



WOODMERE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Spring 2007

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396-7840

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Salisbury Pl
277-7138

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Woodmere Neighborhood
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Woodmere News

President's Commentary

After a few false starts, spring has finally arrived in Woodmere. That means summer will come quickly. While the weather is pleasant you might catch sight of a new neighbor mowing his lawn. Stop by, say hello, and introduce yourself. You may just find a new friend.

Many of us had a chance to meet at two events this spring, the Cleanup Day at the Park and the freezing Easter Egg Hunt. Jimmy Gunn kept us organized on March 24th as we filled 60 trash bags with debris from the pond and berms along Woodmere Drive. Two weeks later, Freida Dority had more prizes and refreshments than the crowd could consume as the cold weather on April 7 cut our Easter Egg Hunt short. But it was still a great celebration. Thanks to all who came to both events.

Save back a few household items for our neighborhood yard sale on June 9. Pam Rhodes will be sending out info on that. Watch also for our new WNA Handbook coming to WNA members in July. Melissa Martin is the editor.

Our next general meeting at the Museum of Fine Arts is Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 pm. David Seward of Brinks Security will present "How to Make Your Home Secure". If you have considered home security but been confused by the different options, this program could answer your questions. It's also a good place to join WNA.

If you have an idea that would help our neighborhood, please email us at info@woodmeremontgomery.com. That's also a way to volunteer your time and talent to keep Woodmere the best place to live.



Sam Whatley
President

Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, May 24, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium

Guest Speakers

Councilman Charles Jinright

David Seward, Brinks Security

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City Contacts

Mayor's Office
241-2000

City Council
241-2097

Animal Control
241-2970

Police
241-2651

Fire
241-2400

Recycling
241-2925

For all emergencies, please call 911.

WNA General Meeting Review: February 8, 2007

The Woodmere Neighborhood Association met on Thursday, February 8, 2007 for its quarterly meeting. President Sam Whatley called the meeting to order. The guest speakers were Councilman Charles Jinright and Sherry Weeks of ERA Weeks & Browning Realty, Inc.

Councilman Charles Jinright gave attendees an update on the city and how well Montgomery is doing. He spoke about the plans for adding new schools in the city and gave an update on the new hotel and convention center that is being built downtown.

Sherry Weeks offered suggestions for upgrades that would increase the value of your home as well things that could decrease the value. She also encouraged homeowners to practice routine maintenance so that the home will always look its best.

The financial report was presented by Treasurer Charles Collins as well as a proposed budget for 2007. A motion and second were made to adopt the proposed 2007 budget. All present voted to approve this budget

Jessie Donaldson gave a report for the Long Range Planning Task Force. This committee is working to develop guidelines and a mission statement. Once these have been developed and approved by the board, nominees will be contacted to work on the task force.

President Sam Whatley gave a report on the break-ins that had occurred in the neighborhood and reminded everyone that we should be watchful in our areas. He also encouraged everyone, if they saw something that did not look right, to call the police using the non-emergency number.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum of Fine Arts. Members and non-members are encouraged to attend.

We need your input! Let us know what you would like to see in the Woodmere News!

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

2007 Spring Cleanup in the Park



**Thanks to everyone who participated!!!
Fall Cleanup in the Park is set for October 13.**

Let's Exchange Greetings!

By Your Neighbor Down the Street

When you are in your yard and someone from down the street is outside for a walk, let's exchange greetings! Wouldn't it be great to have a whole neighborhood of friends? Please respond, somehow, when you are greeted with a friendly "Hello!" I realize sometimes you truly are busy and don't notice me, but I'm talking about the times we exchange eye contact and I offer a smile along with a basic greeting.

Occasionally my family and I walk around Woodmere Loop and come across people who are in too much of a hurry to reply back or even wave as a quick acknowledgement. This doesn't happen often, fortunately, but when it does, I feel sad for that person. Couldn't you please take two seconds and say, "Hello" back or even better, introduce yourself? Not everyone thinks it is beneficial to do this ~ and to be sure, there is no law which says, "Ignoring your neighbors will incur a penalty" but we all live here. Why not encourage more smiling faces on our streets?

I noticed a new family moving in, a while ago, down the street from where I live. So I took a moment to walk over, introduce myself and welcome them to the neighborhood. There are so many good things about where we live and what we can do, it's not difficult to mention something positive about their recent move. They appreciated it, and I think most people would welcome that gesture. So if you find yourself in that uncommon situation of opportunity, please use it as a way to make Woodmere a better place to live.

