



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter 2006

Officers

Sam Whatley
President
Salisbury Pl
396-7840

Gerry Shook
1st Vice President
Salisbury Pl
277-7138

Melissa Martin
2nd Vice President
Queen Elizabeth Ct
324-4540

Peggy Agent
Secretary
Carmichael Rd
270-3229

Charles Collins
Treasurer
Queen Elizabeth Ct
244-9419

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

Woodmere News

President's Commentary

With the New Year comes new promise and the chance for a fresh start. So it is with our neighborhood association. New officers were elected at the November WNA meeting. Two of us, Melissa Martin and I, are newcomers to the executive council, but we are looking forward to the challenge.

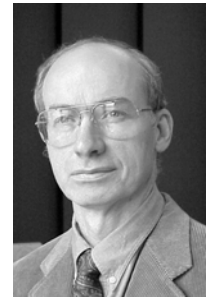
We are learning from experienced leaders like Gerry Shook, Charles Collins, and Peggy Agent. We are also listening to others who have led this organization in the past to keep us in tune with the needs of all our residents. We need your input too, both on the street and at the Feb. 2nd meeting.

As you can see our quarterly newsletter is back on track and will keep you up to date throughout the year. Expect an enthusiastic membership drive this spring as we regain many of our former

members and welcome new ones. We will produce another outstanding Woodmere Directory early this summer and will be asking you to help us make it happen.

Whether you are currently a WNA member or not, you will want to be at the next meeting, Thursday, Feb. 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium. City Council President Charles Jinright and two members of the Montgomery Police Dept. will be there to share important information. Please come.

As we say on our website (www.woodmeremontgomery.com) Woodmere: Beautiful Parks, Home to the Arts. This is a great place to live. You can help us keep it that way.



Sam Whatley
President

Neighborhood Association Meeting
Thursday, February 2, 2006
6:30 p.m.
Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium

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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We need your input!

To submit an article, a letter to the editor or a suggestion, please contact Melissa Martin at 324-4540 or email at melissajm@gmail.com

Primary Elections: June 6, 2006

By Peggy Agent

In 2005 we did not have any elections. During 2006 we will go to the polls at least twice and possibly three times. On June 6, the Democratic and the Republican Parties will hold their primaries. In the event there is no candidate for an office receiving at least 50% + 1 of the votes cast, there will be a run off of the top two candidates for that office on the third Tuesday of June. Then on November 7th the General Election will be held.

There will be two changes in the elections this year. By a law all states are required to revamp their methods of electing officials so that all votes can be verified if a recount is called. The method Montgomery County has been using leaves no such record; therefore the method will change this year. At the quarterly WNA meeting on February 2, a representative from Judge Reese McKinney's office will be present to demonstrate the new method of voting that will be used in June.

The second change is that the 1F precinct voting place will move from the Museum of Fine Arts to the Memorial Presbyterian Church on Bell Road. For those of you who have been voting at the Museum, you know the horrors of the long lines (especially for presidential elections) and the narrow

walkways across the stage to reach the voting machines. This new location will provide more room for people to get in and will allow more places for the voters to cast their ballots.

On June 6th the major parties hold their primaries. This means they are selecting the candidates to represent their parties in the November election. This is the only time you have to declare party for which you will be voting. The only record of which party you voted, will be the sign in books which are designated Democrat and Republican. You cannot split your ticket, you must vote for one party or the other. In November you can vote for whichever candidate you wish regardless of their party affiliations. Sorry, Independents, but there is no primary for Independents.

Please make your plans to attend the WNA meeting February 2, 2006, to learn the new method of voting for Montgomery County. Start now to make your plans to vote on June 6, 2006.



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VIPS: Volunteers in Police Service

By Gerry Shook, WNA Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

As an extension or enhancement to the efforts of Neighborhood Watch and other safety programs in Montgomery, I want to share with you about VIPS—Volunteers In Police Service. VIPS works in partnership with the Montgomery Police Department (MPD) in a variety of jobs to free up police officers for higher priority duties. I have been with VIPS for approximately one year now and not only find it enjoyable and rewarding, but know that those of us in VIPS as a group provide thousands of hours each year to making our city a safer place.

Types of services performed by VIPS participants include the following:

- Theft Prevention (such as Neighborhood Watch or Home Security)
- Education Programs (such as Stranger Danger or Children's ID)
- School Patrol
- Vacation Home Check
- Administrative Duties (such as directing visitors or reporting case status to victims)
- And many other possibilities

All jobs are non-confrontational and structured to emphasize safety and low risk.

