

# Homeless to Receive City Support, p. 8

FREE

## The Bible's 'G.O.T.E.' p. 6

Friday  
December 10, 2021  
Vol. 8, No. 14  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Marion Barley Hall

*"I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better."* – Maya Angelou

## Huntsville Formally Introduces Redistricting

The City of Huntsville made progress on its 2021 redistricting effort when four plans were formally introduced at the Huntsville City Council's regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 2.

The plans were previously presented and discussed during five public hearings held in October and November at City Hall. Three plans were submitted by members of the public, and one was developed by the City of Huntsville Administration, using input from City departments, Council and the public.

The Council will adopt a final plan at its next meeting on Dec. 16.

"I want to thank the members of the Redistricting Team who have worked tirelessly with the public, Council and Administration to get us to this point," Mayor Tommy Battle said. "I'm confident the Council will choose the plan that best represents all of Huntsville."

Redistricting is necessary every 10 years after a census count and ensures compliance with the constitutional right of one person, one vote. It also

prevents uneven districts in which, for example, one Council member represents 30,000 constituents, while another represents 10,000.

The process has been significant this year as census data revealed Huntsville's population had increased by 20% over the past decade, making it the most populous city in Alabama.

To learn more, visit the City of Huntsville's redistricting page and click the "Plans and Presentations" button.

- Huntsvilleal.gov



## AAMU to Hold Its Fall Commencement December 10

Alabama A&M University officials have announced a December 10 commencement ceremony to celebrate the institution's approximately 502 summer and fall 2021 graduates. The ceremony will begin promptly at 1 p.m. in the Louis Crews Stadium.

Face coverings will be required for all graduates, who will be physically distanced in chairs on the field.

Graduates should wear flat or athletic shoes for walking on the artificial turf. Families and guests are required to wear face coverings.

However, graduates will be allowed to remove their face coverings as they cross

the stage for photographs. Additionally, graduates will receive name cards and tickets for their guests at rehearsal, December 9, 10 a.m. at the Student Wellness Center.

Additional logistical information about the event can be found on the University's website at Commencement at <https://www.aamu.edu/academics/commencement/>

## Northern Bypass Project Approved

Huntsville City Council unanimously approved a multi-million dollar ring road project!

The new "Northern Bypass" is meant to 'bypass' all of the pesky traffic building up within the city. It's part of a bigger plan called the "Restore Our Roads" project with the Alabama Department of Transportation.

They are helping pay for

these new road improvements.

An exciting new development coming to Huntsville, after the city formally accepted funds from the Alabama Department of Transportation to get the ball rolling on the Northern Bypass project.

This new ring road will connect Pulaski Pike to Highway 431, bypassing all of the traffic and conges-

tion in the city.

"Potentially, I can see a day when someone who lives in Hampton Cove can drive to Research Park without having to fight the traffic congestion in the medical district, and basically bypass it and come around," said council member Bill Kling, as reported by WAAY-TV 31 on December 2.

The Valley Weekly

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# Washington in One Minute



Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are in session this week. The Senate is expected to finish consideration of the \$777.9 billion FY2022 Defense Authorization bill. The House has scheduled consideration of the Defense Authorization bill, a bill to extend the debt limit, and a bill to extend expiring healthcare programs. The House will also take up the Protecting Our Democracy Act, which would place limitations on certain Executive Branch powers, including offering or bestowing pardons in situations that raise suspicion of corruption; refusing to respond to oversight subpoenas; spending or secretly freezing funds contrary to congressional appropriations; firing inspectors general or retaliating against whistle-blowers; and taking emoluments or payments while in office, including from commercial transactions. The New York Times reported that the House Leadership worked

with the Biden Administration to refine the legislation that was introduced (but not acted upon) during the last Congress. Last week, the House and Senate approved an extension of a stopgap continuing resolution that will keep the federal government operating through Feb. 18, 2022.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On last Sunday, President Biden ordered flags be flown at half-staff through sunset Thursday in honor of former Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-KS), who passed away on Sunday at age 98. On Tuesday, President Biden will meet via video conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has sent 100,000 troops to the Ukrainian border. On Wednesday, the President will travel to Kansas City, MO to continue his tour of states to promote the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (he's also visited NH, MI, and MN as part of the White House's effort to celebrate the bill, which has support of 63% of Americans surveyed in ABC News/Wash-

ington Postpoll in November).

