



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

August 2013

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277-7667

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271-4428

2nd Vice President
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Arbor Glen Dr.
260-2941

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324-4540

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Montgomery, Alabama 36123

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Woodmere News

President's Commentary

Jimmy Gunn

Dear Woodmere Neighbors:

I hope that everyone is doing well and is getting through all of this rain. I have never seen my grass this green and tall in the 36 years that I have lived here in Woodmere.

We should be gearing up for a lot of nominations for Yard of the Month this September. If you have a neighbor's yard that you would like considered, please send in to info@woodmeremontgomery.com.

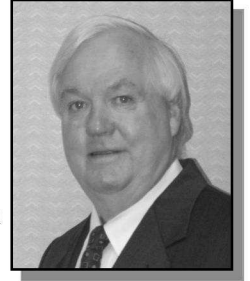
Remember there are three (3) categories for Yard of the Month. They are 1. Single Family Residences 2. Patio/Garden Homes and 3. Town Homes. Let's all start sending in our nominations so that the judges have a number of homes to select from and the neighborhood gets involved with working toward getting that award at the beginning of each month. There are a lot of people in Woodmere that do a wonderful job of keeping their properties beautiful. Let's all reach out and let the judges know who they are and recognize them accordingly.

The WNA will continue accepting 2013 Membership Dues until September 30, 2013. The dues are \$25.00 and the application form is on the back of this newsletter. We currently have 138 paid members. We want more of you to join and be a part of the association. Everyone in Woodmere should want to be a member and participate. If we are to keep Woodmere a clean, safe and desirable neighborhood to live in, all of us need to get involved and work toward those goals. Your board of directors and committees are looking after everyone's interests. Why don't you join us and make a difference? We know what the problems are in our community; we need for you to be a part of looking for solutions.

The WNA is trying to fill all of the vacant Block Captain positions in Woodmere. Here is a list of the current vacancies that we need to fill:

Whitewater Court/Willow Glen Drive(6319, 6307, 6231)
Woody Lane (6219)/Willow Glen Drive(6200-6336)
Woodmere Boulevard (6231-6313)/Forest Grove Drive (6045-6055)
Willow Glen Court/Willow Glen Drive (6304-6342 & 6305-6331)

If you would be willing to accept one of these please, please let me know. We need eyes and ears on every street in Woodmere. *Continued on page 3, President's Commentary*



Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, August 8, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium

Speaker: Fred Bassett

Topic: Alabama and Florida Hummingbirds

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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

	April	May	June	Year to Date	Budget
Beginning Balance	3,207.19	3,615.19	3615.19		
Income					
Membership Dues	100.00	650.00	1125.00	3725.00	3750.00
Advertisements	0.00	0.00	60.00	120.00	120.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	50.00	450.00	0.00
Stratford Place Signs	345.00	25.00	0.00	370.00	0.00
Total Income	445.00	675.00	1,235.00	4665.00	3750.00
Expenses					
Newsletter	0.00	374.00	0.00	748.00	1500.00
Day in the Park	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Administrative Expenses	37.00	821.88	155.74	1,014.62	805.00
Meeting Room	0.00	50.00	0.00	100.00	200.00
Entrance Signs	0.00	0.00	27.48	27.48	0.00
Website	0.00	0.00	106.53	177.93	75.00
Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	53.00	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	0.00	0.00	70.00
Stratford Place Signs	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
Total Expenses	37.00	1445.88	342.75	2,325.03	3,750.00
Ending Balance	2,346.19	2897.19	3207.19	3207.19	



Excavating Architecture: Projects by Lead Pencil Studio
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts June 15—September 1, 2013

Working together as Lead Pencil Studio, architects Annie Han and Daniel Mihalyo have created installations and interventions that blur the line between art and architecture. By using the language of architecture in combination with the looser, and less rigid process of visual art, they shape sculptural installations and fine drawings. It's here in Woodmere, home to the arts.

