



WOODMERE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

August 2015

**Officers**

**Jimmy Gunn**  
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277-7667

**Jessie Donaldson**  
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271-4428

**Wil Glasgow**  
2nd Vice President  
Green Way Dr.

**Mable Pryor**  
Secretary  
Arbor Glen Dr.  
260-2941

**Phyllis Tillery**  
Treasurer  
Woodmere Loop  
270-1430

Woodmere Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 231473  
Montgomery, Alabama 36123

[www.woodmeremontgomery.com](http://www.woodmeremontgomery.com)

[info@woodmeremontgomery.com](mailto:info@woodmeremontgomery.com)

On Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/woodmeremontgomery](http://www.facebook.com/woodmeremontgomery)

# Woodmere News

## President's Commentary

**Jimmy Gunn**



Jimmy Gunn, WNA President

**Woodmere Neighborhood Association Meeting**  
Thursday, August 13, 2015 6:30 p.m.  
Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium  
Speaker: Gerry Shook  
Subject: Volunteers in Police Service  
**Come Out and Support your Neighborhood**

I hope that all of you are surviving the heat wave that we are currently experiencing. It is even hot inside my house. Mowing grass in the afternoon can be a health hazard.

I have a concern that needs to be addressed and I need your help to resolve it. The concern is this: **WE NEED FOR EACH OF YOU TO JOIN THE WOODMERE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (WNA).** Currently, we have a total of 116 paid members out of a total of 793 homes in the Woodmere subdivision. This represents only 14.6% of the households living here. I would ask the 677 non-member families, why are you not a member of the Association and why do you not support your Board of Directors?

The purpose of the WNA is to promote the welfare of its members and to preserve Woodmere as an attractive area. Our dedicated Board of Directors works tirelessly to ensure that Woodmere remains a safe, clean and great place to come home to. When something comes before the City Council involving our part of the city, we have people there to represent you. None of the positions are paid positions, all are volunteer. Some of us have been serving for many years to keep Woodmere vibrant.

We ask that you now join us as a dues paying member. Now is the time for you to fill out the 2015 WNA Membership Form on the back of this newsletter and send in your \$25.00 membership fee. Let us know your email address and phone number so we can communicate with you. That way we can alert you to lost pets and possible problems as they arise.

**To the current 116 paid members of the WNA, we appreciate your support and service.** If you would like to serve as a volunteer, select one of the positions on the membership form. You are always welcome at our board meetings to share your ideas or just to visit.

If you are not a member and own your home in Woodmere, you have a vested interest in the area and need to join the WNA today. If you are not a member and you rent your home in Woodmere, you need to join today so that you will be informed as to what is going on in your part of the neighborhood. If you have any questions, call me or any member of the Board of Directors. Send any questions to [info@woodmeremontgomery.com](mailto:info@woodmeremontgomery.com) or visit our website at [www.woodmeremontgomery.com](http://www.woodmeremontgomery.com).

Can you imagine what Woodmere would be like if we did not have an active Board of Directors, dedicated volunteers, and dues paying members? In some parts of our city, neighborhood associations have become inactive and just gone away. You can pretty much ride through these areas and pick them out, just by looking at the yards and houses.

You can help make sure this does not happen in Woodmere. Will you make a difference today by joining the WNA? We would love to have your help. We cannot do what we need to do without your support.

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

Website:  
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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.

