

Woodmere News

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

Volume IX, Issue 4

Fall 2011

President's Commentary

Let's Winterize our Neighborhood!

It will not be long before the weather turns cold and all of us start the hibernation process where we stay inside our homes. Before that occurs, we all need to help in the winterization of our neighborhood. I would ask each of you to check to make sure that the street light closest to your home is shining bright. If not, please contact the Alabama Power Company at 800-245-2244. If you have a storm drain located in front of your home, it is important that you make sure that the drain is clean and free of any large objects or debris.

A storm drain is designed to drain excess rain and ground water from paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and roofs. If they are clogged, then flooding in and around your home and your neighbors' homes can occur. Let's all check the condition of all street, stop and yield signs on our street. If they are unreadable, leaning or missing, please contact me at 241-4196 and I will make sure that the problem is corrected. Let's all continue to make a concerted effort to set a good example and don't litter. Where you see litter, please pick it up. Let's continue to call 311 for ordinance enforcement in our neighborhood. Last, but not least, keep an eye on your street for any suspicious activity and report to the MPD immediately. As we approach the holiday seasons, we have to be more alert.

I would encourage all of you to attend our next general meeting which will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. One of our own residents and neighbor, Mr. Ron Sams, City of Montgomery, Office of City Investigations will be the guest speaker. If you want to volunteer for Zone Coordinator/ Block Captain for your area, please let me know. We need your participation. Thanks for what all of you do to make Woodmere the premiere address here in Montgomery.

Jimmy Gunn



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Officers

Jimmy Gunn
President
Woodmere Dr.
277-7667

Jessie Donaldson
1st Vice President
Forest Grove Ct.
271-4428

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277-5986

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Arbor Glen Dr.
260-2941

Melissa Martin
Treasurer
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324-4540

Neighborhood Association Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2011
6:30 p.m.
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

The guest speaker will be

Ron Sams
City of Montgomery
Office of Investigations

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.

For ordinances:
www.montgomeryal.gov

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

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Website: www.woodmeremontgomery.com

Financial Report

Melissa Martin, Treasurer

| | July | August | September | Year to Date | Budget |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Beginning Balance | 3406.11 | 3456.11 | 2473.73 | 2158.06 | |
| Income | | | | | |
| Membership Dues | 50.00 | 200.00 | 400.00 | 3600.00 | 3750.00 |
| Advertisements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 60.00 | 0.00 |
| T-Shirts | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2100.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Income | 50.00 | 200.00 | 400.00 | 5760.00 | 3750.00 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Newsletter | 0.00 | 374.00 | 0.00 | 1122.00 | 1400.00 |
| Day in the Park | 0.00 | 150.00 | 300.00 | 578.07 | 1200.00 |
| Administrative Expenses | 0.00 | 608.38 | 0.00 | 3516.95 | 203.00 |
| Meeting Room | 0.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 | 200.00 |
| Website | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 175.38 | 75.00 |
| Yard Sale | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 |
| Crime Prevention | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| Spring & Fall Clean-Ups | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Post Office Box Rental | 0.00 | 0.00 | 70.00 | 0.00 | 72.00 |
| Total Expenses | 0.00 | 1182.38 | 370.00 | 5542.40 | 3750.00 |
| Ending Balance | 3456.11 | 2473.73 | 2503.73 | 2375.66 | |

Quarterly Meeting Minutes - August 11, 2011

The Woodmere Neighborhood Association met on Thursday, August 11 for its quarterly meeting at the Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium. President Jimmy Gunn called the meeting to order. The attendees were given updates from the committee chairs that were present at the meeting. The guest speakers for the meeting were Councilman Charles Jinright and Evette Hester, Executive Director, Alabama Housing Authority. Following the reports and presentations, there was a brief question and answer session from the audience.



The next quarterly meeting will be on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. All are invited to attend.

Visit us online at www.woodmeremontgomery.com

A Soldier's Pride

**Vivid colors
in a brilliant hue,
light up the sky
in red, white and blue.**

**As he stands and waves
the flag in his hand,
his thoughts drift back
to a faraway land...**

**And another time
on the darkest nights,
when the sky was filled
with flashing lights.**

**He's been home now
for many years,
but his heart still feels
the unshed tears.**

**For those who once
stood by his side,
and felt like him
a soldier's pride.**

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November 11th is Veteran's Day. It is important that we remember the service these special men and women have given our country. Please take the time to thank a Veteran and remember the sacrifices they have made.

