

## Rural Route 4 My Favorite Month

October has long been my favorite month, and it appears I'm not alone. Results from a recent survey show that October is the most popular month of the year for a variety of reasons. Who can argue with cooler weather, especially after this year's scorching summer? Along the Mississippi Gulf Coast where I live, we set a record for the hottest day ever. The mercury soared to 107 degrees in Gulfport, surpassing a record that had been in place since the 1920s. October allows us to give our air conditioners a break, and goodness knows they have earned it!



**Phillip Burgess**

Hues of orange, brown, red, and yellow transform the landscape into a painting that only God can create. Leaves dance, twirl, and float as they fall. If you're quiet you can hear acorns falling, and the squirrels are busy storing the nuts for winter. Taking a walk in the woods among this beauty is therapeutic, and the sound of leaves crunching beneath your feet is music for the soul.

Big orange pumpkins, resembling large marbles, are ready to be harvested. Fresh pumpkin pies will soon be on the table. The peanut crop has been plowed up and stacked. After drying for a few days, they will be picked off the vines and stored in burlap bags, but not before a pan of them are parched and eaten with glee.

In many communities across the South, Autumn is welcomed with celebrations, often called by different names, Harvest Festivals or

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## Energy

### Saving Trees

At TUA, we are committed to a greener, healthier world. Trees around homes will not only help reduce the amount of energy your home requires, but they also add to your property value, reduce your carbon footprint, improve the air quality, and more effectively catch stormwater runoff. It is our intention that the free trees we provide be a gift to you and to our community.

In conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation's Energy-Saving Trees program, TUA will be giving trees away to the first 100 TUA electric customers who sign up.

Customers may choose one of the following: Gala Apple, Brandywine Red Maple, Northern Red Oak, or Japanese Red Maple.

*Visit*

[www.arborday.org/TUA](http://www.arborday.org/TUA)  
*through November 14*

Trees will be delivered to TUA for distribution in November.



## Watts Happening

### Christmas Parade

The Tullahoma Christmas Parade will travel down Jackson Street on Friday, December 1. If you can't be there, you can watch it **LIVE** on LightTube Channel 6 and on our TUA LightTube Facebook page. Replays will air throughout the month on LightTube Channels 6 and 15.



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### TUA Says Farewell to Longtime Director

In late August, TUA employees and fellow directors honored outgoing director Bob Lindeman. Lindeman served on the TUA Board for 13 years. His strong leadership and motivation will be greatly missed.



TUA thanks Bob Lindeman for his dedication and valued contributions to the City of Tullahoma, TUA employees and the TUA Board of Directors.

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Fall Festivals, but both with similar festivities. In and around Tullahoma, many such celebrations are planned this month. Hot chocolate, home baked goodies, bobbing for apples, a chili cookoff, s'mores and face painting are my favorites.

Smoke curling upward from chimneys means the weather is cool enough for a fire in the fireplace for the first time. The first frost of the season promises that much colder weather is on its way. College football is in full swing, and the easy games played in September are out of the way. Things get serious in October, and old rivals meet again on the gridiron. Teams with names like Volunteers, Tigers, Gators and Wildcats run onto the field to the thunderous applause of fans. In Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and elsewhere, football is almost a religion, and few things are better than sitting in a football stadium on a crisp October afternoon.

And lest I forget, October means Halloween. Ghosts and goblins lurk behind every bush and tree, and if there's a full moon the night seems to be filled with spirits as imaginations run wild. Kids dress up in their favorite costumes, some like movie characters and others like cartoon characters. Trick-or-treats in neighborhoods, and trunk-or-treats at local churches assure kids will get a bag full of candy. The treats have gotten a lot better since my childhood. Back in the day we were thrilled to get a few popcorn balls, an apple or banana and perhaps homemade fudge.

Considering all these things, how can October not be your favorite month! Artist Vincent Van Gogh says it best: "As long as Autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas, and colors enough to paint the beautiful things I see."

*Even writers run out of subjects. If you have a favorite topic or remembrance, please share them with me. Send me an email at [smokiesguy17@gmail.com](mailto:smokiesguy17@gmail.com). My book, "Rural Route 4, The Good Ol' Days Were Never Better," is available on Amazon.*