3. **CHURCH/STATE SEPARATION CASE.** On Wednesday, the Supreme Court heard arguments in a case pertaining to the Constitution's mandate for the separation of Church and state. The case, *Carson v. Makin*, involves a challenge to the Maine Department of Education's use of state tuition dollars to supplement "nonsectarian" schools. The plaintiffs would like to see the funds extended to private Christian schools. The lower courts rejected their claims.

4. **BIG TECH ACCOUNTABILITY BILLS.** On Thursday at 10:30 am EST, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee held a legislative hearing entitled, "Holding Big Tech Accountable: Legislation to Build a Safer Internet." The subcommittee considered 7 bills intended to enhance transparency, promote online safety, and hold Big Tech accountable.

5. **COVID TRAVEL RULES.** On Monday, a new rule went into effect requiring all international air passengers 2 years and older, regardless of vaccination status, to show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the U.S. Previously, only unvaccinated travelers had to take a test no more than 1 day

before travel. Travelers who can show proof that they have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days are exempt. The federal mask mandate, which requires travelers to mask up on airplanes, trains, buses and in airports and train stations, was extended through March 18, 2022.

6. **RENTAL ASSISTANCE.** The U.S. Treasury Department will reallocate unspent rental aid from cities and states that have struggled to distribute the funds to those that have spent the money more quickly. Several rural states could see their funds reallocated and sent to places like New York in

Texas. Members of Congress are watching this closely with more than 50 Democrats signing a letter in November warning Treasury to consider need and equity in the allocation process. Congress has authorized \$46.5 billion in rental assistance since last December to help keep tenants housed during the pandemic.

Ron Hamm

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## This Sunday's Lctionary

(Track 2)



Sunday, December 12, 2021

Zephaniah 3:14-20


Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Isaiah 12:2-6

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Memorial service for MRS. MARIE B. GANBUZZUE (b. 1950) was held Sunday, December 5, at 12:00 p.m. at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. CHARLIE KIRBY (b. 1951) was held Saturday, December 4, at St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church (1393 Swancott Road - Madison, AL).

Graveside service for MRS. ETHEL M. HENDERSON (b. 1935) was held Saturday, December 4, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating and Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs eulogist.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MS. CARROL LOUISE PAGE (b. 1945) was held Saturday, December 4, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Kenneth Lankford officiating.

Graveside service for MR. LEROY STINNETT "Bud Polly" (b. 1932) was held Friday, December 3, at Thatch-Mann Cemetery (1801 West Hobbs Street Athens, Ala.) with Pastor Kenneth Owens officiating.

Public viewing for MRS. VERKITI RHENISE BARNES GRAYS (b. 1984) was held Friday, December 3, at the Royal Funeral Home).

Funeral service for MRS. HELEN RUTH LOCKHART STEWART KELLEY (b. 1932) was held Tuesday, November 30, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle (6378 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for MR. JERRY LOUIS ALLEN (b. 1951) was held Tuesday, December 7, at Serenity Funeral Home (2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.).

December 10

Miracle at MidCity  
MidCity  
Huntsville, Ala. - 12 noon

Fall Commencement  
Alabama A&M University  
Louis Crews Stadium  
1 p.m.

Holiday Magic  
Burritt on the Mountain  
5 p.m.

Friday Flurries  
Bridge Street Town Center  
6 p.m.

Skating at the Park DJ  
Night  
300 Church Street  
7 p.m.

The Nutcracker  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall  
Von Braun Center  
7:30 p.m.

December 8

We Ain't Done Wild'N Yet  
Tour  
Jay "Big JJ" Lewis and  
Mope Williams  
Stand Up Live  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7 p.m.

December 11

Retirement Banquet  
AAMU President Andrew  
Hugine, Jr.  
Featuring Comedian  
Rickey Smiley  
T.M. Elmore Building  
7 p.m.

