



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

January 2013

Officers

Jimmy Gunn
President
Woodmere Dr.
277-7667

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

Chris Brodie
2nd Vice President
Salisbury Pl.
277-5986

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

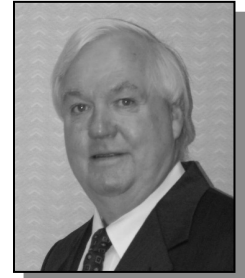
info@woodmeremontgomery.com

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Woodmere News

President's Commentary

Jimmy Gunn



Dear WNA Neighbors:

The Woodmere subdivision contains 793 houses, more than many small towns. We are like a small town within the city of Montgomery. The Woodmere Neighborhood Association (WNA) Board might be compared to the Mayor/City Council form of small town government. Like any small town, Woodmere has its own unique problems and issues that have to be addressed and resolved. The WNA Board serves this purpose, usually without anyone else being aware of these actions.

In 2012, we had 134 households join the WNA, about 17 % of our total residents. We can do better than that. We have to do better than that if we expect to keep Woodmere the premier place to live in Montgomery. I am asking each household to join the WNA for the 2013 year. I also want each of you to volunteer to get involved with our association so that we can all come together and work to accomplish our goals and projects for the Woodmere community.

Why join the WNA? First of all, it lets the WNA Board of Directors know that you support the service and efforts of the board. The board serves at no pay and spends a lot of time keeping Woodmere beautiful and safe for all residents. The \$25.00 annual membership fee pays for our WNA Quarterly Meetings held at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, and the printing of the quarterly Woodmere News delivered to your door. It also funds annual events such as the Day in the Park and the Neighborhood Yard Sale, plus the maintenance of our Website and Facebook accounts, and projects like the new entrance signs and flagpoles.

Why volunteer your services to the WNA? The main reason for me is that it just feels good and it is the right thing to do. There is satisfaction and pride that comes from helping others. Volunteering can strengthen the community. It allows you to network and make new contacts and friends.

Continued on page 3, see Membership Drive

Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, January 24, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium

Special Organizational Meeting

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.

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
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	2216.76	1991.59	1567.59	2336.46	
Income					
Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	2724.00	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	25.00	0.00
Total Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	2809.00	3750.00
Expenses					
Newsletter	0.00	374.00	0.00	1065.90	1500.00
Day in the Park	225.17	0.00	0.00	675.17	750.00
Administrative Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	102.07	805.00
Meeting Room	0.00	50.00	25.00	200.00	200.00
Entrance Signs	0.00	0.00	0.00	1465.23	0.0
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.50	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	86.00	70.00
Total Expenses	225.17	424.00	25.00	3602.87	3750.00
Ending Balance	1991.59	1567.59	1542.59	1542.59	



New exhibitions are on display at the **Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts** Jan. 17th into March. The exhibitions are: In Company with Angels: Seven Rediscovered Tiffany Windows; Thornton Dial: Thoughts on Paper; Cam Langley: Glass; and William Dawson.

Membership Drive *continued from page 1*

by Jimmy Gunn, President

By attending the quarterly meetings, social events or being a block captain, you will meet your neighbors who you see coming and going but never have a chance to talk to. You will also be able to share your ideas and suggestions that will have an impact on your neighborhood.

You will find a 2013 WNA Membership Form at the back of this newsletter. Please fill it out and return with a check today. Our next WNA General Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 6:30pm at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium. We will devote our entire business meeting to discussing future projects and goals for Woodmere. Please come and participate. We need you as a part of the Woodmere Neighborhood Association. We will be reaching out to everyone over the next several months soliciting your membership and participation in the WNA. Please join us and make a difference for yourself and Woodmere. You will not regret it.

The Old Love Letter

**While cleaning out a trunk in the attic
Of a house that I was buying,
I was feeling very tired
For my day had been so trying.**

**Amid the very old things
Some ragged and even torn,
I found an old love letter
Faded and very worn.**

**Since I had nothing else to do
And was feeling sentimental,
I decided to open and read it
Taking care to be so gentle.**

**The words were neatly written
And I could tell right from the start,
That they were carefully chosen
And came straight from the heart.**



**They spoke of love so tender
That had lasted through the years,
Of a devotion so clearly given
And I was brought to tears.**

**Then I smiled as I thought about them
And the way they must have cared,
The times they had together....
Of the love they both had shared.**

**Then I folded up the letter
Feeling like I'd found a treasure,
As I left the house that day
With a peace no one can measure.**

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Cell: (334) 301-4283



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Facebook

Just search for Woodmere
Neighborhood Association!