This issue was edited by Sam Whatley

**City Contacts**

**Mayor's Office**  
625-2000

**City Council**  
625-2097

**Animal Control**  
625-2970

**Police**  
625-2651

**Fire**  
625-2400

**Ordinance Violations**  
311

**For all emergencies, call**  
**911.**

**Financial Report**

**Phyllis Tillery, Treasurer**

	April	May	June	Year to Date	Budget
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>2,579.50</b>	<b>2,543.50</b>	<b>2,901.66</b>	<b>2,015.53</b>	
<b>Income</b>					
Membership Dues, Plus Online Dues	98.97	895.88	273.97	2,210.79	3750.00
Advertisements	30.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stratford Place Signs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>128.97</b>	<b>895.3</b>	<b>273.97</b>	<b>2,300.79</b>	<b>3750.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Newsletter	0.00	385.00	0.00	770.00	1500.00
Day in the Park	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Administrative Expenses	165.00	102.69	0.00	270.69	505.00
Meeting Room	0.00	50.00	0.00	100.00	200.00
Entrance Signs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Crime Prevention	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Spring & Fall Clean-Ups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Post Office Box Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>165.00</b>	<b>537.39</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,140.69</b>	<b>3,750.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>2,543.47</b>	<b>2,901.66</b>	<b>3,175.63</b>	<b>3,175.63</b>	

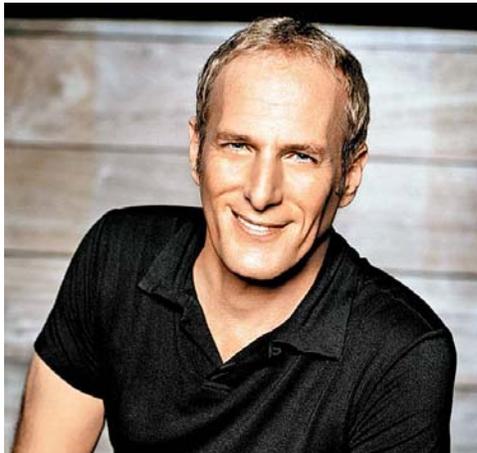


At the **Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts**

**Zelda-Watercolors by Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald**  
June 20—August 23, 2015

Come see a collection of 25 watercolors painted by F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous wife. Many were paper dolls for her grandchildren.

A native of Montgomery, Zelda painted in the 1940's.



Concert at ASF August 22—One night only
A musical evening with Michael Bolton, one night only.
For orchestra seating contact Development Manager
Lindsey Jinright at ljinright@asf.net or 271-5343. For
balcony seats call the ASF Box Office (334-271-5353).

G. Kim & Associates

Custom Painting & Repairs
Licensed & Insured
References Available

669-4477 - David
322-6004 - George



Paul Wise, WNA Streets and Sidewalks
Chairman, invites you to call 311 to report
streets or sidewalks that need repair. If that
fails, call him at 244-0079 or email him at
paulwise@charter.net.

HELPING THE MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Waldo Spencer, Gerry Shook, and Arnold Thompson are members of the WNA who have volunteered a combined total of 23 years with the Montgomery Police Department. There are approximately 65 active Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) who have saved the city over \$300,000 last year and have put in over 2500 hours per year for the 10 years that the program has been in Montgomery.

Duties vary among the volunteers including: checking homes of residents who are on vacation, assisting the MPD at headquarters and other MPD locations, and helping with special events. Are you 55 years old or older? Can you give at least 4 hours per week to help the MPD? Contact Community Policing at 240-4800 for information. MPD needs your help.

Cissy's Critters



Need Someone to care for your
pets while you are away?
Reasonable Rates, Dependable Service
and LOTS of Tender Loving Care!!!!

(334) 271-6593 Cell: (334) 301-4283

Yards of the Month

- May
Home 6039 Forest Grove
Garden Home 1609 Salisbury Place
Townhouse 1621 Cobblestone Court
June
Home 1319 Pampas Drive
Garden Home 1605 Queen Elizabeth
Court
Townhouse 1611 Limestone Court
July
Home 1910 Woodmere Loop
Garden Home 6016 Bolingbrook Court
Townhouse 1602 Limestone Court

