

Woodmere News

WOODMERE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION . . . BEAUTIFUL PARKS AND HOME TO THE ARTS

Volume XIII, Issue 1

Winter 2010

President's Commentary

2010 is going to be an exciting year for the Woodmere Neighborhood Association. The Board is working hard to identify block captains on each street and establish a better line of communication among all of us. We will continue to enforce the housing ordinances and monitor/prevent crime in the area. We will also work to improve our park, request pavement of certain streets, planting of trees along Woodmere Boulevard and work on a long range project with the city to improve the appearance of Woodmere Boulevard from the Eastern Bypass to Blount Cultural Park. We also want to work on an exit ramp at Bell Road and partner with the Bellwood subdivision to resolve common issues. The WNA needs you as an active member of the association by paying the annual dues of \$25.00. We also need for you to participate by attending our quarterly meetings and volunteering your expertise to the Association. You will find a membership form at the back of the newsletter. Please fill it out and become a member of a great association.

Jimmy Gunn



Litter is one issue that I have a burning passion about. In the past 40 years, since 1968, the amount of litter in America has decreased by 61 % nationwide, a change attributed to aggressive, long-term public education and cleanup programs. Yet litter remains a costly and often underestimated problem for the environment and quality of life. Litter decreases the property values of our homes. Litter decreases commerce and tourism in our area, i.e., Blount Cultural Park. Litter is also a health issue. 81 % of littering is committed with intent. By not picking up existing litter, people will add to the litter. We as a neighborhood need to police the immediate areas around our homes. We also need to be concerned with common areas throughout Woodmere that are close to our home and keep the litter picked up in those areas. I spend a lot of my time picking up litter on the berms on Woodmere Drive and Carmichael Road. We will continue to have the Spring and Fall Clean-Ups which will help. With everyone pitching in, we can keep litter under control. Shoot us an email if you have any ideas or suggestions. I look forward to serving as your President this year. Join today and be a part of it.



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Officers

Jimmy Gunn
President
Woodmere Dr.
277-7667

Wil Glasgow
1st Vice President
Greenway Dr.
271-2466

Jessie Donaldson
2nd Vice President
Forest Grove Ct.
271-4428

Mable Pryor
Secretary
Arbor Glen Dr.
260-2941

Melissa Martin
Treasurer
Queen Elizabeth Ct.
324-4540

Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker - Officer Pettaway

MPD Animal Control Bureau

If you have a question for Officer Pettaway, please email your question, even if you are planning on attending, to info@woodmeremontgomery.com by February 9. We want your questions asked and answered!

Woodmere Neighborhood Association
PO Box 231473
Montgomery, Alabama 36123

www.woodmeremontgomery.com

info@woodmeremontgomery.com

City Contacts

Mayor's Office
241-2000

City Council
241-2097

Animal Control
241-2970

Police
241-2651

Fire
241-2400

Recycling
241-2925

Housing Code
Enforcement
241-2068

For all emergencies,
please call 911.
City Websites

For ordinances:
www.montgomeryal.gov

The WOODMERE NEWS is the official publication of the Woodmere Neighborhood Association, PO Box 231473, Montgomery, Alabama 36123.

The WOODMERE NEWS is published four times a year. Views and conclusions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the editors or officers of the Woodmere Neighborhood Association. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Woodmere Neighborhood Association. Advertising: Inquiries should be directed to the Woodmere Neighborhood Association. Rates will be furnished upon request. The Woodmere Neighborhood Association reserves the right to omit any advertising or editorial copy deemed to be unsuitable for publication. Publication herein does not necessarily imply endorsement of any product or service offered.