December 13-23

Nights of Santa  
EarlyWorks Children's  
Museum  
5 p.m.

December 16

"Fresh Wreaths: What to  
Grow and How to Make  
Them" (In-person Class)  
Huntsville Botanical

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Garden  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church of  
Huntsville  
600 Governors Drive SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m. (and Other  
Times)

December 16-19

The Living Christmas Tree

THE VALLEY WEEKLY


CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

Having a Giving Spirit

Luke 6:38 says, *Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

When we read this scripture and understand its meaning, we can't help but realize that God loves



a cheerful giver. So, my question is this, does God see you as a giver and a sower of seeds, or does He see you as a taker? I believe that when God sees you as a giver, He will always supply the seed. In other words, 'If He can get it through you, He will get it to you!'

Now, I understand that sometimes we may think, *How can I give when I don't have it to give?* Well, this would be true, if there were no God. However, there is a God that says in His word that He will supply all of our needs according to His riches (Philippians 4:19).

Therefore, the way to financial freedom is not by hoarding, and it's not by just taking all the time, but it's by giving.

Now, I know that this strategy for financial free-



dom may not make sense to many people but just remember, with God all things are possible and He loves a cheerful giver.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book *A Champion Game Plan For Life* at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or through Preston Brown Ministries.



Ahhh, it's Christmastime!!!

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit my sisters and brother in Monroeville and Mobile. My oldest brother celebrated his 82nd birthday in November. He and his wife stay in the "home house" where we created beautiful memories as children in Monroeville. One of the local building contractors, W. C. Taylor, who my mother worked for, built the house for us, and it was a source of pride for our family to move into our brick house.

There weren't many brick houses in our community, so we were privileged due to our relationship with Mr. Taylor, even though my folks worked from sun-up to sun-down to make ends meet. I'm pretty sure we had the first or one of the earliest brick houses in the Fountain community, which had less than two dozen families.

There is much talk today about the definition of privilege. In addition to our race, many of us can be privileged one way or the other. We just haven't defined it that way. Some of you know that our daughter was a formidable track and field athlete during her middle and high school years.

In addition, she ran for Mississippi State for four years and was an All American Academic in the SEC, earning an SEC medal in the Sprint Medley Relay. She was a distance runner and many weeks she ran 30-40 miles a week. She was forever needing new running shoes. Our sons had to realize that she earned the privilege of getting those shoes every 8 weeks or so because of her

## From the Editor



*A moment with my 82-year-old brother, Pilot Williams, Jr.*

work ethic. Therefore, in addition to our race, family culture, socio-economic status, gender, ability and disability, we can experience what might look like privilege by others.

As an educator-turned-entrepreneur, I am very concerned about poor people. According to 2019 data from Alabama Possible, almost a million Alabamians, including 262,220 children live below the federal poverty threshold. Our rate is 16.9 percent, which is over 3 points higher than the national rate of 13.4 percent. Former Director of Alabama Possible, Atty. Kristina Scott, indicated that "living in poverty is like running in place."

Many families living in poverty are working hard just to meet their day-to-day needs. We need public policies that provide low-income families wages and benefits that ensure greater socio-economic security.

As for those of us who are Christians, we know that the poor will always

be with us (Mark 14:7). However, this disparity can result from actions out of their control (like public policies), discrimination, disability, and it may be a result of our own actions. I have lived in four states over the last 6 decades. I know people from all over the world and, for the most part, people don't go to bed and wake up the next day with the notion that they want to be poor!

As we enjoy this season of spiritual reflection and foundations of our faith, let's check our own actions and make sure that our beliefs and actions are equally yoked.

Because our beliefs impact our actions, belief alone is not enough for us. Our actions must connect us to our belief system; the system that requires us to take actions that are reflective of what and WHO we say we believe.

Until next time ...

*Dorothy*

## OU Faculty Among Governor's Appointees

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey recently announced the latest round of appointments to various state boards and commissions.

Among the five appointees to the State Council on the Arts is Dr. Ramona L. Hyman, Oakwood University Professor of English.