Newcomers Club of Montgomery

Are you new to Montgomery? Moving to a different city where you hardly know anyone can be daunting. The difference between being alone and feeling at home can be found in the friends you make through Newcomers, where women who are new to Montgomery come together to share their time and their homes. Being part of Newcomers Club can help to make the difficult transition to a new city much easier. If you would like more information on the Newcomers Club, please visit www.newcomersmontgomery.com.

THE BEAUTY OF SPRING

**The Dogwood trees
Beautiful and bright,
Are dressed for spring
In their radiant white.**

**The Daffodils so yellow
Are a wonderful treat,
They greet me each
morning
With their fragrance so
sweet.**

**The purple Wisteria
It's color so dense,
What a beautiful sight
Creeping over my fence!**

**I welcome the beauty
That comes in the spring,
Bringing whispers of hope
That make the heart sing.**

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ERA Weeks & Browning Realty, Inc.



- ◆ Seller's Security Plan
- ◆ Mortgage Services
- ◆ Commitment to Service



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 2315 Eastchase Lane
 Montgomery, AL 36117
 334-315-5257
 334-215-4468 (Fax)
 Sherrie.cook@era.com

"We will sell your home or ERA will buy it."



Purchase a WNA T-shirt!
\$10 each
Sizes M—L—XL are still available.
Contact Sam Whatley or Charles Collins for more details.



Learn How to Make Your Home Secure

WNA General Meeting
Thursday, May 24, 2007

Cissy's Critters
Need Someone to care for your pets while you are away?
Reasonable Rates, Dependable Service and LOTS of Tender Loving Care!!!!

(334) 271-6593 Call: (334) 301-4283

The Woodmere News needs a new editor! If you would like to be the editor of the newsletter, please email info@woodmeremontgomery.com!

Financial Report

By Charles Collins

		JAN 1 - MAR 31
Beginning Balance		2,035.10
Income		
Membership Dues		1,240.00
T-Shirts		40.00
Total Income		1,280.00
Expenses		
Newsletter		324.50
Meeting Room		50.00
Easter Egg Hunt		200.00
Total Expenses		574.50
ENDING BALANCE		2,740.60

On February 24, 2007 an Ad Hoc Committee met to audit the treasurer's records. Upon completion of the audit, the treasurer's records were found to be complete and in proper order.

Mark Your Calendar!

May

24 WNA Meeting

June

9 Woodmere Yard Sale Day

July

WNA Handbook Distributed

August

7 National Night Out

9 WNA Meeting

September

30 Day in the Park

October

13 Fall Cleanup Day

November

8 WNA Meeting

Going on vacation?

Need a hand with your pet, plants or house?



**Petsitter/
Housesitter
Available
For You!**



Contact Lynne at 294-8965
or house.pethelp@gmail.com



DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007

TIME: DAWN TO NOON

For more information,
contact your
block captain!

WNA YARD SALE

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

By Freida Dority

To all the neighbors that participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt, thank you for your assistance in making it a huge success. It was nice to see all of you even though it was cold. The children had a ball. A big thanks to all the volunteers that made this a success and a special thanks to the following individuals:

- Ms. Margie Harold who donated the eggs and candy
- Mr. Jerry Armstrong for the soft drinks
- Ms. Debbie Jakel who made all the signs and provided the tent
- Ms. Peggy Agent who provided me with the information and direction

Because of the contributions by these individuals, the cost to the Association was less which made it possible to spend more on prizes for the children. There was a prize for everyone.

I would also like to thank the neighborhood Burger King for the two kid's meals, and McDonalds for the coupons. To the parents who braved the weather to participate, I truly thank you.

1st Place Winners

McKenzie Taylor
Jessica Bozeman
Tori Chism.

2nd Place Winners

Jacqualine Frias
Kaylyn Williams
Renee Meiers

Grason Dabbs.

Drawing
Hunter Culpepper



Another Man's Treasure

By Pam Rhodes, WNA Yard Sale Chair

I'm sure you've all heard the old saying..."one man's junk is another man's treasure". Well, it just seems fitting to use the tail end of that saying to title our (hopefully) annual Woodmere Neighborhood Association Yard Sale and kick it off in grand style.

The sale is scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 9, 2007 from dawn 'til sometime around noon in the yards of the Woodmere neighborhood. Rain date is to be determined.