Thanks to judges Melon and Gary Clinton



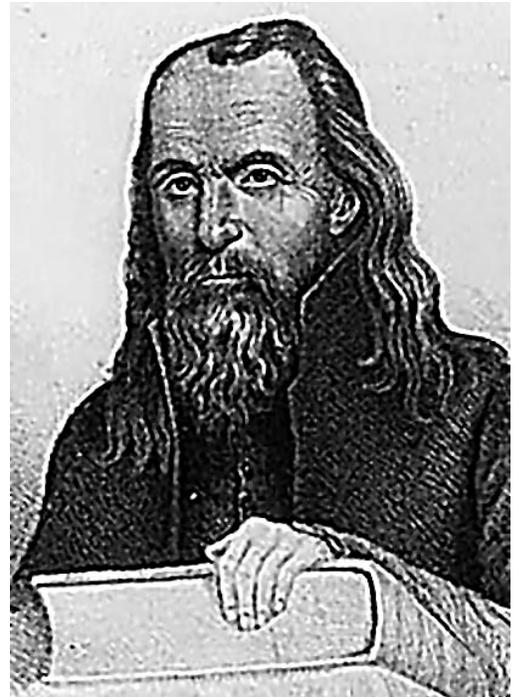
## Genealogy or Chasing Our Tales, Part XI by Jessie Donaldson

During our previous visits with Chasing Our Tales, we have discussed traders, bad men, business men, military men and just plain renegades from the early days of the Montgomery region. This time we will talk about men of the cloth; men who attempted to bring religion into the wilderness that was central Alabama in the late 1700s and early 1800s. We know there were a multitude of outlaws among the early settlers in the Alabama Territory but they were far outnumbered by the numbers of law-abiding, God-fearing, church-going people moving into the area.

Up until 1803, no Protestant preacher had ever visited the Alabama Territory to remind the settlers of their duties to God. Hundreds of these early settlers, born in the wilderness, and now adults, had never even seen a preacher. In 1803, a mysterious and eccentric individual by the name of Lorenzo Dow traveled from Georgia into the Alabama Territory, crossed the Creek Nation with all of its dangers and arrived in southeast Alabama alone. He proclaimed the gospel as he went about his travels. From southeast Alabama, he traveled to the Natchez settlements in Mississippi, then the Cumberland region in Kentucky and back down to southeast Alabama to the settlements along the Tombigbee. Again, he traveled across the Creek Nation and arrived back in Georgia in 1804 preaching sermons all along the way. He traveled all along the Eastern seaboard while preaching anywhere he could gather a crowd.

Lorenzo Dow was born in Connecticut and he felt called to be a minister at an early age. Dow traveled to England and Ireland where he preached to many groups. In all, Dow is said to have traveled into the wilds of the Alabama and Mississippi Territories at least 10 times during his life while preaching to large groups along the way. On at least one of these trips, his wife, Peggy Dow, accompanied him. Both Dow and his wife wrote autobiographies about their travels with both books selling thousands of copies. In his early days, he was ordained as a Methodist preacher but the Methodists soon parted company with him after his trips to England and Ireland.

The people did not know what to make of Dow. When he preached, Dow's mannerisms were like nothing the early settlers had ever seen before, especially considering their normally conservative nature. He shouted, he screamed, he cried, he begged, he flattered, he insulted, he challenged people and their beliefs. He told stories and made jokes. He preached in barns, he preached in open fields, he preached in brush arbors. He even called himself "Crazy Dow". In some localities, he found himself unwelcome and, on more than one occasion, he left the settlement under a barrage of stones, eggs and rotten vegetables, but he baptized hundreds of people at many other locations. He was unkempt, with long black hair and a long beard, neither of which were ever groomed. He had one suit of clothes, which he continuously wore on his back. When his clothes were worn out to the point they would no longer stay on his body, someone at one of his meetings would donate a suit of clothes to him which usually did not fit.



Lorenzo Dow, pioneer preacher in Alabama

During Alabama's early years, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists competed almost equally for worshipers. But smaller numbers of Episcopalians, Jews, and Catholics commanded social, economic, and political influence far beyond their sheer numbers. Presbyterians were more centralized and required a higher level of education and had problems supplying enough reliable pastors for their churches. Methodists, who established their first congregation in Alabama in 1808, earned the early advantage in numbers of members because of their circuit riders, such as Lorenzo Dow, who spread out across the territory and preached a simple, emotional gospel of God's grace that any sinner could easily claim.