Website: www.woodmeremontgomery.com

Financial Report

Melissa Martin, Treasurer

	October	November	December	Year to Date	Budget
Beginning Balance	2162.67	1367.42	3392.42	1746.62	
Income					
Membership Dues	200.00	2025.00	0.00	4375.00	3750.00
Advertisements	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00	0.00
T-Shirts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.00	0.00
Total Income	100.00	2025.00	260.00	4620.00	3750.00
Expenses					
Newsletter	363.00	0.00	0.00	1441.00	1400.00
Day in the Park	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1200.00
Administrative Expenses	582.25	0.00	0.00	849.80	203.00
Meeting Room	50.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Crime Prevention	0.00	0.00	0.00	255.00	200.00
Spring & Fall Clean-Ups	0.00	0.00	0.00	158.40	100.00
Post Office Box Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00	72.00
Total Expenses	995.25	0.00	0.00	2974.20	3750.00
Ending Balance	1367.42	3392.42	3392.42	3392.42	

Quarterly Meeting Minutes - November 12, 2009

The Woodmere Neighborhood Association met on Thursday, November 12 for its quarterly meeting at the Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium. President Jimmy Gunn called the meeting to order. The invocation was presented by Sam Whatley. The guest speaker for the evening was Lynda Wool. Ms. Wool is the Senior Planner for the City of Montgomery and oversees the Long Range Planning and Neighborhood Planning Division. She has worked in this capacity for six years and is involved in a master plan for Woodmere.

Following Ms. Wool's presentation, the business session began. During the business session two changes were made to the by-laws and the 2010-11 slate of officers was presented and elected. The officers for the 2010-11 years that were elected are as follows: President Jimmy Gunn, 1st Vice President John Cannady, 2nd Vice President Jessie Donaldson, Secretary Mable Pryor and Treasure Melissa Martin. Following the election of officers, there was a brief question and answer session from the audience.

The next quarterly meeting will be on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and the guest speaker will be Officer Pettaway with the animal control division. All are invited to attend.



Three Little Words

There are so many words today, and so I'd like to mention,
Sometimes we get so tired, we fail to pay attention.

Words can make us happy, or they make us sad,
And if we are not careful, they can even make us mad.

Words can come in comfort, soothing like a balm,
Easing our frustration, to give us peace and calm.

But then there are those words everyone longs to hear,
Ones that let us know we're held so very dear.

It's really not that hard, and it's nothing new,
Just three simple words we all can say....
Are simply, "I love you!"

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How to be a Good Neighbor

- When new neighbors move in, take them a potted plant and a card saying, "Welcome to our neighborhood."
- If your neighbor's grass needs cutting, offer to do it; someone in their house may be too ill to do it.
- Offer to take your neighbors to the neighborhood association meeting; stress that they don't have to be members to attend.
- If you happen to be power washing your sidewalk, offer to do your neighbor's.
- Invite your neighbors over for some goodies; ask each person to bring their favorite dish or snack.

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A Note from the Editor....

We try to put information that is useful to our residents in our quarterly newsletters. What I find interesting, you might not find interesting. Send me an email and let me know what type of articles you would like to see in our newsletter. If you have an article that you would like to submit, please send me an email at this email address:
info@woodmeremontgomery.com.
The account is checked daily.

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Montgomery, AL 36108
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Cell: 657-4717

FAX: (334) 262-0244
Email: don@unitedheating.net
www.unitedheating.net

**Please see Woodmere
website for offer to residents,
or call Don at 657-4717**

Neighborliness

Carolyn Glenn Blackstock

What exactly is a good neighbor? Someone who speaks to you all the time? Someone who moves your garbage can around to the back for you? Someone who invites you over for dinner?

The examples we give would vary as much as the appearances of our front yards or the kinds of cars we drive.

One thing, however, stands out in my mind; a good neighbor is one who treats us the same way we want to be treated. The Golden Rule has never died, and if more of us would practice it, our relationships with our neighbors would make us the envy of any other neighborhood in Montgomery.

This fact was brought home to me one afternoon when I opened the door to my house and saw the living room flooded with shards of glass, the left side of the patio door shattered and gaping. Panicked, my first thought went to my cat; where was she; was she hurt? Worse, was she outside? Had someone broken in?

With a sick feeling, I remembered that I had not turned on the security alarm that morning, thinking that my repairman was coming to put on a new outdoor screen. How long had that jagged, gaping hole been there, my house totally open for any outsider to walk through?

Walking over to the bookcase, I saw the telltale piece of evidence on the rug. An errant golf ball, probably swung by the young boy who lived behind me, as I had picked up one of his misses in my back yard the day before and returned it to him.

