



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

May 2015

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President
Woodmere Dr.
277-7667

Jessie Donaldson
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271-4428

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2nd Vice President
Green Way Dr.

Mable Pryor
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Arbor Glen Dr.
260-2941

Melissa Martin
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Queen Elizabeth Ct.
324-4540

Woodmere Neighborhood Association
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Montgomery, Alabama 36123

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www.facebook.com/woodmeremontgomery

Woodmere News

President's Commentary

Jimmy Gunn



Jimmy Gunn, WNA President



Montgomery Police Chief Ernest Finley

The month of May is our annual WNA Membership Drive for 2015. You will see signs promoting the event throughout the neighborhood. We will be sending out membership invoices to residents in the neighborhood and will also be knocking on doors asking for your support. I would ask that all residents get involved this year with this event to make our membership grow. This will be an ideal time to meet your neighbors and become more involved within the neighborhood. The WNA Board invites all of our residents to join the WNA, whether you own your home or rent. The dues are only \$25.00 per year. Make an investment in the future of Woodmere and the place where you live. The memberships are the cornerstone of our association and vital to our success.

The month of May is a busy month for the WNA. Our next WNA General Meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 6:30PM at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Our guest speaker will be Chief Ernest N. Finley of the Montgomery Police Department. He has only been on the job for four months, but he is making changes at the MPD that will make the department operate more efficiently and benefit all of us. Come and hear him present his progressive ideas on that night. The Woodmere Neighborhood Spring Clean-Up will be on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 8:00-4:00. We will spruce up certain areas in Woodmere on that day. If you can't make the cleanup, we would ask that you work around your home and street on that day to make Woodmere clean and litter free. We will also have the WNA Yard Sale on Saturday, May 23, 2015. Please monitor our website at www.woodmeremontgomery.com for more information on the upcoming events.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the events coming up. The lawn mowers will soon be running full blast, and the grass will be turning green. The newly planted flowers will be blooming. Let's all work together to make Woodmere a wonderful and safe place to live.

Woodmere Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium

Speaker: Montgomery Police Chief Ernest Finley

President, Montgomery City Council

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

Website:
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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

	January	February	March	Year to Date	Budget
Beginning Balance	2,015.53	2,160.53	2,303.50	2,579.50	
Income					
Membership Dues, Plus Online Dues	145.00	520.97	276.00	941.97	3750.00
Advertisements	0.00	60.00	0.00	60.00	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
Total Income	145.00	580.97	276.00	1001.97	3750.00
Expenses					
Newsletter	0.00	385.00	0.00	385.00	1500.00
Day in the Park	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Administrative Expenses	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	805.00
Meeting Room	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	200.00
Entrance Signs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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
Total Expenses	0.00	438.00	0.00	438.00	3,750.00
Ending Balance	2,160.53	2,303.50	2,579.50	2,579.50	



Head of a Young Woman, drawn by Leonardo da Vinci

At the **Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts**

Leonardo da Vinci and the Idea of Beauty
April 15—June 14

Come see an intimate exhibition featuring a manuscript and 29 sheets of master drawings by Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.



Playing at ASF April 10—May 10

The lust for power is all in this epic tale of a once noble monarch driven to madness and ruin by family betrayal, treachery and regret. Experience the fall of a dynasty in one of Shakespeare's greatest works. Contact the box office at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival (334-271-5353).

G. Kim & Associates

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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.

Treasurer Needed

Woodmere Neighborhood Association is looking for someone to fill the position of treasurer. Responsibilities/duties of the treasurer:

- Collect the mail from the post office monthly (at a minimum)
- Process and deposit all membership dues checks
- Maintain a copy of checks deposited
- Pay all bills that have been approved by the board
- Produce monthly financial statement for board meetings
- Produce monthly membership list for board meetings
- Maintain checkbook register
- Maintain membership list
- Maintain a file of membership records
- Maintain and ensure proper financial records are maintained

While this looks like a lot, these items require only about an hour per month. It is important that the individual have access to a way to copy all checks that are deposited and have a basic knowledge of Microsoft Excel. For more information, email info@woodmeremontgomery.com

AFFORDABLE LAWN MAINTENANCE



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Resident of Woodmere

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Reasonable Rates, Dependable Service
and LOTS of Tender Loving Care!!!!*

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Genealogy or Chasing Our Tales, Part X

During our previous visit with Chasing Our Tales, we touched on the mercantile firm of Mitchell and Meigs located in old Augusta town and, later, in Montgomery after the demise of Augusta. In this visit, we will touch on some of the other "business men" from the area of long ago and, maybe, some other colorful or dubious characters that contributed to the local history.

Long ago, business was not conducted in the manner we are accustomed to now. Commerce did not deal in the same commodities that we do now. When the area was under English rule, the English placed a trader near where every Indian village of substantial size might be located. Some of these traders became very wealthy.