President's Commentary *Continued from page 1*

The next WNA General Meeting will be on Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 6:30PM at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. The Day in the Park this year will be on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 from 6-8 PM. It will again be held in the backyard of the Glasgows on Greenway Drive, accessible from the park. We will have a cookout and band at the event. Always great fun and entertainment. Mark it on your calendar. I would like to thank everyone who volunteers their time and effort serving on the Board of Directors and the other WNA Committees. Woodmere has wonderful and dedicated people who work hard every day and want to keep our neighborhood a safe, beautiful and desirable place to live. Let's all keep working together to make sure these things continue to happen.

HELPING THE MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Waldo Spencer and Gerry Shook who 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 sponsored a Neighborhood Yard Sale June 8th from 7 am until noon. Dozens of homes participated and the harvest was green.

*Pondering
the Journey*



Sam Whatley

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Genealogy or Chasing Our Tales, Part III

In the previous installment of this article, we touched on the town of Edgefield, South Carolina. Edgefield became known as the “Jumping Off” place for pioneers headed to Alabama because the town is located on an old Cherokee trail. It sits on the route to Augusta with its river crossing. Any wagon trains not wanting to cross the Appalachian Mountains would choose this route. At the turn of the century, 1800 to be exact, Edgefield was suffering from “a great demoralization” in that there was a lot of free use of whiskey, gambling, profanity, dueling and an utter disregard of the Sabbath. It was said that there was a tavern on the corner of every crossroads and sometimes, one in-between if the crossroad were too far apart. After the Revolutionary War, Edgefield was in shambles. Property had been destroyed, houses burned, possessions carried off, and nearly half of the men had been killed or died of disease while in the military camps.

This was the kind of living conditions our early pioneer settlers had to tolerate while they were in “the Jumping Off Place” awaiting the formation of their traveling parties and gathering supplies before heading into the unknown West in pursuit of their dreams. But, as bad as this may have been, for many of our pioneer settlers, the journey and hardships did not start with Edgefield. Edgefield was simply a dot on a longer route known as the “Great Philadelphia Wagon Road”.

Extending from Pennsylvania to Georgia, the “Great Philadelphia Wagon Road” was probably the most important route for early migrations of settlers in America. The Wagon Road began at the port of Philadelphia where many of the European immigrants entered the colonies. From there it passed through Lancaster and York and on through southeastern Pennsylvania. Then the road turned more southwest following along the eastern edge of the Appalachians crossing the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry and entering the Shenandoah Valley at Winchester, Virginia. This section of the road, once called the Great Warrior’s Path, was used by the five nations of the Iroquois to come south to trade or make war with the tribes in Virginia and Carolina. In 1744 it was ceded by treaty to the British.

After passing through the Shenandoah, the road reached the Roanoke River where the city by the same name exists today. The road continued in a more or less southwesterly direction passing through the location of present-day cities Winston-Salem, Salisbury and Charlotte in North Carolina. This section of the road was known as the Carolina Road. From there, the road went through Rock Hill, South Carolina, where the road split with one fork going to Edgefield and on to Augusta, Georgia and the other fork going to Savannah.

In 1751, only the portion north of Winchester, Virginia was considered passable by wagons. By 1765, the Wagon road was cleared enough along its length to allow horse-drawn vehicles and by 1775 the road stretched 700 miles through the back country with room to spare. Meanwhile, immigrants were pouring into Philadelphia. In 1749 alone, 12,000 German immigrants entered Pennsylvania. By 1775, there were 600,000 Scots-Irish in America and 110,000 people from Germany. Pennsylvania was getting crowded and land was cheaper and more readily available in the South and Southwest. It was the pursuit of this cheaper land and golden opportunities that pushed our early ancestors along the “Great Philadelphia Wagon Road”. Governor Tryon of North Carolina wrote to England that more than 1,000 wagons passed through Salisbury in the fall and winter of 1765.

Once the settlers reached Edgefield, they waited to form traveling parties of significant numbers for safety. After leaving Edgefield and crossing the river at Augusta on the ferry, they would pick up the old Federal Road which took them through Milledgeville, Georgia and on to Fort Mitchell on the Chattahoochee as we discussed in the last edition of this article. The journey along the “Great Philadelphia Wagon Road” from Philadelphia to Edgefield took over two months. Loaded wagons might travel up to 15 miles per day but some days they would only cover five miles depending upon the terrain and the condition of the road in that vicinity.

