



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

February 2014

Officers

Jimmy Gunn
President
Woodmere Dr.
277-7667

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

Wil Glasgow
2nd Vice President
Green Way Dr.

Mable Pryor
Secretary
Arbor Glen Dr.
260-2941

Melissa Martin
Treasurer
Queen Elizabeth Ct.
324-4540

Woodmere Neighborhood Association
PO Box 231473
Montgomery, Alabama 36123

www.woodmeremontgomery.com

info@woodmeremontgomery.com

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Woodmere News

President's Commentary

Jimmy Gunn



Do you think the Woodmere neighborhood is a great place to live in Montgomery? What exactly makes a great neighborhood? While a lot of obvious things from nice level sidewalks to walking trails, parks, etc. make a neighborhood appealing to people, there are a lot of intangibles that make for a great community. What are some of these intangibles? Neighbors who have each other's backs, who notice when a gate is left open and contact you to let you know. Neighbors who pick up your mail and newspapers when you go on vacation. Neighbors who lend you their ladder, power washer, or leaf blower for those special projects around the house. Neighbors who deliver meals when you're recovering from an illness or who watch your kids when you're in the middle of a crisis. How can Woodmere become one of these great neighborhoods? Is it pure magic or is it something that all of us create? If a great neighborhood is something you're looking for and you feel that Woodmere falls short, then maybe its time for you to step up to the plate. It's not that hard to improve your neighborhood. First of all, get to know the neighbors next door to you and the others on the block. You might be surprised that you could have a lot in common with them. Organize a block party. Mow your own lawn. It's good exercise and a good way to strike up a conversation. If you have a front porch, sit on it. If you have a sidewalk, walk on it. Join the WNA for the 2014 year. Volunteer to serve as an officer or on a committee of the WNA. You be the one to make Woodmere a GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD.

Neighborhood Association Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2014
6:30 p.m.
Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium
Joint Meeting with the
Old Bellwood Homeowners Assn.

Come Out and Support your Neighborhood

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

Website:
www.woodmeremontgomery.com.

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This issue was edited by Sam Whatley

City Contacts

Mayor's Office
241-2000

City Council
241-2097

Animal Control
241-2970

Police
241-2651

Fire
241-2400

Ordinance Violations
311

For all emergencies, call 911.

Financial Report

Melissa Martin, Treasurer

	October	November	December	Year to Date	Budget
Beginning Balance	3,579.56	3,109.56	1607.50	1542.59	
Income					
Membership Dues, Plus Online Dues	0.00	547.94	375.00	4822.94	3750.00
Advertisements	0.00	60.00	0.00	360.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	1200.00	0.00	1650.00	0.00
Stratford Place Signs	0.00	0.00	0.00	370.00	0.00
Total Income	0.00	1807.94	375.00	7202.94	3750.00
Expenses					
Newsletter	0.00	374.00	0.00	1496.00	1500.00
Day in the Park	470.00	0.00	0.00	620.00	750.00
Administrative Expenses	0.00	36.00	0.00	1,050.62	805.00
Meeting Room	0.00	50.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Entrance Signs	0.00	2850.00	0.00	2877.48	0.0
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	177.93	75.00
Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.00	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	88.00	88.00	70.00
Stratford Place Signs	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
Total Expenses	0.00	1445.88	88.00	2,833.03	3,750.00
Ending Balance	3886.56	3717.56	3729.56	3,729.56	



At the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Glass is Back! From the Permanent Collection. January 4th - March 9th

Works by Sonja Blodahl, Dale Chiluly, Cam Langley and Stephen Rolfe Powell, among others are in the Weil Atrium.



Showing at ASF

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents two plays in February based on Southern novels. **The Great Gatsby** (Jan. 31-Feb.16) will portray F. Scott Fitzgerald’s tragic love story from the Jazz Age with all its glamour and decadence. William Faulkner’s **Twenty Seven** (Feb. 14-Mar. 2) inspires a play set amid the great flood of 1927 when the Mississippi River overflowed the levees and destroyed everything. A prisoner and a pregnant woman are trapped in a small boat facing unbelievable dangers. Contact the box office and see for yourself.



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24 Hr 256-825-2022

Come to the WNA General Meeting on Thursday, February 13th at 6:30 pm to meet our Bellwood neighbors.

Bellwood Neighborhood, first developed in 1975, is bordered by Vaughn Road, Bell Road, Woodmere Neighborhood, and Beauvoir Neighborhood. Their association has about 100 families. They meet quarterly (January, April, July, October) on the 4th Thursday of these months. Their dues are \$30 a year per family. In a neighborhood watch meeting in 2008, many Bellwood residents voiced a need for a new homeowners’ association. The Old Bellwood Homeowners’ Association was formed. Their goal is to promote neighborhood unity, and to preserve and protect their neighborhood through the promotion of safety and beautification. They sound like us.

Their officers are:
Carolyn Gafford, President
Bill Brooks, Vice President
Miriam Perry, Secretary
Michelle Carothers, Treasurer
Nettie Jennings, Block Captain Coordinator

Michelle Carothers recently won this year’s Mayor’s Neighborhood Leadership Award.