One of these traders is a man who is recorded in folklore as Woccocoie Clarke. It is thought that Clarke's Christian name was William but no accurate record exists of this. Woccocoie Clarke made his home at Woccocoie in present day Coosa County somewhere near present day Weogufka. In 1792, Clarke would journey across the Alabama country following the Indian trading paths to Pensacola or Augusta, Georgia or Savannah, Georgia to obtain trading supplies such as ammunition, firearms, pots and pans, trinkets and cloth. With these bartering supplies, he would journey to the Indian villages to trade for skins, snake root, hickory nut oil, filtered fresh honey, beeswax and various medicinal roots and barks. Many times, the value of the items he traded for represented a mark-up of 400%.

Clarke was an Englishman by birth but he took a Creek Indian wife whom he called Queen Anne and, according to accounts, he treated her royally. Clarke travelled over most of central Alabama in the Montgomery area transporting his skins and merchandise on 70 pack horses. His was a big business. The packhorses used by these early traders were generally small Indian ponies raised by the Creeks. The ponies were capable of carrying heavy loads and enduring great fatigue. A load-bearing saddle was placed on the pony from which was suspended three bundles, each one weighing about 60 pounds. One bundle was suspended from each side while the third was placed on top of the saddle. A skin covering kept the rain off the bundles. There were no lines tied to the ponies. The ponies knew their job and the trader urged them along with a hickory switch and loud swearing.

An important burden of the ponies was the small kegs of rum called taffai. Taffai was made from molasses and was an important bartering tool as well as a means of refreshment. The taffai cheered the trader up as he journeyed through the deep forest and it made him bold in times of distress. The trader kept a bottle slung from his saddle from which he often indulged. It was customary for the traders to stop when they meet other people on the trail to converse and offer them taffai and it was considered bad behavior not to do so.

Nothing stopped these entrepreneurs in their journeys. They swam across swollen creeks or rafted their possessions across. If they encountered a large stream with large canes on the banks, they would cut canes and tie them together to form a raft. Sometimes logs were used for this purpose. The ponies would swim across while the trader rafted his goods across on these makeshift rafts guided by long vines. Once all was safely across, the packs were secured on the ponies and a generous portion of taffai was enjoyed by all after which they continued their journey.

The average rate of travel was about 25 miles per day. The ponies knew the trail and knew when they were nearing a stopping place for the day. At this time, the pace would pick up as the ponies looked forward to stopping for the day. Packs were unloaded and covered with skins while bells were attached to the ponies as they were turned loose to find their food for the night. Food was prepared and several rounds of taffai helped relieve the stresses of the day. Late the next morning, the ponies were gathered up and the packs were loaded and secured. This was Indian coun-

By Jessie Donaldson

Late the next morning, the ponies were gathered up and the packs were loaded and secured. This was Indian country and time did not matter.

Indian attacks on the traders on the trail were very rare. The Indians understood that they needed the goods the trader was bringing to their area and killing the traders would simply cut off the supply. If the trader was honest (and they had to be to survive), the Indians regarded them as good friends and were glad to see them. The traders provided a means to market their skins and products such as snake root, honey and hickory nut oil. Hickory nut oil was valued in Europe and the demand was high. The oil was obtained by the Indians after crushing the nuts and boiling the crushed nuts. The oil was skimmed from the surface with a feather.



In 1802, a new face appeared in the Montgomery area when a dark-skinned man of the Jewish faith by the name of Abram Mordecai established his home a little west of Line Creek just a few miles from Old Milly's place (see Chasing Our Tales VI). Mordecai traded with the Indians for their snake root, hickory nut oil and skins at his place of business. Mordecai's trading house was near horse race track built by William Weatherford near the eastern bluff of the Alabama River just across from the juncture of the Coosa and Tallapoosa. At this spot, he also established the first cotton gin house in Alabama. The cotton gin was built by the firm of Lyons & Barnett from Georgia. The materials for the gin were transported by packhorses from Georgia.

Another trader named James Russell also lived near this location. A man named Love, who was a tory, and a man named Dargan, a Dutchman, lived near the site of Mt. Meigs and carried on a trading business. Dargan was a notorious horse thief who stole horses in Georgia and, many times, he would race his recently stolen horses at Weatherford's race track.

All of these traders had full-blooded Indian wives except Abram Mordecai. Mordecai's wife was half Indian and half African-American. Apparently Mordecai was somewhat of a lady's man as he found himself in an affair with a beautiful married Indian squaw. A group of Indians including Chief Tourculla (known as Captain Isaacs) and 12 warriors arrived at Mordecai's home where they proceeded to beat him senseless with poles. They then cut off his ear which was the standard Indian punishment for adultery after which they destroyed some of his property and burned his cotton gin to the ground. Thus the first cotton gin in Alabama was destroyed because of a pretty Indian girl.

Well, it is time to close this episode of Chasing Our Tales. We will visit next time with another episode but we are nearing the end of this series of articles based on tales of the old Montgomery area and the Old Federal Road. Only a couple of episodes are left.

May 16th is Clean-Up Day. Bring a rake, clippers, lawn mower, or just your willing hands to Woodmere Park. Or just mow your own yard, but let's all clean-up Woodmere. Trim what you can; mow what you can. Woodmere is our neighborhood. Let's make it better.



