown Walking Tours being offered in Centreville and West Blocton each Saturday in June, starting at 10am in each city on June 7, 14, 21 and 28. West Blocton's tours will begin at the Cahaba Lily Center and Centreville's will begin at the Bibb County Courthouse. Each walking tour will last about an hour, with optional activities afterwards. The cost of joining these tours is free, and information and perspectives gained from the locals guiding the tours will be priceless. My only problem with this lineup is that I cannot be in both towns at the same time!

Featured storytellers in Centreville will include Hal Cottingham, Betty White, Cecil Crews and Jim Oakley. Walking tour guides will include Judy Herron, David Daniel, Vicky Clemmons, Linda Renn-Pierce and Jennifer Butler-Ford. Locations in Centreville will include the Courthouse, Old Bibb County Jail, Old Bank, Kennedy House, Presbyterian Church, Baptist Church and other structures that comprise Centreville's National Register Historic District. Power Point presentations will accompany each tour.

West Blocton's walking tours will feature the Rev. Robert Praytor, Fred and Ann Lynch, Greg Blake, Charles Allen, Dr. Jack Bergstresser and others. Featured locations are West Blocton's Commercial Historic District, Shiny Rock Cemetery, Blocton Italian Catholic Cemetery, Mt. Carmel Church and Cemetery, and Blocton Coke Ovens. Transportation will be provided from the Lily Center for the forays outside of downtown.

Brent and Woodstock are not doing the tours this year, but they are strongly considering doing them in 2009. In fact, Mayor Stripling says Brent will definitely offer them in 2009. For a more detailed schedule and information, visit our calendar at www.aces.edu/bibb or see this issue and upcoming issues of the *Press*. Hope to see you downtown!

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