At our Theatre

Macbeth will be at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Jan. 25 – Feb. 9th. Witness ambition unbridled. The shadow of three witches dominates this supernatural tale of ambition's twisted path. Set for higher glory, star couple Macbeth and his lady become trapped in a cycle of murder, deceit and treachery. Experience a thrilling new staging of this ultimate quest for power. This play is recommended for ages 13+. For ticket information call 1-800-841-4273 or visit www.asf.net or go in person to the box office at 1 Festival Drive in Blount Cultural Park.



The Hobby of Genealogy or Chasing Our Tales

by Jessie Donaldson

So you wonder if there is royalty in your family's bloodline, huh? Do you have an old family story you have always heard about how your family is related to Andrew Jackson or maybe Daniel Boone? Do you wonder where your ancestors came from and who they were? You say you would like to find out? Well, then, welcome to the hobby of genealogy.

This can be one of the most frustrating and confusing hobbies you could possibly decide to start. You can spend months and months, even years and not seem to get anywhere with it. And then comes a little tidbit of information that leads to another and suddenly you discover a flood of new facts and information. Instantly this new hobby becomes very rewarding and your favorite thing to do in your spare time. And then is when it hooks you. A word of warning – pursuing genealogy can and will become addictive and incurable if you find success in your research. The more facts and knowledge you acquire, the greater the thirst becomes for even more.

Deciding to pursue your family's history may be brought on by any of several motivations including wanting to find your family's place in the larger picture of history or maybe you have a sense of wanting to preserve your knowledge of the past for future generations or perhaps you just want a feeling of self-satisfaction in accurate storytelling. Regardless, if you don't preserve your family's history, who will? Every generation that passes makes it more difficult to accurately record your history. Normally, people that pick up the hobby of genealogy are trying to trace the ancestry of their own family and/or that of their spouses. Some people even take this hobby to the next level and become professional genealogists where they carry out research for others for a fee. Whether it is pursued as a hobby or professionally, genealogy leads to an understanding of where and when people lived as well as their lifestyles, careers and motivations – why they did what they did and why they moved to certain areas. These can lead to knowledge of old laws, boundaries, religious conditions and migration trends.

Genealogy research can be a complex process relying on many different sources. Historical records such as census reports, vital statistics, church records, civil records, military records and others play an important role. Family history, such as old family Bibles or diaries can be a good source of birth, death and marriage records. Sometimes family stories or other family history will lead the amateur genealogist to pursue research along certain lines. Such research in pursuit of these storylines must be backed by reliable evidence and documentation. Many times, one fact established will lead to another. *Continued page 7, see Genealogy*

WOODMERE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2012
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM
6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jimmy Gunn.

City Council President Charles Jinright stated that he had met with the Woodmere Neighborhood Association's board of directors and had received concerns regarding the neighborhood. Copies of these concerns were distributed.

Guest Speaker Earl Martin, a commercial real estate broker, spoke of the evolution of the Stratford Square Shopping Center. A visual of this location was distributed. Change is increasing because of technology and retail. The following businesses have closed or relocated: Goody's, Up the Creek, Shogun's, Ruby Tuesday, O'Charley's, Sports Authority, and Brunswick Bowling Center. These businesses moved due to problems with parking. Panera Bread moved to Vaughn Road because of parking and traffic. Goody's returned to the Promenade Shopping Center. Baumhower's moved across the street for better business. Shogun closed due to competition and Saigon Deli moved. It was surrounded by Korean food. Stratford Square has leased all but 1800 square feet. About 45,000 - 60,000 automobiles travel daily on the Eastern Boulevard.

Charles Jinright said that the state is going to redo the bridge at the interstate, and new cameras have been placed at Carmichael and Eastern Boulevard to observe traffic light congestion.

Business meeting:

Treasurer's report: Balance on hand \$2216.76

(Q) What's the highest neighborhood membership in Montgomery? About 300.

(Q) Why was a white truck with yellow lights driving through the park? Park rangers and police patrol the parks.

If you have any issues with animals, call animal control.

Reflections at Woodmere has closed due to non-payment of business license and taxes. We will monitor that location to make sure another lounge does not return. The Montgomery Athletic Club will be converted into an indoor shooting range.

Wil Glasgow is working with the Parks and Recreation Department to re-surface the walking paths. They are considering using gravel instead of asphalt. The approximate cost is \$65,000. Woodmere Park pond needs aerating and cleaning up.

Debi Whatley, Pam Rhodes, and Jimmy Gunn met with Deputy Mayor Jeff Downes regarding making repairs to the alleyways between the townhouses and garden homes. This can be done through a new program called the Neighborhood Infrastructure Incentive Plan. With 80% approval from the property owners, the city can have the work done and pay for it over several years through property taxes. There will be a meeting in the future of property owners affected by this.