Baptists established their first church in 1808 in Huntsville. Early Baptists had many internal disagreements about worship, with some Baptists as open as Methodists to the prospect of free will in that God predestined nothing and all who chose to confess their sins could be saved. These were the Free-Will Baptists. Other Baptists were so set in their belief that God had preordained everything at the beginning of time that they organized as Primitive Baptists. The Primitive Baptists rejected missions, temperance societies, Sunday schools, salaried clergy and minister titles plus any kind of organizational structure beyond the local congregation.

Baptist preachers had jobs outside of their ministry because many early Baptist churches paid preachers either nothing or too little to meet their living expenses. Their dual-vocations meant that Baptist ministers were like their congregations as far as social standing. The absolute independence of each early Baptist church reflected the independence typical of the Alabama frontier settlers. Baptist churches might establish loose ties through regional associations or even a state convention, but these associations exercised no authority over individual churches and even delegates elected from churches to attend meetings could act for no one except themselves.

The first Baptist church organized in the Montgomery area was in the forks of the river. The next was Antioch at Mt. Meigs. The Antioch Baptist Church was founded in 1818 and is the first Baptist church actually in Montgomery County. Originally, Antioch was a rural white church, but from 1849 until the Civil War, it was a biracial church. Antioch Baptist Church was founded by James McLemore, who also founded the Elam and Bethel Baptist churches in Montgomery County. The McLemore name is well known in East Montgomery to this day and, most long-time residents are aware of the old McLemore plantation land. Antioch's first church building was located on what is now the Atlanta Highway east of Montgomery on land donated by a Mr. Billy Wright. Along with the churches of Old Elam, Bethel, and Rehoboth, it formed a coalition which in 1819 became the Alabama Baptist Association.

Antioch's associate preacher was an African-American slave named Caesar Blackwell who preached to a mixed (black and white, slave and free) congregation. Blackwell was a gifted preacher who could draw a mixed crowd and was allowed to keep the income he generated from his preaching. Blackwell became so popular and famous that many other white churches invited him to come preach. Besides James McLemore, Fielding Bradshaw was also a pastor of Antioch in its early days. By 1839 it had 132 members. Although the church was a white rural church, in 1849 it accepted around 40 black members through baptism, and 16 more in 1850. Around that time, a white pastor (A. T. M. Handy) was in charge and he ordained seven colored deacons in 1854. Until the Civil War the church was biracial but, after the war the white members left, leaving a totally black congregation. The first black pastor was ordained around 1882. Today Antioch remains a black church. The old church was torn down and a new church built nearby, still in Mt. Meigs. A neglected cemetery is all that remains from the old church.

A HOT SUMMER DAY

The day is sultry  
All hazy and hot,  
Do I want to go out?  
Oh, I definitely think not!

But there's grass to be cut  
And the shrubs need a trimming,  
But I'd rather be at the lake  
Cooling off with a swimming!

Then I'd sit on the pier  
With some cold lemonade,  
And watch the sun sinking low  
As the day starts to fade.

For tomorrow will come  
And the work will be there,  
So for now I'll just dream  
Without ever a care.

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Welcome Phyllis Tillery, new WNA Treasurer!

Phyllis responded to our call for a new treasurer when Melissa Martin moved away last month. And she is doing a great job. Moving here in 2006, she and her husband were drawn to the parks, sidewalks, and well-kept homes and yards. She says, "I accepted the position of treasurer because I was able to use my accounting experience to fill a need at the association. Thank you, Phyllis.



Phyllis Tillery

Come to the Meeting August 13th at 6:30 pm at the Museum of Fine Arts. Learn about Volunteers in Police Service. This may be just the opportunity you have been looking for.