Using Grocery Coupons Effectively to Save Money

Jessie Donaldson

Grocery coupons are alive and well in the 21st century, saving shoppers billions of dollars annually. Learning how to use them effectively can easily save your family hundreds of dollars each year. In eighteen years, a family of four can save enough, from using grocery coupons, to send a child to college.

History of Coupons. Coupons have been around since the late 1800's when Coca-Cola and Grape Nuts offered coupons to entice customers into trying their new products. Neighborhood grocery stores quickly caught on to the idea and have been using coupons effectively for over 100 years.

Coupon popularity exploded during the depression and by the 1960's there were billions of coupons being used, and most American households were using them. Currently more than 3,000 companies issue over 300 billion coupons each year worth an estimated \$280 billion. About 8 billion of these coupons are redeemed, saving shoppers almost \$5 billion each year on their grocery bills.

Gather Your Coupons. The first step is to begin gathering or cutting coupons. Gather coupons for any product that you have the slightest chance of purchasing. It takes time, but the more coupons you gather, the greater your potential for rarely having to purchase an item without an accompanying coupon!



Coupons are available through a variety of different sources. Learning to gather useful coupons efficiently often determines how successful you will be in saving money.

- **Store Web Sites.** Supermarket websites generally have an area to print coupons that will acceptably scan at their stores. You can often search the coupons by category and brand names, saving you valuable time as you collect your coupons.
- **eCoupons.** eCoupons can link additional coupons and discounts directly to the card that you already use at checkout to get posted supermarket discounts. Hint: Look on your supermarket's website for the ability to add eCoupons to your card. Typing eCoupons into a search engine is more likely to waste your time than provide actual savings.
- **Sunday Newspaper.** The tried and true method of clipping coupons from a Sunday newspaper is still a fantastic way to gather coupons. Relax with a beverage and some music and you might find that cutting coupons can be a pleasant experience each week.
- **Mid-week Supermarket Circular.** You probably get coupons in your mailbox each week. Spend a few minutes going through the circulars mid-week and cut out any potential coupons.
- **Online Coupon Sites.** There are many great online coupon sites where you can print coupons. However, be cautious when searching online, you can waste enormous amounts of time. Even worse, you can lose money or personal information to illegitimate sites. Use common Internet safety practices. If you are a relative novice on the Internet, stick with your supermarket's website. In general: don't pay for coupons and don't bother printing anything that does not have a scannable bar code and an expiration date. Check with your store ahead of time. Some stores don't accept any printable coupons (most do!).
- **Company or Manufacturer Websites.** You can often print coupons directly off of a manufacturer's website. This can be a time consuming way to collect coupons so you only want to pursue this option if there are brands that you buy often or in bulk.
- **Coupon Racks.** At your supermarket there may be racks/bulletin boards where manufacturers post coupons. Many modern supermarkets have coupon dispensers attached to the shelving in each aisle. Taking a coupon causes another to feed out of the dispenser and you can generally take as many as you will use.

Organize Your Coupons. Organizing your coupons is like creating your own filing system. There are many good systems that exist, but you want to pick/modify a system that works for you. This is one area where an Internet search is very valuable. Most people use some variation of an accordion file envelope.

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Use Your Coupons! Matching your coupons to existing sales at the supermarket produces the greatest benefit from your coupons. Sometimes between the sales price and the coupon you can get items at the grocery store absolutely free! This sounds fantastic, but any coupon cutting pro has had this experience at least once. If you watch for sales you can increase your chances of getting items free or for rock bottom prices.

Unfortunately not all sales are advertised and keeping up with coupon gathering and sales can become overwhelming. Also, supermarket sale prices are cyclical; so an item may be on sale, but it may often be regularly on sale for an even lower price. Knowing when to use your coupon becomes an art and a science. There are websites that use extensive databases and algorithms that can help you with this process. These sites all charge a fee for the service but legitimate sites will save you so much money that the fee is cost effective. The best site is probably <http://www.thegrocerygame.com/>. The cost for this site varies depending on how many stores' sales you want them to watch for you, but you pay \$10 every 8 weeks for just one store.

Beware Work-at-Home Coupon Clipping Scams. Grocery coupons are a benefit for a family who uses them legitimately but beware of scam artists who offer business opportunity and work-at-home schemes featuring coupon certificate booklets and coupon clipping services. Using the Internet to market these so-called opportunities, fraudulent promoters are promising entrepreneurs, charity groups and consumers earnings of "hundreds per week" and "thousands per month" simply by selling coupon certificate booklets or cutting coupons at home.