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Genealogy or Chasing Our Tales, Part V by Jessie Donaldson

In the previous edition of this article, our travelers have arrived at Fort Mitchell in Alabama and the date is 1819. As previously mentioned, Fort Mitchell was located on the west side of the Chattahoochee River almost directly across the river from present day Fort Benning, Georgia and the river had to be crossed with the aide of the Indians. Most of the livestock swam across the river and wagons were floated across. At this time, a bridge to cross the river did not exist. Fort Mitchell was a hastily erected fort built by General John Floyd prior to his attack on the Creek Indian village of Autossee during the First Creek War (Autossee was located near present day Shorter, Alabama). After our travelers left Fort Mitchell behind, the security of the forts would disappear until the travelers reached Fort Bainbridge, Alabama on the Old Federal Road.

Once they left Fort Mitchell, travelers were in the Creek Indian Nation lands. After the First Creek War, most of East Alabama from the piedmont to the wiregrass was still Creek land. Whites were not allowed to settle in East Alabama and could not own land in the Creek Nation.

About three miles west of Fort Mitchell in Russell County is the junction of the Big and Little Uchee Creeks and a small "tavern" was in operation there. One traveler left us with an account of a night spent at this hostel stating he stayed in a log cabin without windows and was fed by a host and several unshaven and unwashed laborers. He slept in a one-room building with three beds and a clay floor. The host had killed a panther a few days before within 20 yards of the house and the skin was stretched on the front porch for display. This tavern was run by a man named Crabtree from Philadelphia and his half-breed partner.

Fifteen miles west of the Chattahoochee was Sand Fort, an abandoned earthworks stockade erected by General Floyd in 1814 and, later the site of Royston's Inn from 1825 to 1836. Royston's Inn would serve as a rendezvous spot and defensive position in the Second Creek War during 1836. In Russell County, the road most often followed sandy ridges. When vegetation was cleared from this soil, the next large rain would result in erosion on the slopes and, when iron-banded wagon wheels traveled across this land, gullies resulted everywhere leading to difficult traveling.

About fifteen more miles west of Sand Fort was Fort Bainbridge, another of General Floyd's stockades. Fort Bainbridge was located on the present day Macon-Russell County line near the intersection of the Old Federal Road and the lesser traveled Three-Notch Road to Pensacola, Florida. After the First Creek War of 1813-1814, a tavern was operated here by a Captain Kendall Lewis, a native of Maryland. Lewis served as a captain during the War of 1812 and he fought in the First Seminole War. He was the Assistant Commissary of Purchases at Fort Mitchell in 1818. Lewis was married to the daughter of his silent partner, a Creek known as Big Warrior and Lewis claimed to be an adopted Creek. Big Warrior's Creek name was Tustanagee Thlucco and he was born at the Creek town of Tuckabatchee located on the Tallapoosa River just south of present Tallassee, Alabama. The tavern at Fort Bainbridge was said to be the best found in the Creek country. In later years this tavern was operated by a Mr. and Mrs. Harris.

Stations or taverns were located on the Old Federal Road about 15 or 20 miles apart as this was considered to be about the distance a party might travel in a day by foot. In 1806, the U. S. Postal Department contracted with Col. Joseph Wheaton to carry the mail from Washington to New Orleans in 14 days and to cut the path for the postal road, the Old Federal Road, from Milledgeville, Georgia to Fort Stoddert, Alabama. As part of this contract,

road, the Old Federal Road, from Milledgeville, Georgia to Fort Stoddert, Alabama. As part of this contract, Wheaton was to receive a cash advance of \$2700 of which \$2000 was for carrying the mails and \$700 was for cutting the road, building any necessary bridges and causeways, and clearing brush to a width of four feet wide (later widened for wagons). Trees that had fallen across the path had to be cut away, swampy areas were to be covered with a causeway of logs and logs were to be laid across the creeks. Wheaton was so optimistic he calculated the mail could be delivered in 13 days and 7 hours. The Postal Department was so optimistic they gave him three whole months to accomplish the task. Stations were to be established at locations where horses could be kept and postal riders housed.

At the conclusion of the three month contract, the Postal Department concluded that none of the swamps had been causewayed and the road had only been cleared as far as Tensaw. Deductions of the \$700 advance were made in the amount of \$65 for the 39 miles not cleared by Wheaton and \$57.62 for the causeways and bridges not made which meant there was a balance due from Wheaton to the Postal Department of \$122.62.

Three miles west of Fort Bainbridge was a post office and tavern known as Creek Stand. Five miles west of Creek Stand were a tavern and, later a stage stop known as Warrior Stand. This was the home of Big Warrior. At Warrior Stand, the food was said to be not abundant nor were the lodgings pleasant. The beds were infested with fleas and bedbugs, all at enormous prices. The Creeks had learned, from the whites, to charge exorbitant prices for lodging, food and supplies since these things could not be obtained elsewhere.