Some of the goals of the State Council on the Arts are to: 1) Support



excellence and professionalism in the arts; 2) Provide opportunities for all Alabamians to experience the arts; and 3)

Promote diverse cultural artistic expressions.

Another Oakwood faculty member, Shaunda Allen-Sherrod, DSW, LICSW, PIP, has been appointed to serve on the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners Board for a three-year term.

The ASBSWE exists to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of Alabama against unauthorized, unqualified, and improper practice of social work through a proper regulatory authority.



*"It is not that I'm so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer."*

– Albert Einstein

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### NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

This is to give you a BIG SHOUT OUT for continuing an outstanding local Newspaper with photos large enough to tell who it is focused on. Thanks for all that you do for our community and the Tennessee Valley. Please give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Brother Saintjones, as well.

*Warm Regards,  
Sister (Katie) Byrd*

**ACCOLADES**  
from Our Readers





## The NBA's Steph Curry: The Bible's GOTE

Currently, he's the NBA's #1 co-scoring leader with former teammate Kevin Durant, and touted as its greatest shooter ever; named as its Player of the Week and Month 18 and 12 times, respectively; and is leading his Golden State Warriors to this season's best record.

He was one of 10 current players named to the NBA's all-time top 75 players, . . .

. . . And while he may not be the NBA's GOAT (Greatest of All Time), <https://bit.ly/3Eem7e8>, by Biblical standards Steph Curry's arguably the GOTE (Greatest of This Era) - and here's why:

### THE CURRY CHRONICLES

In 2015, Curry led his team to their first NBA championship in 40 years, and was named the league's Most Valuable Player (MVP). The top man on the top team.

In 2016, he led his Warriors to the most regular-season victories in NBA history; was #1 in scoring (30.1), free throw percentage (.908); and steals (2.1); became the NBA's first-ever unanimous MVP; and his coach Steve Kerr was named Coach of the Year, . . .

. . . But they lost that 2016 NBA championship series. Thus, the number one player, his number one team, and their number one coach all reluctantly became number two.

So what then did Curry do? He went to Jesus' playbook, the Bible.

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO STEPH . . .

When Jesus said in Luke 14:11, "He that exalteth himself shall be humbled, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted," Curry executed that scoring play perfectly.

This one-time scoring champ and two-time MVP helped his team recruit a four-time scoring champ and four-time winner of varied NBA MVPs, Kevin Durant. When Curry willingly chose to serve in an unprecedented second-place role, the Warriors then won the 2017 and 2018 championships!

Curry's motivation was answered on his sneakers, displaying "4:13"; it references Phillipians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Curry said that the verse is his mantra and how he gets up for games. And for Curry, it's still working.

Therefore, be like Curry and use Christ as your example, too.

- tim allston



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*"You are not entitled to your  
opinion. You are entitled  
to your informed opinion.  
No one is entitled  
to be ignorant."*

— Harlan Ellison

*"Before you diagnose  
yourself with depression  
or low self-esteem, first  
make sure that you are  
not, in fact, just  
surrounded by a--h---s."*

— Sigmund Freud



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## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19

Assistance Fund

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Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

[disastercustomerservice@](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

[sba.gov](http://sba.gov)

(800) 659-2955

### COVID-19- RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department  
of Labor

(866) 234-5382

[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

### MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (256) 539-3711

### LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of  
Public Health

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

### TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

[https://hsvchamber.org/  
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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# 2 CALLLED PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## For God Is My Witness

Romans 1:9; Hebrews 4:12-13

I have learned a few things about the courtroom from watching some of my favorite television shows.

One is the matter of calling witnesses to the stand. Both prosecutors and defense attorneys sometimes seek out what they call “character witnesses” or “expert witnesses” to strengthen their cases.

When a witness is ‘sworn in’ they are ‘under



oath’ and must tell the truth. Imagine calling God to the witness stand. There would be no need to ever wonder if He is telling the truth because He is not a man and He cannot and will not lie.

Therefore, calling on Him as a character witness to vouch for what one says is a bold step and for one to do so, that in itself shows an enormous amount of integrity.