Scared and panicked, I started searching for my cat, who was nonchalantly prancing across the dining room table. Her demeanor relieved me, so after making some phone calls, I decided to go over and knock on the front door where the young boy lived.

No one answered; a neighbor told me the family was at home. I later took a policewoman back with me to that house; still, no answer.

The policewoman filed her report. Then I called the 24-hour glass repairman and sat down to wait and ponder the expense and inconvenience of such a mishap.

My faith in humanity was restored when the young boy and his mother appeared at my door an hour later. His big, brown eyes took in the damage; I think he was speechless. I reassured him that I was very proud of him for coming over, and I realized that it took a lot of courage for him to come over and face a total stranger whose property he had damaged.

The evening ended with a lesson learned for him, a bonding of friendship between his mother and me, financial recompense for the damage, and the meeting of two families.

I could have been mean and hateful, but that is not my nature; she could have denied the damage and refused to pay me, but that is not her nature.

Sitting around my dining room table, we discovered we had much in common—a teaching career and knowing some of the same educators and students from years past. I met not only her son, but also one of her daughters, a bubbly and friendly young girl who, it seemed, had never met a stranger.

Occasionally, I still find a microscopic piece of glass glittering in the sunlight between the carpet fibers. And I am reminded that what could have been an emotional and legal nightmare turned out to be, as we grownups often describe to our children, “a positive learning experience.”



311 Coming Soon!

Shelby Hutcheson

The City of Montgomery is in the process of implementing the 311 call center. A “one call for all” number for citizens to contact for all **non-emergency** problems. Qscend technologies out of Connecticut has signed a contract that will deliver the software for dispatchers in the City of Montgomery. This technology will offers citizens the ability to place one call for any problem they have in the city such as a broken street light, abandoned cars, garbage issues, etc. Everything a citizen reports, will automatically go to the correct department. The 311 dispatcher will also collect the caller’s information (phone #, email address) and give them a response to the issue and inform them on the action taken by the City. The technology is in the first stages of implementation and there has not been an official kick-off date. It is estimated that the 311 system will be up and running in early March. Please watch the news and read the paper as this develops. For now, please continue to use the same information for all non-emergencies and of course, for emergencies call 911.

Community Emergency Response Team Training

Shelby Hutcheson

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is an all-risk, all-hazard training program. This valuable course is designed to help you protect yourself, your family, your neighbors and your neighborhood in an emergency situation.

CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and their actions can make a difference. While people will respond to others in need without the training, one goal of the CERT program is to help them do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger. In the CERT training, citizens learn to:

- manage utilities and put out small fires,
- treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and *treating for shock,
- provide basic medical aid,
- search for and rescue victims safely,
- organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective,
- and collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

We are looking for people in Woodmere to join a CERT team. We need about 6-10 more people in order for us to start a class. Classes typically meet 2 hours, 1 night a week for 6 weeks. Dates and location will be determined once we have enough people to start a class. CERT training is coordinated thru the Montgomery Emergency Management Agency and is provided at no cost. For more information contact Shelby Hutcheson at 240-4143.



Tips to Minimize Your Risk for Identity Theft

1. **Shred everything.** Buy a personal shredder and shred all papers with personal information on them before disposing of them.
2. **Destroy digital data.** When you sell, trade or otherwise dispose of a computer system remove the hard drive and destroy it. Simply deleting the data or reformatting the hard drive is nowhere near enough.
3. **Be diligent about checking statements.** This actually has two benefits. First, if you are diligent about checking your bank and credit statements each month, you will be aware if one of them doesn't arrive and that can alert you that perhaps someone stole it from your mailbox or while it was in transit. Second, you can ensure that the charges, purchases or other entries on the statement are legitimate and match up with your records so that you can quickly identify and address any suspicious activity.
4. **Pay your bills at the post office.** Never leave your paid bills in your mailbox to be sent out. A thief who raids your mailbox would be able to acquire a slew of critical information in one envelope- your name, address, credit account number, your bank information including the routing number and account number from the bottom of the check, and a copy of your signature from your check for forgery purposes, just for starters. Drop your bills at the post office or at least in an official U.S. Postal Service drop box to ensure that doesn't happen.
5. **Limit the information on your checks.** It may be convenient to have your driver's license number or social security number imprinted on your personal checks to save some time when you write one, but if it falls into the wrong hands, it reveals too much information.
6. **Analyze your credit report annually.** This has always been good advice, but it used to cost money, or you had to first be rejected from receiving credit so that you could get a free copy. Now it is possible to get a free look at your credit report once per year. The big three credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) joined forces to provide free credit reports to consumers. To view your free credit reports, visit www.annualcreditreport.com. You should review it to make sure the information on it is accurate and also make sure that there aren't any accounts on there that you aren't aware of or any other suspicious entries or activity.