Election of officers: The current officers were retained for the next term through acclamation. Everyone was invited to give ideas that could improve our neighborhood. The meeting was adjourned.

Mable Pryor, Secretary

Visit us online at www.woodmeremontgomery.com

City Ordinance Corner

by Chris Brodie, 2nd Vice-President

This Month: Dogs

Chris Brodie is an Assistant Attorney General with the Alabama Medicaid Agency



Many of us in the Woodmere neighborhood have pets that we love. As responsible pet owners it is important to be aware of the laws and regulations that apply to pet ownership. For example, did you know Montgomery has a “leash” law? The ordinance, Section 4.13 Dogs Running at Large, provides that a dog must be on a leash not more than ten feet in length, while walking, secured by a collar or harness with swivel connections in such a manner to effectively prevent the escape of the dog.

Though owning pets can be wonderful for the owners, there are times when it is not as pleasant for neighbors. Consider Montgomery Code of Ordinance Section 4.3 Public Nuisance Animals if you have a pet or are bothered by pets around you.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to exercise the necessary care and control to prevent an animal in their possession or care from becoming a public nuisance animal. An animal is a public nuisance animal if the animal: (1) Habitually makes disturbing noises including, but not limited to barking, yelping, whining, or other utterances causing unreasonable annoyance or discomfort to others in close proximity to the premises where the animal is kept; (2) Creates unsanitary conditions or offensive and objectionable odors in enclosures or surroundings and, thereby, creates unreasonable annoyance or discomfort to persons in close proximity to where the animal is kept; (3) Trespasses on private property in such a manner as to create unsanitary conditions; or (4) Damages property belonging to anyone other than its owner, including damage to flowers, gardens and shrubs.

If you have an issue with a public nuisance animal, there are steps that you can take to rectify the situation if addressing the owner directly does not work. A complaint may be made by calling 311 (the city’s non-emergency hotline) or the Montgomery Animal Control and officers will notify the owner. Please note that violations can eventually lead to monetary fines if not addressed and resolved.

We hope that all neighbors can work together with our pets to keep a peaceful and pleasant neighborhood for everyone. A full copy of this code is found at: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx.clientId=11272>.

**To submit an article, letter to the editor, poem or suggestion,
email it to info@woodmeremontgomery.com.**

Streets and Sidewalks

By Paul Wise, WNA Streets and Sidewalks Chairman

The residents who live in Woodmere know that the soil expands and contracts with the weather. If you see a street or sidewalk in serious need of repair you can call 311 to report the problem directly to the city or contact me at 334-244-0079 or email paulwise@charter.net. I will make a concerted effort to be sure the city is aware of the need. Together we are striving to make sure Woodmere remains “the best place to live.”



The Hobby of Genealogy *continued*

by Jessie Donaldson, 1st Vice-President

If you can locate a fellow researcher pursuing the same family name, progress and collaboration will be greatly enhanced. Sometimes if you can locate one person pursuing the same family name, that person may know one or two or more people engaged in same pursuit. You never know until you try.

The Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has a Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is the most extensive genealogical record-gathering program in the world and it was established to assist in tracing family lineages no matter what the religious belief might be. Access to some of this information can be gained through contacting the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery maintains extensive research material on Alabama family lineages. Most of the states have similar research material available. Public records within each county are good sources of information. U.S. census reports are available online dating back to the first census of 1790. Regardless of the source, evaluate all sources with a critical eye. Variations in dates and spellings can and do occur. Due to the passage of time, the potential for copying and compiling errors is great. Even the quality of census data has generated reliability issues. One source may have copied the data from another source. Each time the data is copied, the potential for errors is increased.

Various software programs are available that assist in collecting, storing and organizing genealogy data. Some of these software programs are excellent and, in many cases, can assist in the research needed. Some programs have features that assist in searching the internet for data. There are various subscription genealogy research websites to be found on the web. The Alabama Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization in Birmingham made up of amateur and professional genealogists and they maintain a collection of genealogical records for all 67 counties at Samford University in Birmingham. The Montgomery Genealogical Society is a similar organization made up of the same like-minded individuals dedicated to genealogical research and they meet bimonthly here in Montgomery.

If you have ever had an interest in finding out where your family came from and what is in your family's history, I encourage you to start looking into this wonderful hobby. In the next WNA newsletter, we will discuss more details of the hobby of genealogy and the pitfalls plus rewards as you sift through your family history and continue in Chasing Our Tales.

2013 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: _____