An Open Email from WNA President, Jimmy Gunn to City Council President Charles Jinright

Charlie: Good to have talk to you. As discussed, the WNA appreciates your contribution of \$1000 toward the purchase of the Arlene Gomez Memorial Bench to be put in Woodmere Park (East). I would ask that you look into the Parks and Recreation to supply a nice trash container in the area around the new bench. There is a park bench in place where the new bench will be located that was damaged when a tree fell on it a few years back. We would ask that Parks and Recreation remove the old bench so Travis Moody, the Boy Scout doing the Eagle Scout project, can put in the new bench. As always, we appreciate everything that you and the city of Montgomery do to assist our neighborhood and District 9. This project will only improve the appearance of our beautiful park and provide comfort to those that pass by.

Regards, Jimmy Gunn

Editor's Note: The city has agreed to remove the old bench and install a nice trash container. The new bench is expected to be in place before November.



Lt. General Ron Sams, a Woodmere neighbor and Montgomery's Director of Investigations, received the Chairman's Award from Chairman Leslie Sanders at the 2015 Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting.

## WNA Quarterly Meeting, Thursday, May 14, 2015 Museum Of Fine Arts Auditorium

Guest Speaker 1: **Reed Ingram, State House Representative/Former County Commissioner.**

Representative Ingram quoted the governor as saying we have a serious shortfall in funding. We have two budgets and it's going to be total chaos to get the governor, Republicans and Democrats together. The governor indicated that he did not support the furlough of state employees.

The floor was opened for questions, his answers included the following:

- I do not support gambling but agree with the contract with the Indians, The state would receive 15% of the revenue. There would be no more gambling allowed in the state. Supporting Indians would open a line of communication with them.
- If the lottery and gambling bills don't pass we won't be affected until October 1.
- One example of lost revenue is that approximately 65% of gas stations and hotels are owned by new Americans, and they are hiring people and paying them in cash. Examples are contractors, lawn service, and repairmen.
- Morally and philosophically, I am against the lottery and gambling, but people are going to purchase lottery tickets every week. It's the scratch offs that's the problem.
- I agree with taking sales tax off of food, but it has to be replaced with something because of the present situation. For that reason, I don't see it coming back up.
- Nobody likes taxes but if you want service, you must pay taxes. I am trying to get a cap on home owner property tax exemptions. Some millionaires over 65 pay no tax.
- We have to get taxes on internet spending coming to the state. Feel free to call or email me if you have a suggestion on how to do it. I will respond.

Gerry Shook invited the audience to volunteer with the Police Department by donating four hours per week to the city. Anyone of retirement age can participate. Gerry will tell us more about volunteering with the Police Department at our next meeting.

**GUEST SPEAKER 2: Police Chief Finley, Montgomery Police Department**

His answers to questions included the following:

- He requested more volunteers for Volunteers in Police Service.
- One thing we have done is split the city into two zones. It's all about responsibility. We make sure we provide service, and constantly communicate and become engaged. Tell us what you think we need to do differently.
- We have a station at Montgomery Mall and a sub-station near Baptist Hospital. Crime Stoppers is located there. They have been our lifeline. We will work with the Montgomery Public Schools to engage with the students.
- Our officers are responsible for interacting with members of the community for 15-30 minutes a day. It's about taking out time, smiling, communicating, and giving respect. It's not just one time; we will constantly visit communities. We go to PTA meetings and engage the community. We will start going to colleges as well.
- We recruit National Guard and other service members to work for the police.
- If you see parked cars that never move, call 311. The property division will tag the auto. Someone will act upon this situation within 48 hours.



# 2015 Membership Form

Woodmere Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 231473  
Montgomery, Alabama 36123  
www.woodmeremontgomery.com  
info@woodmeremontgomery.com

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK/CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK/CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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 areas of interest:

- Membership
- Special Events
- Crime Watch
- Newsletter
- Newsletter Distribution
- Block Captain
- Other skills/interests \_\_\_\_\_

Please note:

We send out neighborhood notices via email. If you provide your email address, you will receive these notices. We also send out emails about lost and found pets. If you have any questions or concerns, please send us an email.

Please send your \$25 check payable to:  
Woodmere Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 231473  
Montgomery, Alabama 36123



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