Residents will be responsible for assembling and pricing their own sale items and handling all transactions. The Neighborhood Association will have no oversight except to provide the overall publicity for the event and monitor any traffic congestion that may occur. Neighborhood point of contact for this event will be Pam Rhodes at 1600 Woodmere Loop. If you are interested in participating, contact your block captain after May 15 to obtain a yard sale packet.

Start rooting through the attic and cleaning out your closets! Your big chance to lighten your load and cop some quick cash is fast approaching!



High-Profile Murderer

Alicia J. Fleming is the wife of Pervis Fleming, and they live on Pampas Dr. with their three children Alicea, P.J. and Peyton. She has run a home based business for 20 years. She has recently had her first mystery novel published. "High-Profile Murderer" is her debut novel and she feels very fortunate to have the love and support of her family.

"High-Profile Murderer" is designed to be a thrilling story about Dex McMahon, a cop who must get to the root of his best friend's murder before he can continue his dream of becoming chief of police in Los Angeles. What he will learn will change his life forever as he battles a vengeful spirit haunting his family, as well as a ruthless serial killer out to destroy all he holds dear. He finds out about his friend's suspicious death upon his return from a business trip. The events become more questionable as another prominent man is killed the next night, and yet another a few days later. The horrible cycle continues until Dex's wife Juliana is kidnapped. The truth behind the murders begins to show its ugly face—Dex's previously unknown connection to the murderer will shock him and his family to their very souls.

Alicia's pen name is A.J. Dawn. To contact Alicia or to get more information about her novel, please visit her website at www.ajdawn.com.



Cats are not required to be leashed, but are trespassing when they enter another person's property.

Please make sure your cat is not considered a public nuisance.

Spring has definitely sprung, and along with the lovely warm weather comes the lawn mower.

Please do your part to keep Woodmere looking its best.

Dogs off leashes can be threatening to others.

The City of Montgomery requires all dogs to be leashed.

Woodmere Neighborhood Handbook



2007
HANDBOOK

The 2007 Woodmere Neighborhood Association Handbook will be available to members mid July. Below is a list of some of the items that will be included in the directory.

- Map of Woodmere
- History of Woodmere
- By-laws
- Officers
- Zone Coordinators
- Committees
- Block Captains
- Maps of each Zone
- City Phone Numbers
- City Websites
- Crime Watch Information

Is there something that you would like to see in the handbook? Or would you like to place an ad? If so, email info@woodmeremontgomery.com by July 1 and let us know!

Global Warming? Recycle

By Sam Whatley

Global Warming has gotten to be a hotter topic (pun intended) on the Weather Channel. With it the need to recycle has become more and more important. Every time you recycle a newspaper, tin can, or a glass or plastic jug, you save energy, logging, and strip mining. You are actually helping to preserve the Earth.

After Susan Carmichael's presentation on recycling at our November General Meeting, we began to recycle at our house. Now our orange recycle bag holds as much as our garbage bag. If all 760 households in Woodmere began to recycle each week, we could make a significant difference. But if only one person does it, it still makes a difference. For info on how to get started call the Clean City Commission at 241-2599.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead, noted American Anthropologist.



Thanks to our city councilman **Charles Jinright** and the **City Maintenance Department** for repaving the following streets in Woodmere in March:

- Willow Glen Dr.
- Stillbrook Lane
- Woody Lane
- Whitewater Ct.
- Willow Glen Ct.
- Forest Grove Dr.
- Forest Grove Ct.
- Neil Dr., Pampas Ct.
- Pampas Pl
- Pampas Pt

Over 100 Woodmere households have joined WNA since January.

Have you?

To become a member fill out the application form on the back of this issue."

Crime Prevention and Action

By Jim Sadie, Crime Prevention Chair

There are many different opinions about how best to address crime in our communities. After reading several articles from all over the country, I discovered some revealing observations. In most cases, I rarely found a group that focused their attention a) in an organized effort, b) with an outlined process to reach a goal. It left me wondering, "where is the perseverance, determination and most important, a plan?"

Most of us chose to live in Woodmere for a good reason, chose to join the WNA for a good reason and most likely want to make a difference so that we may live in tranquility. Are you doing your part? Are you doing anything to help get the other 80% to do their part?