As the road traveled west, the soil acquired more of a clay consistency resulting in a slippery muddy mess with every rain and every subsequent wagon. Swamps and streams to be crossed became more frequent. About 45 miles west of Fort Bainbridge near the mile-wide Persimmon Swamp at a place called Fort Hull was the land of the Cornell family, a large mixed-blood family of good standing. A station near the Cornell home was run by a man named McGirt, a white man who lived with a Creek wife. The station was said to be filthy and the food not fit for consumption.

A few miles west of Persimmon Swamp, the road crossed Calabee Swamp, another mile-wide swamp. Beyond Calabee Swamp would the road come to the Polecat Springs Indian Agency and a station run by a Capt. William Walker, the husband of one of Big Warrior's daughters. This was near Shorter, Alabama and, at that time, Shorter was an important place because it stood at the junction of the Old Federal Road, a north-west road to Fort Jackson (Toulouse) and a north road to Tuckabatchee.

Next would be Old Milly's, the famous Lucas Tavern, and Line Creek as our travelers near the western edge of the Creek Nation but we will save those stops for next time we start Chasing Our Tales.



This is the Eliza Lucas Tavern in Waugh as it looked in the early 1900's. You can visit the restored tavern today at Old Town Alabama, downtown. It was a tavern from 1818 to 1840, then a home until 1960. Moved to Montgomery in 1978, it may be the oldest building in Alabama. The Marquis de Lafayette slept here in 1821.

SPRING IN FEBRUARY

The days are gloomy
And the rain brings a chill,
Warm sunny days
Seem far away still.

We're not looking forward
To this month of dreary days,
But if we stop and imagine
We can feel the sun's warm rays.

Consider the little Pansies
Still bright in the harsh cold air,
If you look at them really close
A smile they seem to wear.

For they know the days are coming
When the sun will warm the ground,
And all the spring time flowers
Around us will abound.

So cheer up and let's be happy
After all it's the month of love,
Have a smile for everybody
And you'll see the sun above!

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walks 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 and Gerry Shook are members of the WNA who have volunteered a combined total of 17 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 240-4580 for information. MPD needs your help.

Woodmere Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting

November 7, 2013

The following guests were present: City Council Chairman Charles Jinright,; Captain A. Wheeler, Commander of East Precinct, Montgomery Police Department; Mac McCleod, Director of Business and Commercial Development, City of Montgomery.

Captain Wheeler encouraged residents to call him at 241-2660 (the non-emergency number) if they see something wrong. Call 911 for emergencies. He said he would request his officers to watch for cars parked in Woodmere Park at night. He stated that we can get "No Solicitation" signs to go on our doors or windows. Solicitors must have a permit and obey hours of solicitation, 4-7 pm Monday - Friday. Citizens should request to see permits and report those who do not have them. (Editor's note: *No Solicitation stickers will be available at the Feb. meeting.*)

Councilman Jinright said that the new mayor of Mobile was impressed with the way we ran our city. He also stated that he would check on the traffic light at the corner of Woodmere Blvd. and Eastern Blvd. It changes very quickly. No more than 2 or 3 cars can get through the light.

Mr. Mac McCleod stated that the city has purchased buildings to rehabilitate and develop on Fairview Ave. and the Southern Bypass. He said he did not know when the city would start combining the parks into a park trail.

In the business meeting, the treasurer, Melissa Martin reported a balance of \$3,729.00. The officers that are serving were re-elected by acclamation. There were no other nominations. The president, Jimmy Gunn, invited all Woodmere residents to attend the Board of Directors meetings on the next Thursday at 6 pm at the Memorial Presbyterian Church on Bell Road.

Sam Whatley, Chairman of the Stratford Place Infrastructure Improvement Committee, reported that we have received bids for paving the alley ways in Stratford Place. These bids ran from \$225,000 to \$255,000. The state passed a law in 2011 that would allow citizens to make major improvements and then turn those improvements over to the city to maintain. (Editor's note: *It was also reported that the money for this project could be borrowed and repaid with taxes over a 10 year period. Further research revealed that this was not so. Money would have to be paid up front and no city or county taxes would be used or collected for this purpose. Consequently, this new law is no longer being considered.*)

Wil Glasgow, Chairman of the Parks Committee, stated that the Night in the Park event was successful. About 45 people came out to listen to the band and refreshments were served.

Two new Woodmere/Bellwood entrance signs will be installed on Winesap and Sagewood, where the two neighborhoods join. The cost will be \$2800. Councilman Jinright said the city would pay \$1200 of that. The city will make the transaction and will inspect the project. Midstate Advertising and Signs will install the signs.

Entrance signs for Stratford Place are being worked on. The bricks have been power washed and the wrought iron fencing has been painted. We are waiting to obtain the appropriate material for the signs themselves.

A daily crime report handout was distributed. Jimmy Gunn stated that Carmichael Parkway should be resurfaced soon. Residents pointed out a need to stop cars from parking on both sides of the street on Woodmere Loop. Jimmy Gunn said he would contact the city regarding manholes that need to be lowered on that street.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mable Pryor, Secretary



Visit us online at
www.woodmeremontgomery.com



2014 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: _____