Trash Disposal and Pick-up

The City of Montgomery Sanitation Department has set the following guidelines for garbage and trash pick up.

Standard service days for Woodmere are Monday and Thursday mornings. Curbside rubbish/trash pick-up is Wednesday.

Roll-out Container Information

1. Containers must be curbside no later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of service and removed no later than 7:00 p.m. of the same day. Sanitation crews will not return until the next service day if the container is placed curbside after your street has been serviced.
2. Report missing or damaged containers to 241-2753; Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Curbside Rubbish/Trash Pick-up

1. Locate trash **BEHIND** curb, never in the street and never in front of a vacant lot. (Deer Creek ARC requires trash to be put out the same day as the scheduled pickup. It is most unsightly (and a violation of the ARC guidelines) to have trash out on the curb before the scheduled pick up day.)
2. Tree limbs, hedges, etc – must be cut less than four (4) feet in length and eight (8) inches in diameter and placed in an orderly manner behind the curb.
3. Grass must be containerized at all times. Place in bags or trash cans no larger than thirty (30) gallons.

Bulk Trash Service

The Montgomery Sanitation Department offers a bulk trash service that is in addition to the standard pick up schedule. Residents can call 241-2750 and for a \$10.00 charge have almost any item picked up at home. (Examples include refrigerators, washers, sofas, mattresses, etc.) Please do not put these items on the curb until the day of the scheduled pick up. The Sanitation Department will tell you the scheduled pick up day. The pick-up day is determined by the item description. If you elect to use the bulk trash service, the city can add the \$10.00 fee to your water bill or you can take payment to the Sanitation Department.



Neighborhood Concerns

The Woodmere Neighborhood Association receives many questions regarding pets. Below is a list of the most common concerns.

- Scoop the Poop - Please be courteous and take a pooper scooper and bag with you when you walk your pets. No one likes to find a surprise left by a pet when they are walking on the grass or sidewalk.
- Catting Around – Cats are not required to be leashed but are trespassing when they enter another person's property. Please be courteous to your neighbors and keep the cat at home.
- Barking dogs - Dogs that bark or howl constantly disrupt the quiet and make it very unpleasant for neighbors. If you have a howling doggie, please make an effort to keep it from disturbing neighbors.
- Dogs off leash - The City of Montgomery requires all dogs to be leashed. Leashes must be used in the areas around the lakes, on the roadways and walking trails and in any open spaces. There have been reports of loose dogs frightening children and scaring and injuring the wildlife.
- Please do not throw litter in the neighborhood. There are trash cans located around the walking trail in the park for litter disposal.

Auto Theft Prevention Tips

1. Don't leave valuables in your car. Even small items such as loose change can be tempting to a thief.
2. If you must leave valuables in your car, lock them in the trunk **before** reaching your destination.
3. Lock your car doors and close the windows.
4. Never leave your car running unattended.
5. Don't hide keys in your vehicle.
6. Park in a garage or well-lit area.
7. Consider installing a car alarm or an anti-theft device such as a steering wheel bar lock, an engine disable switch, etc.
8. If you have an after-market stereo, take it with you when you leave the car.
9. Be aware of identification theft if items stolen contain personal information.
10. Keep an updated record of all valuables in your car.