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



Most of the settlers made the journey in the Conestoga wagon. The Conestoga was large enough to transport loads up to eight tons and was drawn by teams of horses, mules or oxen. The average Conestoga was 18 feet long, 11 feet high and four feet in width. The floor of the wagon was built with a curvature upwards toward the ends. This was so that the contents would not shift and it prevented extreme loading against the tail gate of the wagon. The cracks in the wagon were caulked with tar to prevent leaks when crossing streams. The wheels were large with the rear wheels being proportionally larger than the front ones. For protection against bad weather, a white canvas cover was stretched across an upper structure on the wagon. Water barrels on the sides held drinking water and tool boxes held tools needed for repair of the wagon. A feedbox at the rear held feed for the livestock. The "Prairie Schooners" that would appear much later when expansion pushed beyond the Mississippi was a much lighter and smaller wagon.

So, after two months of traveling, our travelers have arrived at Edgefield and are about to embark on the next leg of their journey that will be slower and more dangerous than anything they have encountered so far. They are about to leave the "Jumping Off Place" and head toward the wilds and unknown of this place called Alabama because they have caught "Alabama Fever". In the next edition of Chasing Our Tales, we will travel with them into Alabama and examine some of the families that made this journey.



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Neighborhood Association!



Fred Bassett, holding a Ruby-throated hummingbird.

FRED BASSETT TO SPEAK AT WOOMERE MEETING AUGUST 8, 2013

How do you catch a hummingbird? Ask Fred Bassett, a Woodmere neighbor who is quite the expert on the subject. He is a certified master bird bander and president of Hummingbird Research, Inc, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of hummingbirds. A retired Air Force officer, he has worked with birds for over twenty years. Fred bands all types of birds each April and October at the Fort Morgan banding station on the gulf coast and travels each summer to study hummingbirds in western states. Fred has banded more than 20,000 hummingbirds from Miami to Seattle. During the winter he documents western hummingbirds wintering in south Alabama and Florida. In the last fifteen winters he has captured more than 2,000 hummingbirds of ten different species in that area. Results of his research have been published in several national publications.

WNA General Meeting Topic: Alabama and Florida Hummingbirds – A lot more than you might think.

The program will discuss Ruby-throated hummingbirds in depth and introduce several western hummingbird species wintering in the Southeast and show how they are banded. Come join us for a lively presentation about a busy little bird you thought you knew. Learn something; be amazed.



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.”



Playground at Woodmere Park

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

**Parks and trails
Tree lined streets,
A comfortable home
Where family meets.**

**Wonderful people
Neighbors and friends,
Always there to visit
When the busy day ends.**

**There are arts and plays
Beautiful places to walk,
And benches and lakes
Where you can just sit and talk.**

**Our neighborhood is where
We live, work and play,
So let's make sure it's the best
Place to be every day.**

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Yard of the Month

July

Tracie & Jeff Schofield, 6039 Forest Grove Dr.
Cynthia & David Godbold, 1532 Westminster Dr.
Pam Rhodes, 1600 Woodmere Loop

June

Frankie & Ray Carraway, 1601 Salisbury Place
Carol Reddoch, 1612 Cobblestone Court
Freda Dority, 3101 Greta Place

WOODMERE NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFUL PARKS AND HOME TO THE ARTS



At Our Theatre

Ring of Fire, a musical tribute to Country Music legend, Johnny Cash, is playing at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival July 11– August 4th. More than two dozen classic hits—including I Walk the Line, A Boy Named Sue, Folsom Prison Blues, and, of course, Ring of Fire will paint a portrait of the Man in Black that you will never forget. For ticket information call 1-800-841-4273, visit www.asf.net or go to the box office at 1 Festival Drive in Blount Cultural Park. But, wait. There's more.....

Elvis - The Early Years It's one night only at ASF **August 19** at 7:30 pm. Bruce Scott will sing Elvis hits like they sounded when Coca-Colas came in six ounce glass bottles and cost a nickel. Come relive the era.

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: _____