As a VIP participant you can choose from among the many available volunteer job "openings" and time slots available. There is extensive training—both formal and on-the-job—and a distinctive VIPS uniform is provided by the MPD. Volunteers must be at least 50 years of age and be willing to work a minimum of 4 hours per shift per week. I chose to volunteer in the area of Administrative Duties and work at the "front desk" at the main branch of the MPD on Tuesday afternoons. I really enjoy it. There is never a dull moment, and I know that I am providing a valuable service.

For more information about the VIPS program, you can contact me at 277-7138 or the MPD at 241-2572.



WNA General Meeting Review: November 15

The Woodmere Neighborhood Association met on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 for its quarterly meeting at Grace Worship Center. President Charles Rowe called the meeting to order with about 40 people present. Mr. Buddy Hicks from AmSouth Bank was recognized as a visitor.

Jim Sadie gave a report from the Neighborhood Watch Committee. He said that off-duty police officers were available for extra security in the neighborhood at \$20 per hour in 4-hour increments. Much discussion was held regarding the topic of the Neighborhood Watch program.

Treasurer Charles Collins announced that the association had a balance of \$3010.16. Treasurer Collins nominated a slate of officers to be considered for election. They were as follows: Sam Whatley, President; Gerald Shook, 1st Vice President; Melissa Martin, 2nd Vice President and Charles Collins, Treasurer. All were elected. The secretary nominated is moving from the community and the post remains vacant. *Editors Note: Peggy Agent agreed to serve as secretary for another term.*

Sam Whatley introduced Melissa Martin and promised to move forward with a newsletter, new directory, new member campaign, and to follow up on the concerns voiced by the Neighborhood Watch Committee.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

City Contacts

Mayor's Office
241-2000

City Council
241-2097

Animal Control
241-2970

Police
241-2651

Fire
241-2400

For all emergencies,
please call 911.



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Financial Report

By Charles Collins, Treasurer

Woodmere Neighborhood Association
Financial Statement
January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005

Balance January 1, 2005		\$2782.26	
Income:			
Membership Dues	\$550.00		
Crime Watch	65.00		
Additional Contributions	30.00		
Total Income	\$645.00	\$3427.26	
Expenditures:			
Printing	\$118.80		
Post Office Box	68.00		
Meeting Room Rental	\$200.00		
Total Expenditures	\$386.80		
Balance December 31, 2005		\$3040.46	

Please note the minimal activity. To carry a much more active program a greater participation of the neighborhood is required.

MATS: Montgomery Area Transit System

By Charles Collins, Treasurer

When you see the Route 1 MATS Blue Bus transit Woodmere Boulevard and Carmichael Road, do you ever wonder where it came from and where it is going? Perhaps you have.

Route 1 originates at Montgomery and Commerce Streets in downtown and reverses the route on Atlanta Highway at the Super Wal-Mart going back downtown. Among the places served are Highland Avenue, Zelda Road, the Perry Hill Shopping Center, the

Shakespeare Festival, Colonial Promenade, the Cornerstone and Sturbridge shopping areas, Eastchase, AUM and the Baptist East Hospital.

Your cost is \$1.00 with free transfer. However, should you be disabled or a senior citizen, your cost is \$.50. You can also purchase weekly and monthly passes.

For more details in relation to route, fares and schedules, please refer to the MATS System Map and

the individual route schedules. You may also call 262-7356 or go to their website at www.montgomerytransit.com.



Dogs in the Park

By Sam Whatley

We have two beautiful parks in Woodmere, including the Blount Cultural Park and the Woodmere Park, East and West. From our homes we can walk to two lakes, a pond, picnic tables, an area for football or soccer practice, and trails for walking, biking, or skating. But our parks are starting to go to the dogs, so to speak. As someone has said, "We have seen the enemy and he is us."

The problem stems from a few people letting their dogs run free. Large dogs especially crave the exuberance of running in circles and dashing around loose. That idea may work in the country, but

it's against the law in Montgomery and can spell real trouble in Woodmere.