Why You Should Adopt a Pet

Thinking of adding a pet to your family? Here are four reasons to adopt your new best friend.

1. **You'll save a life.** Sadly, between 3 and 4 million dogs and cats are euthanized each year in the United States simply because too many people give up their pets and too few people adopt from shelters. Because there is limited space at shelters, staff members sometimes need to make very hard decisions to euthanize animals who haven't been adopted. The number of euthanized animals could be reduced dramatically if more people adopted pets instead of buying them. By adopting from a private humane society or animal shelter, breed rescue group, or the local animal control agency, you'll help save the lives of two animals—the pet you adopt and a homeless animal somewhere who can be rescued because of space you helped free up.

2. **You'll get a healthy pet.** Animal shelters are brimming with happy, healthy animals just waiting for someone to take them home. Most shelters examine and give vaccinations to animals when they arrive, and many spay or neuter them before being adopted. In addition to medical care, more and more shelters also screen animals for specific temperaments and behaviors to make sure each family finds the right pet for its lifestyle. It is a common misconception that animals end up in shelters because they've been abused or done something "wrong". In fact, most animals are given to shelters because of "people reasons," not because of anything they've done. Things like a divorce, a move, lack of time or financial constraints are among the most common reasons why pets lose their homes.

3. **You'll save money.** Adopting a pet from an animal shelter is much less expensive than buying a pet at a pet store or through other sources. In addition, animals from many shelters are already spayed or neutered and vaccinated, which makes the shelter's fee a real bargain.

4. **You'll feel better.** Pets have a way of putting a smile on your face and a spring in your step. Not only do animals give you unconditional love, but they have been shown to be psychologically, emotionally, and physically beneficial. Caring for a companion animal can provide a sense of purpose and fulfillment and lessen feelings of loneliness and isolation in all age groups. Pets can help your physical health as well—just spending time with an animal can help lower a person's blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and dog walking, pet grooming, and even petting provide increased physical activity that can help strengthen the heart, improve blood circulation, and slow the loss of bone tissue. Put simply, pets aren't just good friends, they're also good medicine and can improve a person's well-being in many ways.

Instead of buying a dog or cat, visit your local shelter where you will likely to find dozens of healthy, well-socialized puppies, adult dogs, kittens and adult cats - including purebreds - just waiting for that special home - yours!

Tom Cat is a rescue cat and Emma Cat was found via www.petfinder.com at a kill shelter. The Montgomery Humane Shelter at 1150 John Overton Drive. Call (334) 409-0622 also has many cats and dogs waiting to be adopted. Visit them online at www.montgomeryhumane.com.

Tom & Emma Cat



Tom Cat



Emma Cat

Share Your Love

Makris Photography will be at the Montgomery Humane Society on Saturday, January 30th and February 6th from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., ready to take photos of your best friend(s). Up to three pets are allowed per picture and appointment. Family members can be included in the picture. You will be able to view your photos on site and place your order that day. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Montgomery Humane Society. For more information, go to www.montgomeryhumane.com. To schedule an appointment please contact Lea Turbert 334.409.0622 ext. 207.



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WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2010 Membership Form

Woodmere Neighborhood Association
PO Box 231473
Montgomery, Alabama 36123

Date: _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

PHONE _____

CELL _____

WORK _____

EMAIL 1 _____

EMAIL 2 _____

New Association Member Renewal

Please indicate your preference for receiving correspondence from the Association for such items as the newsletter, meeting notices, etc.

Email Door mail

Association dues are \$25 annually. All memberships expire on December 31.

The Association is always looking for volunteers. Please indicate your interest below:

- Parks Committee
- Streets and Sidewalks Committee
- Crime Prevention Committee
- Newsletter
- Newsletter Distribution
- Block Captain
- Other skills/interests _____

Please note: We send out a monthly newsletter , the *Woodmere eNews*. If you provide your email address(es), you will receive this newsletter. We also send out notices about lost and found pets. If you have any questions or concerns, please send us an email.

Please send your check payable to: **Woodmere Neighborhood Association**

For WNA Use Only
Check No. _____
Amount: _____
Date: _____