We all share a common goal to prevent crime in our community. In the past fifteen years, I have had my share of vandalism at home and work. We all know the stress that follows. The turning point for me was the night after Hurricane Katrina. I drove up to the driveway - only to find my indoor cat sitting in the driveway and my dog in front of a shattered window howling. I had been burglarized. My home looked like the hurricane hit it. This changed me!

The police have instructed us to call them when we witness certain unlawful situations. All too often we don't call because it will be too late when they arrive or we think it will all start over as soon as the police leave. So instead, we complain. It's much easier to just complain. For me, there was a determination to take advice from previous meetings and get serious.

CALL AND CALL OFTEN! Here are some ideas that could be a strategy for all to consider. I started taking all the advice more seriously - calling approximately 10 - 20 times a month with detailed information. It felt awkward at first, but became easy later. I have the non-emergency police number programmed in my cell phone. I even wrote down in advance how I would verbalize the complaint. I verbalize the complaint in simple terms and ask them to send an officer to the area. The dispatchers usually ask if I want to speak with the police - Whenever possible, I always speak with the police. THIS IS VIP - Speak to them, get to know them, and get more success! YES!

When you observe strange behavior, notify the police. Take this advice and after a while, you will know what details the police need and you will begin to retain details that are important. Provide license plate numbers. I know at least a couple of persons from my list no longer live here. I started observing vehicles that proudly demonstrate their sound-systems for the entire neighborhood. Interestingly, I have realized although it seems to be 30-40 different people a day, in actuality, there are only about 7-8 vehicles in my area that annoy us often. I know that some of them live just a block from my home. Call MPD. Some perpetrators of crime will get tired of being pulled over and questioned. After a while, many will straighten up or leave the area.



Crime Prevention and Action, *continued*

“GET TO KNOW NEIGHBORS” How many times have we heard this? How do you do that when everybody wants to be left alone? For some of us, it’s not difficult. Needless to say, for others it is very difficult. At some point, you’re going to walk out the door at the same time. “Can we say hello?” Let’s say something. For many years, a lot of us only waived and smiled from a distance. I’m fortunate to be surrounded by 12 households that are all wonderful people and good friends. We literally all look out after one another. I used to remark that we all have the phone number of each other. Now, most of us keep a key for each other in case of need.

Think about this. I have close contact on a regular basis with more than 12 neighbors on my block. Between all of us, we can get hold of one another very quickly. There are approximately 13 blocks in our zone. I know the neighbors on the block right next to me have a very similar set up and most of them are now good friends as well. A third block near us even has a map of each household with detailed information. This is incredible. These folks are making a difference. If the other 10 blocks in my zone did the same thing, think how beneficial it would be for all of us. If all the neighbors in the other zones throughout the neighborhood followed suit, think what difference it would make. Nothing is impossible! It can be done and it can help.

We need to take our “awareness” and put it to work for our safety. “Awareness” is useless if we do not use it. Again, let’s take action a) in an organized effort, b) with an outlined process. If we take the most basic process and we follow it, we will be safer. Part of good awareness means getting to know all our neighbors, even the ones that we might not associate with. Ignoring neighbors like this could be one of the most dangerous mistakes we make. Think about it.

This week, one of my co-workers buried her 17 year old son that was gunned down during what most of us would consider an “insignificant disagreement.” We are all feeling the anguish of so many families that have been forever changed because of the war and then the tragedy at Virginia Tech. *It seemed* like no amount of “awareness” was enough to prevent that tragedy. How sad.

None of us is immune from any form of crime. If we want to make a difference, if we want to persevere, if we want peace in our communities, we must follow an organized plan. I don’t remember where this quote originated, - “A man without purpose is like a ship without a rudder.” I think our journey during our earthly life must have purpose. Maybe our purpose right now is to get a plan and put it into action. Perhaps sharing these thoughts and insights could start more dialogue and action. It’s a start. Nothing is impossible.

The Citizens Police Academy

The Citizens Police Academy is an educational program to give the public a working knowledge of the Montgomery Police Department’s personnel and policies. The academy consists of a series of classes held on Tuesdays for 10 weeks from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The instruction is comprehensive, covering a different area of the Police Department each week.

The objective is to build the confidence, trust, and respect between the Montgomery Police Department and the citizens of Montgomery.

Anyone interested in attending or needing additional information can contact Corporal George Brooks at 241-2572 or you can email him here. You can also contact Major B.J. Briscoe or Capt. T.B. Essex at our Community Oriented Policing Division 241-4800.





2007 Membership Form

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

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 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 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: _____