There's only one legitimate way to use a coupon: Cut it out of the newspaper or other source and use it toward the purchase of the designated product. A coupon is meant to be used only by the consumer who buys the product for which the coupon is printed. Selling or transferring coupons to a third party (e.g. coupons passed through Email) violates most manufacturers' coupon redemption policies and technically voids the coupon.

Source: Neighborhoodlink.com

Senior Citizen Discount List

Bargains for the 50+ crowd. Always ask.

Restaurants

- Applebee's: 15% off with Golden Apple Card (60+)
- Arby's: 10% off (55+)
- ● Burger King: 10% off (60+)
- Captain D's Seafood: discount varies on location (62+)
- Chick-Fil-A: 10% off or free small drink or coffee (55+)
- Chili's: 10% off (55+)
- CiCi's Pizza: 10% off (60+)
- Denny's: 10% off, 20% off for AARP members (55+)
- ● Golden Corral: 10% off (60+)
- Hardee's: \$0.33 beverages everyday (65+)
- IHOP: 10% off (55+)
- KFC: free small drink with any meal (55+)
- Krispy Kreme: 10% off (50+)
- Long John Silver's: various discounts at participating locations (55+)
- McDonald's: discounts on coffee everyday (55+)
- Shoney's: 10% off
- Sonic: 10% off or free beverage (60+)
- Steak 'n Shake: 10% off every Monday & Tuesday (50+)
- Subway: 10% off (60+)
- Taco Bell: 5% off; free beverages for seniors (65+)
- Waffle House: 10% off every Monday (60+)
- Wendy's: 10% off (55+)

Retail and Apparel

- Banana Republic: 10% off (50+)

- Bealls: 20% off first Tuesday of each month (50+)
- Belk's: 15% off first Tuesday of every month (55+)
- Big Lots: 10% off
- Dress Barn: 10% off (55+)
- Goodwill: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)
- Hallmark: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)
- Kmart: 20% off (50+)
- Kohl's: 15% off (60+)
- Rite Aid: 10% off on Tuesdays & 10% off prescriptions
- Ross Stores: 10% off every Tuesday (55+)
- The Salvation Army Thrift Stores: up to 50% off (55+)
- Stein Mart: 20% off red dot/clearance items first Monday of every month (55+)

Grocery

- Publix: 5% off every Wednesday (55+)

Cell Phone Discounts

- AT&T: Special Senior Nation 200 Plan \$29.99/month (65+)
- Jitterbug: \$10/month cell phone service (50+)
- Verizon Wireless: Verizon Nationwide 65 Plus Plan \$29.99/month (65+)

Miscellaneous

- Great Clips: \$3 off hair cuts (60+)
- Super Cuts: \$2 off haircuts (60+)

Since many senior discounts are not advertised to the public, men and women over 55 should **ALWAYS** ask a sales associate if that store provides a senior discount. That way, you can be sure to get the most bang for your buck.

Winterize Your Home To Save Energy

There are plenty of expensive ways to save energy -- installing a new, energy-efficient furnace, for example, or sealing and insulating all duct work -- but you can winterize your home to save energy with just a few dollars. The eight tips below were selected because they're easy and cost next to nothing. Heating bills and cooling account for over 50 percent of home energy costs, so winterize your home and save each year while helping to save the planet, too.