May is WNA membership month. Have you joined this year? Together we can continue to improve Woodmere. Fill out the form on page 8 and send it in. We need each other.

TO BE A CHILD AGAIN

I'd love to be a child again
Like Alice in Wonderland,
And sit in a field of flowers
Hold butterflies in my hand.

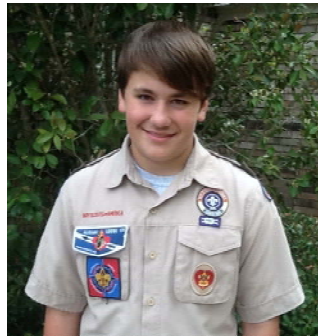
Sit with friends by the ocean
And build castles in the sand,
Or be a beautiful princess
And rule over a faraway land.

Or perhaps talk a walk in the forest
Where I could find the biggest trees,
I'd pick one and climb to the top
Then hang on a limb by my knees.

I'd like to have a party
With cookies, cakes and teas,
And invite all the friendly animals
To come and play with me.

But I live in a grown up world
And I have so much to do.....
But gosh, I'd love just once
To be a child again....wouldn't you?!

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Travis Moody

Travis Moody, a 15 year-old Life Scout, has volunteered to install and landscape a park bench this summer in Woodmere Park as an Eagle Scout project. The Woodmere Neighborhood Association is donating this bench in honor of Arlene Gomez, who passed away in 2013. She was the Chairman of the Crime Prevention Committee for the WNA. Arlene was known affectionately as the "Crime Dog."

May is WNA membership month. Fill out the application on page 8 and send it to the P.O. box or bring it to the meeting May 14th.



Find us on
Facebook



Woodmere Neighborhood
Yard Sale is May 23rd. Get
rid of stuff and make money.



Police Chief Ernest Finley to Speak at WNA Meeting May 14th

Ernest N. Finley, Jr. was sworn in as the new chief of the Montgomery Police Department on January 20, 2015, marking the 14th police chief in the city's history. A 29-year veteran of the Atlanta Police Department, Finley was the Deputy Chief and assigned as the Field Operations Division Commander. He is a strong advocate of law enforcement working in partnership with the communities and developed numerous positive relationships with the citizens

Finley said it has been his childhood dream to become the chief of police of a major city and is excited to come to Montgomery.

Born and raised in Newark, N.J., Finley earned a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and joined the police force in Atlanta in 1986. He has a master's degree in public administration from Columbus State University. He worked as a patrol officer first and later was appointed as chief deputy of the Field Operations Division in 2010.

Finley has big plans for the department and fighting crime in the various neighborhoods and commercial districts in the city, he said. Community policing and building relationships and trust with the community are keys to moving forward.

**WOODMERE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 AT 6:30 PM
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM**

The meeting was called to order with a prayer by Jessie Donaldson. He introduced the following:

Speaker 1, City Council Chairman Charles Jinright spoke about Montgomery:

- There will be four living presidents coming to Montgomery for the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Montgomery was voted by major magazines as the Most Historic City and an All American City.
- The Biscuits baseball team was voted the most popular team name in the league.
- In approximately six months several new hotels will be erected in Montgomery.

A bond was issued to build a new school for LAMP in Montgomery Mall. It will also create a place for a technical high school (formerly MTECH which will become IMPACT). A wing will be added to Park Crossing High School. Trenholm Community College will be able to have students take courses there that can be transferred to any college in Alabama. Students will also be able to attend Trenholm while attending high school. Our city is on a progressive move.

New businesses being constructed on the Eastern Boulevard are Gander Mountain, a new car wash (approximately two million dollars), and a Korean bank.

(Q) Is there an update on the bicycle/running track? (A) No, there has not been proper funding available.

(Q) Are you familiar with "gumption.com?" (A) Yes, a group of young people went together to put money in the bank to be used for city improvements.

(Q) The streets need resurfacing due to loose gravel. You can't get traction on a motorcycle.

(A) I am trying to get the street sweeper to sweep the gravel. We don't have a plan for resurfacing.

Speaker 2, General Ron Sams, Director, City Investigations spoke about the museum's Sculpture Garden.

- Trees are being cut at the entrance to the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts' Sculpture Park.
- The museum has a grant for approximately \$3,000,000 for a sculpture garden. The garden entrance will be through the museum.
- A drainage system will move run-off water into the lakes and more trees will be planted. There will be a security gate to protect museum employees' cars.

(Q) Trash collects on the back side of the apartments on Woodmere Boulevard. Who is responsible for the Eastern Boulevard? Is there anyway we could get the trash removed?

(A) The state is responsible for the Eastern Boulevard.

Speaker 3, Captain Wheeler, Montgomery Police Department

- You will need to make a request to the city to have the trash cleaned up.
- A focus meeting will be held in East Precinct to bring neighborhoods together with other agencies.
- Officer Jones, who works this area on second shift (2:00 -11:00 p.m.) was introduced.

(Q) How do you find out what happens when policemen are in the neighborhood?

(A) There is a city website which shows crime reports.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mable Pryor, Secretary



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: _____