Several neighbors have reported incidents where an unleashed dog challenged or frightened a leashed dog in the park or on the street. In one case the smaller dog scrambled out of its halter and disappeared, causing the owner 24 hours of anxious searching. Two school children were held at bay by an unleashed dog on the sidewalk by Woodmere Park one afternoon. One neighbor puts her dogs in the car and drives several miles away to find a safe place to walk them in a churchyard. We can change this.

The leash law may not seem important to some, but the parks and sidewalks belong to all of us. If we want to have good neighbors, we have to be good neighbors. That includes keeping our dogs on the leash. Let's do that much for each other.



www.woodmeremontgomery.com

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Your source to
information 24 hours a
day and 7 days a week!**



The *Woodmere News* is printed quarterly.

Look for your copy in the following months

April

July

October

How Not to Get Hooked by a 'Phishing' Scam

FTC Consumer Alert

"We suspect an unauthorized transaction on your account. To ensure that your account is not compromised, please click the link below and confirm your identity."

"During our regular verification of accounts, we couldn't verify your information. Please click here to update and verify your information."

Have you received email with a similar message? It's a scam called "phishing" – and it involves Internet fraudsters who send spam or pop-up messages to lure personal information (credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number, passwords, or other sensitive information) from unsuspecting victims.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, phishers send an email or pop-up message that claims to be from a business or organization that you may deal with – for example, an Internet service provider (ISP), bank, online payment service, or even a government agency. The message may ask you to "update," "validate," or "confirm" your account information. Some phishing emails threaten a dire consequence if you don't respond. The messages direct you to a website that looks just like a legitimate organization's site. But it isn't. It's a bogus site whose sole purpose is to trick you into divulging your personal information so the operators can steal your identity and run up bills or commit crimes in your name.

Continued on next page...



Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, February 2, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium

Guest Speakers

Councilman Charles Jinright
Chairman of the Montgomery City Council

Corporal Ferderdar Fannin
MPD Neighborhood Watch Representative

Corporal George Brooks
MDP Volunteers in Police Service Representative

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The FTC suggests these tips to help you avoid getting hooked by a phishing scam:

- If you get an email or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply. And don't click on the link in the message, either. Legitimate companies don't ask for this information via email. If you are concerned about your account, contact the organization mentioned in the email using a telephone number you know to be genuine, or open a new Internet browser session and type in the company's correct Web address yourself. In any case, don't cut and paste the link from the message into your Internet browser – phishers can make links look like they go to one place, but that actually send you to a different site.
- Use anti-virus software and a firewall, and keep them up to date. Some phishing emails contain software that can harm your computer or track your activities on the Internet without your knowledge.
- Don't email personal or financial information. Email is not a secure method of transmitting personal information. If you initiate a transaction and want to provide your personal or financial information through an organization's website, look for indicators that the site is secure, like a lock icon on the browser's status bar or a URL for a website that begins "https:" (the "s" stands for "secure"). Unfortunately, no indicator is foolproof; some phishers have forged security icons.
- Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to check for unauthorized charges. If your statement is late by more than a couple of days, call your credit card company or bank to confirm your billing address and account balances.
- Be cautious about opening any attachment or downloading any files from emails you receive, regardless of who sent them. These files can contain viruses or other software that can weaken your computer's security.
- Forward spam that is phishing for information to spam@uce.gov and to the company, bank, or organization impersonated in the phishing email. Most organizations have information on their websites about where to report problems.
- If you believe you've been scammed, file your complaint at ftc.gov, and then visit the FTC's Identity Theft website at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. Victims of phishing can become victims of identity theft. While you can't entirely control whether you will become a victim of identity theft, you can take some steps to minimize your risk. If an identity thief is opening credit accounts in your name, these new accounts are likely to show up on your credit report. You may catch an incident early if you order a free copy of your credit report periodically from any of the three major credit bureaus. See www.annualcreditreport.com for details on ordering a free annual credit report.

You can learn other ways to avoid email scams and deal with deceptive spam at ftc.gov/spam or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

Volunteers are needed to serve on committees, serve as block captains, distribute newsletters and many more things! If you would like to volunteer, please see contact one of the officers or email info@woodmeremontgomery.com.



2006 Membership Form

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

WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Please list all individuals in the household.

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

STREET

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE (HIS)

WORK PHONE (HERS)

EMAIL (HIS)

EMAIL (HERS)

Date: _____

- New Association Member New Crime Watch 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 \$10 annually. Crime Watch dues are \$5 are only paid once. If you are paying for both, you may send one check.

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

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

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

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