- 1. Sweater Weather.** One of the greenest inventions ever is a warm sweater. Match it with a comfortable pair of sweatpants, and though you won't set the fashion world on fire, you'll feel toasty and warm while setting your thermostat down in the 60-something degree range. Reducing your thermostat setting from 75 down to 65 for 8 hours -- like when you're all tucked into bed -- can lower your heating bill by 10 to 20 percent. And speaking of thermostats, have you looked into the energy savings (and possible rebates) that come from installing a programmable thermostat?
- 2. Winterize Your Ceiling Fans.** Ceiling fans aren't just for summer anymore. By flipping the little black switch that makes the fan rotate clockwise -- and keeping the fan speed set to low -- you can circulate the warm air that has risen to the ceiling all around the room. This can be a boon to folks with space heaters, wood stoves or other heating devices that don't produce a lot of air circulation.
- 3. Snake Charmers.** Doors, no matter how well-sealed they may be, always seem to leak a bit of cold air, especially around the base of the door. Since you're not using that beach towel in winter, roll it up and use it as a "snake" to block the draft coming in from the door's base. Some folks have even found that a necktie filled with sand or kitty litter works just as well. Or, if you're feeling flush, buy a decorative new draft snake at your local hardware or home furnishings center.
- 4. Winterize Your Hearth and Home.** Fireplaces may look warm and inviting, but they're notorious for wasting energy. Remember to always close the damper when the fireplace is not in use -- consider a rubber damper for a tighter seal, or install glass fireplace doors. Chimney balloons also seal up the flue, keeping warm air inside.
- 5. Blowing Smoke.** Put a sheet of paper in a door jamb, then close the door -- if you can pull the paper out without tearing it, you've got an air leak. (The same trick works for windows.) Another good way to check for air leaks involves a burning incense stick or other smoking item on a windy day. Hold the item near doors, windows, vents, electrical outlets, attic hatches, baseboards, pipes, dryer vents, utility lines (like TV cables) and other openings. If the smoke blows, you've got drafts. You can seal these money-sucking drafts quickly and inexpensively with weather stripping, caulk, electric outlet gaskets, or plastic window film.
- 6. Furnaces and Filters.** Most furnace filters need to be changed monthly during the winter. Fiberglass filters are meant to be thrown away, but since they only trap a fraction of airborne debris, consider replacing them with electronic filters or HEPA filters, which are far more effective and create less waste because they can be cleaned instead of thrown out. And if it's been a while since your furnace had a professional tune-up, you can easily save enough money through lower energy use to pay for that bit of maintenance.
- 7. Let the Sun Shine.** There's a truism in sustainable design: Passive solar requires active residents, meaning you have to get a little more involved than just flipping a switch. But even a few simple steps can make a big difference, like opening the drapes when the sun is shining in your windows, then closing the drapes when it's not. This is an especially good idea when your drapes are heavy or insulated. Energy experts also encourage folks to consider pruning trees or shrubs that may be blocking the sun.
- 8. Home Energy Audits.** Getting a home energy audit is perhaps the best way to start making your home greener and more energy efficient. Contact your local utility; many offer free in-home audits. Some big-box home centers also offer free energy audits, but remember that they're in the business of selling you products, so you should probably take their suggestions with a grain of salt. Before you decide on any home improvement, find out what the payback period is for that particular item or upgrade.



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Just search for Woodmere
Neighborhood Association!



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(334) 271-6593

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Board of Directors: Who Are They, and What Do They Do?

Jessie Donaldson

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the association responsible for operating the association. They are unpaid volunteers, elected by a vote of the association members, who donate their time for service.

The board is given the responsibility of setting the association's policies, standards, programs, and annual budget. In the Woodmere Neighborhood Association, the board is specifically empowered and directed to:

- Prepare the annual budget for the association
- Establish the membership dues
- Collect all assessments due the association
- Provide for necessary support personnel for projects
- Make and amend the association bylaws
- Enforce all provisions of the governing documents
- Keep detailed association financial and accounting records
- Keep detailed minutes of the board and general meetings
- Perform all acts necessary for the association's administration
- Oversee the maintenance of all common areas and any amenities located within the community
- Schedule and conduct quarterly general meetings
- Schedule and conduct monthly board meetings
- Design and publish monthly association newsletters
- Design and maintain association website
- Send out e-mail alerts



While these duties provide the board significant authority, members have the opportunity of participating in the decision-making process through voting in board elections, serving on any special committees required by the bylaws, and by providing input at association meetings.

The bylaws of an association more clearly define the role and responsibility of the board as a whole, as well as the individual officers. As volunteers, officers are not personally liable for their actions, but they are not immune from litigation should they act in a criminal or negligent manner. The primary duty of the board and officers is to act in a way that benefits the community as a whole, not themselves or another individual. The legal standard most often used in weighing a board's action is whether it used "reasonable judgment" in making a decision.

The WNA board applies for any available bond monies for the improvement of neighborhood amenities, constantly monitors the condition of streets and sidewalks, acts as a liaison with the city for the neighborhood's needs, represents the neighborhood at crucial city council meetings and monitors crime within the neighborhood.

Woodmere Neighborhood Association has difficulty finding residents willing to serve on the board. Those members who really care about their community and fellow residents should take the time to serve. After all, the best way to stay involved with your association is by taking a leadership role.

Be involved in your neighborhood. If there are changes you would like to see in the neighborhood, take an active role. Volunteer to serve on the board or any of the active committees. We need Zone Coordinators for several zones now and block captains within each zone. All Zone Coordinators serve on the board.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2012 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: _____