After all, God not only knows whether what someone says is true, the writer of Hebrews says that He knows “why” they said it.

That is why the Apostle Paul had no problem calling on God as his character witness when it came to his



intercession for the saints at Rome.

He wrote to them that they were in his prayers constantly.

It is easy to hide one’s true feelings when words are ‘written’ (which is why texts are not reliable), so Paul called on God as his

witness and we know that God backed him up because verse nine is proof.

It ended up in God’s word; the word of “Truth.”



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*There is no great genius  
without some touch of madness.*

– Aristotle

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**DECEMBER 10 - RAVEN-SYMONÉ** - Raven-Symoné Christina Pearman is an American actress, singer, songwriter, model, television personality, dancer, rapper and producer. She began her career as a child actress, appearing as Olivia Kendall on *The Cosby Show* (1989–1992) and later *That's So Raven* (2003–2007). - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com







Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Marion Barley Hall

Marion Barley Hall was born in Madison County, Ala., on December 10, 1936, to the late Daniel and Orell Draper Barley. She attended Councill Training High School and graduated in 1954. Upon completion of high school, she enrolled at Alabama A&M University, where she was an active member of the Marching Band. Hall also received a business school-business education certificate from Manpower in 1963. She was later employed by Marshall Space Flight Center, where she was a Documentation Analyst for over 18 years.

A lifelong member of Center Grove United Methodist Church, Hall served in various ministry areas, including Chancel Choir member, president of United Methodist Women, chairperson and cochairperson of the Harvest Committee, chairperson of King's Care and of Stewardship, member of the Finance Committee, and chairperson of Burns-Northside, to name a few. In 1978, she established the first Mother-Daughter Luncheon at Center Grove United Methodist Church.

She also served in various civic organiza-



tions in her community that include member, Elk Lodge #977 (Daughter of Elk); member, Corner's Homemaker and Community Club; member, ABWA (American Business Women Association); member, Red Hatters (Hill Top-Rough Chapeaux); and member, Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Hall's greatest joy in life was caring for the sick and underprivileged, and her adopted motto was, "Let My Work Speak For Me."

Her work has spoken, and it is still speaking for her through the tireless care she gave to her family and friends. She always made herself available to assist others with their needs.

She and her husband of more than two generations, Richard Hall, had two adult children (a son, the late Daniel "Danny" Carnell Hall, and a daughter, Debra Hall Henderson), two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valley-weeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valley-weeklyllc.com).



## PowerShot

"...You were born to fly"

J. T. Moore



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**"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."**

— Oliver Wendell Holmes



# City Allocates \$500K to Agencies to Support Needy Residents

Several local agencies serving Huntsville's more vulnerable residents will receive nearly \$500,000 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds from the City of Huntsville.

At its regularly scheduled meeting December 2, the Huntsville City Council approved 10 resolutions allowing Community Development to administer financial assistance from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA).

Under the conditions of ADECA's 2021 Emergency Solutions Grant Program, Community Development Manager Scott Erwin said the City could only distribute funds to nonprofit organizations that provide

services to the homeless.

"These emergency grants will provide welcome relief to many of our nonprofit partners just in time for the Christmas season," he said. "We appreciate ADECA's help and hope these funds assist more people in getting the support and services they need."

The following agencies will receive awards from the City with ADECA funds:

Harris Home for Children – \$40,000

Family Services Center, Inc. – \$35,000

First Stop – \$100,000

Crisis Services of North Alabama – \$50,000



nership of Huntsville/Madison and Limestone Counties – \$75,000

North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless – \$25,000

New Futures, Inc. – \$35,000

RiahRose Home for Children – \$15,000

For more information about Community Development's programs, click here.

- [Huntsvilleal.gov](http://Huntsvilleal.gov)

AshaKiran – \$25,000

Catholic Center of Concern – \$80,000

Community Action Part-

## Huntsville City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Regular Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m., Downtown Huntsville.

Watch the meetings live via [HuntsvilleAL.gov/HSVTV](http://HuntsvilleAL.gov/HSVTV) or on the City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

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OPEN: April-October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm  
November-March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm