



ATTENTION! Tenants and Landlords, CHCA welcomes your attendance and membership! See inside for meeting times and contact information.

Summer 2012

Capitol Heights News

www.capitolheightsmontgomery.org

What Makes a Good Neighbor?

What is a good neighbor? Have you ever asked yourself this question? Perhaps you answered, "It sure isn't those folks living across the street from me." You may very well have a very good reason for thinking they aren't the best of neighbors, but have you ever asked yourself, "Are they thinking the same thing about me?"

I reviewed several articles about being a good neighbor and have included one below that best represented the majority of qualities written in all of the articles. The underlying theme in each of them is "Having good neighbors is most likely the product of being a good neighbor." — Cynthia McCollister

Neighbors can make life terrific or terrible. They can make you want to move or stay put. They can be a source of happiness or stress.

It's nice to live next to people we can trust with a spare key. When I am out of town, I can count on them to watch the cat or take Doug to the hospital the next time he injures himself. That got us thinking about what makes a good neighbor and a nice neighborhood.

Here is the Top Ten list we came up with, in no particular order. Good neighbors:

1. Care for their property. This makes the neighborhood a pleasant place to come home to,

while helping maintain or improve property values. The house next door does not have to be a palace, but it sure is nice when it's reasonably neat and clean. Good neighbors don't allow their yard to grow into an eyesore or safety hazard, with junk lying about or garbage that attracts rats.



2. Are Friendly. They smile and wave when they see you. They welcome new neighbors, maybe with a plate of cookies or a recommendation on a good place to grocery shop. They offer kids candy on Halloween. Maybe they host a block party.

3. Respect the privacy of others and don't trespass. They extend friendship, while recognizing that some may accept it and some may not. The fact is that some folks like to keep to themselves, and that is their right. Unless there is mutual agreement, they don't go over on their neighbor's property without an invitation. They don't engage in "light trespass" either, by leaving a bright light on all night outside your bedroom window.

4. Are Helpful. If someone has a new baby or a death in the family, or a vehicle is stuck in the mud, they lend a helping hand. They are also willing to lend a cup of sugar or a tool you need for a special project. (Of course it's also impor-

tant for the recipient to promptly return all loaned items in good repair.)

- 5. Watch out for each other.** They are aware, without spying. If they notice suspicious activity or something amiss, they call or check it out.
- 6. Keep the peace.** Noise can be incredibly irritating. Common complaints include loud music, blaring TVs, revving up a chainsaw or motorcycle early on a Sunday morning, driving an ATV in circles for hours on end, and dogs that bark incessantly.
- 7. Give you a heads up if they are going to make an unavoidable racket (e.g. during construction), and try to limit the impact.** If they are planning to make a change that could affect you (like planting trees that could obscure your view) they talk with you about it first, offering the possibility of agreeing to a compromise.
- 8. Don't drive too fast, endangering the lives of children and pets.**
- 9. Manage themselves, and their own children and pets.** They don't engage in wild parties that extend into the wee hours, or screaming fights. Their children are well behaved. Their animals stay in their own yard.
- 10. Volunteer when they can.** This can range from periodically picking up litter to getting involved in local organizations that help improve the quality of life in the community.

The bottom line is probably that a good neighbor considers the impacts of their actions on their neighbors' well-being and rights. While it is something to strive for, I can't claim that we have always been perfect neighbors. However, we certainly don't take neighbors that are good for granted.

by E.A. Zimmerman from www.ourbetternature.org/neighbor.htm

Fall Fling

ART IN THE PARK

Vicker's Park

South Madison Terrace

Saturday, October 13, 2012

9am – 1pm

Arts and Crafts by local Montgomery artists
Fun, Food, and Art

Free Event

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Join the Capitol Heights Civic Association.

Everyone who lives or owns property in Capitol Heights benefits from the efforts of CHCA.

Some of the projects that CHCA is working on for our neighborhood:

- beautification of Madison Avenue
- improvements in Vickers and Armstrong Parks
- 2012 Candlelight Tour committee

If you'd like to participate in any of these projects, or have other ideas to improve our neighborhood, join CHCA today.

To find out how you can make a difference, call **Cynthia McCollister** at **334-530-1097** today.

DON'T PUT THAT GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN!

One of the biggest problems facing Montgomery's sanitary sewer system is common fats, oils and grease (FOG) generated from cooking. FOG is not meant to be poured down the drain.

Montgomery Water Works & Sanitary Sewer Board offers a free environmentally friendly option for FOG.

Call **206-1600** or go to **grecycle.org** for more information.



Did You Know...?

All residents should be aware of these ordinances. Each of these ordinances carry a monetary fine for violations.

Parking of motor vehicle in the front yard of a residence or business.

City of Montgomery Ordinance No. 15-2009. Parking of motor vehicle in the front yard of a residence or business, unless it is parked in the driveway, is not allowed. This includes no parking of a motor vehicle over any part of the sidewalk or any unpaved portion of the public right of way. Exceptions: the motor vehicle is parked for the limited purpose of loading, unloading, or washing.



Trash Cans. *City of Montgomery Ordinance 48 Sec 25-35.* On scheduled garbage pickup days, the resident is required to place the container on the curb no later than 7am and remove it no later than 7pm the same day. Keep Capitol Heights neat and clean by keeping those trash cans off the street.

Litter, Trash, and Junk. *Article V.* It is unlawful and is declared a nuisance for any owner, occupant, lessee, or person in control of any property within the City to allow the accumulation of litter, trash, junk or, if related to construction activity, mud. Said property shall include, but not be limited to, sidewalks, city right-of-way strips, alleys, parking lots, driveways, grounds, fences, walls, property lines, privately owned storm drains, and vacant lots within the City.



Porch Furniture. *The City of Montgomery Ordinance #34-2009* The City does not allow front porches to have "inside" furniture (upholstered chairs, couches, or appliances) on them. Only furniture designed for outdoor use is allowed on porches.

Ignorance of these ordinances does not prevent citation. Additional information on these ordinances and others can be found at www.montgomeryal.gov



Free Electronics Recycling

Every Thursday 8am – 2pm at the McInnis Recycling Center, 4341 Norman Bridge Rd

Computers, monitors, TVs, copiers, printers, VCRs, DVD players, radios, kitchen appliances and more

ecoveryllc.com/montgomery

Frequently Called Phone Numbers

Electrical Codes **625-2162**

Fence Permits **625-2072**

Fire Codes, Fire Dept **241-2975**

Historic Districts **625-2722**

House Additions Permits **625-2072**

Land Use **625-2722**

Secret Witness (*there is no caller ID at this number*)
Police Department **262-4000**

Street Lights **241-2910**

A handy quick reference list of all frequently called phone numbers is available on our website: capitolheightsmontgomery.org



Non-Emergency 311 Call Center

The City of Montgomery has created a Non-Emergency 311 Call Center to assist with local government service requests and general information. Call 311 or 334-240-INFO(4636) weekdays 7am – 5pm.

2012/13 Executive Committee

Yard of the Month Winners

July:
120 N Capitol Parkway
203 N Lewis Street

August:
1840 Capitol Avenue
2202 McCarter Avenue

September:
1902 St Charles Avenue
2027 Windsor Avenue

To nominate someone for Yard of the Month please contact Cindy Clark at 593-0699 or cindydclark@me.com

Fall Fling ART IN THE PARK

Vicker's Park
October 13

*see the calendar on page 8
for details*

**Don't Forget to
VOTE**

Mark your calendars and remember to vote in these upcoming elections. Every vote matters. Every voice should be counted.

September 18
Amendment to Alabama Constitution

November 6
General election

It is not the policy of CHCA to endorse or campaign for any candidate, party, or platform.

Please contact any member of the Executive Committee about any Capitol Heights related questions and project ideas.

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Cynthia McCollister
334-530-1097
cynthia.mccollister@charter.net

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joelsanders9747@gmail.com

Toni Wood-Meyer
334-265-0280
tawoodhome@knology.net

Current Projects of CHCA Update

- **501 (c) 3 Designation for CHCA.** Application to the IRS has been mailed. Their review period could take up to nine months.
- **Pavilion in Armstrong Park.** The kit for the pavillion was ordered by the city in July. Once it arrives, the Parks and Rec division will be installing it. This could be happening at any moment now.
- **Complete Historic Designation for all of Capitol Heights.** Thanks to Christy Anderson and a summer intern, housing surveys needed for the properties not included under the grant received by the city, have been completed! The agency hired to complete the remainder of the surveys has until the end of September to complete their contract requirements. Once the property surveys are completed and the required documentation is done, a request for a positive recommendation will be made to the city's Historic Preservation Commission. It is possible that may occur in January of next year.
- **2013 Bonds grant application.** Applications for a 2013 BONDS Grant are due on November 9. At our September meeting, attendees will rank items on our wish list to identify the project to be submitted on the application.

New to the Neighborhood, Or Lived Here a Long Time...

JOIN CAPITOL HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION!

Please support the work of the Capitol Heights Civic Association (CHCA) and our neighborhood by joining today. Tenants, Landlords, Businesses & Homeowners are welcome to join.

ONLY \$20 per Household!

Fill out this form and mail it to: CHCA

P.O. Box 70065

Montgomery, Alabama 36107-0065.

Or bring it to the next meeting – held the second Tuesday of each month in the

Fellowship Hall of the Capitol Heights United Methodist Church at 7pm.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above):

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

- opportunity to vote on CHCA issues,
- free quarterly CHCA Newsletter,
- free “classified” advertisements in our newsletter, and
- 10% off all CHCA merchandise purchases.
- For self-employed members, we can also provide a link from our website to your website (some rules apply). Members may call 334-264-0800 or e-mail cynthia.mccollister@charter.net

Membership Renewal occurs annually and dues are payable at or before the association meeting held in May. Payment of membership dues must be current to participate in voting on CHCA projects and issues. Membership Renewal occurs annually in May.

To learn more about us, please visit our website
www.capitolheightsmontgomery.org



ARE YOU RECEIVING CHCA E-MAILS?

Send your e-mail address to cynthia.mccollister@charter.net to be added.

Typical e-mails sent to the list are: Meeting reminders, issues regarding personal and property safety our neighborhood needs to be aware, and provide notice of Lost and Found pets! If you find the e-mails to be of no interest—then ask that you be removed. No harm done, no offense taken!

Membership not required.

CHCA DOES NOT SHARE
OR SELL YOUR E-MAIL
ADDRESS

e-mail etiquette

Reply v. Reply All

Before you hit “Send” stop for a minute to think: does this message need to go to everyone in the e-mail list or just to the person who sent it?

More often than not, it only needs to go to the original sender. Unless your message contains urgent information that needs everyone’s immediate attention, please do not use “Reply All.”

CHCA does not share or sell your e-mail addresses. Official e-mails for CHCA business are blind copied (bcc) to our list. This protects the privacy of those persons on the e-mail list. It also prevents anyone from stealing our list.

WHAT IS BONDS?

Building Our Neighborhoods for Development and Success (BONDS) is a neighborhood association strengthening program that provides services to improve the overall quality of life throughout Montgomery (city and county). Services offered by BONDS include:

- **Resource Training** offered free to all residents. Topics reflect the issues facing our communities — water conservation, communications, city services, emergency preparedness, and more.
- **Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI)**. Free training program offering a series of 10 interactive workshops. Participants learn specific skills (project planning and implementation, public speaking, how to run effective meetings, cross-cultural relations, recruiting volunteers, and more).
- **Gathering of Neighborhoods (GON)**, a forum for neighborhood association members to meet and discuss neighborhood issues. A speaker is featured each month. Topics vary (voting procedures, changes in the public schools, caring for the environment and more).
- **Neighborhood Resource Center** open to all neighborhood associations. Library of resources dealing with neighborhood issues and concerns. The NRC also provides free copying services that CHCA utilizes for this newsletter.
- **Grant Program** provides financial assistance to neighborhood associations through grant applications. Allocations average \$1,250. BONDS maximum grant award is \$5,000. *Since 2007, CHCA has been the recipient of BONDS grants totaling \$11,000.*



Home Improvements

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) must review all requests for exterior changes to historic structures and surface improvements to historic properties to ensure the planned improvements are consistent with the architectural and historical character of the individual structure and the neighborhood



in which it is located. This is to provide for property improvements while preserving and protecting the uniqueness of the neighborhood and the investment of the property owners.

All planned improvements to historically designated properties must have prior approval of the ARB even if a building permit is not required.

Avoid fines and delays have your projects approved in advance. For more information and application procedures call (334) 625-2722 or visit www.montgomeryal.gov

YOUR PARTICIPATION URGENTLY NEEDED

NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

As part of their grant requirements, BONDS is developing an online survey to help identify the needs of the neighborhood. BONDS Director, Regina Berry, announced, "We are asking that you get as much input from neighbors as possible because the final report will provide you with a list of neighborhood concerns based on the feedback from the survey. After those are identified; a grant request can be submitted addressing a concern from the report based on the survey."

At the time of publishing this newsletter, the survey website was not available. Once it is made available, the web address will be shared with the CHCA email list. A link to the site will also be added to our website, capitolheightsmontgomery.org. Please stay tuned for full details once this is released by BONDS.

If you are not on the email list, request to be added or keep checking our website for the Ink. **We need participation from as many households as possible.** The website is anticipated to be ready before this newsletter reaches you.

Free Food ART IN THE PARK

Vicker's Park
October 13

*see the calendar on page 8
for details*

What is Suspicious Activity?

Suspicious activity can refer to any incident, event, individual, or activity that seems unusual or out of place. Some examples of suspicious activities include:

- A stranger loitering in your neighborhood or a vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly.
- Someone peering into cars or windows.
- A high volume of traffic going to and coming from a home on a daily basis.
- Someone loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas.
- Strange odors coming from a house, building or vehicle.
- Open or broken doors and windows at an unoccupied residence.
- Someone tampering with electrical, gas, or sewer systems without an identifiable company vehicle or uniform.
- Persons arriving or leaving from homes or businesses at unusual hours.
- Multiple persons who appear to be working in unison and exhibiting suspicious behaviors.
- Signs of forced entry or tampering with security or safety systems.

The effectiveness of the police and sheriffs' offices efforts is enhanced by active participation on the part of our citizens. By calling to report suspicious persons or activity, you not only aid the police you make our community a safer

Suspicious Activity is anything that feels uncomfortable or out of place.

place to live. Some people fail to call because they are not aware of activities that might be suspicious. Others

may notice suspicious activity and hesitate to call for fear of being labeled a "nosy neighbor". Still others take it for granted that someone else has already called. Always report suspicious activity and all crimes because police don't know there's a problem unless they are told.

REMEMBER: Community members only serve as the extra "eyes and ears" of law enforcement. They should report their observations of suspicious activities to law enforcement; however, citizens should never try to take action on those observations. Trained law enforcement should be the only ones to take action based on observations of suspicious activities.

To report suspicious activity call 911 for emergencies. For non-emergencies call (334) 241-2651.

Report:

- Suspicious activities, people watching vehicles
- Illegal activities
- Unusual events or incidents
- Dangerous situations



Neighborhood Watch

Welcome to our two newest Block Captains: Marty Grissett from S. Madison Avenue and Ian Reed from S. Lewis Street. Block Captains are vital for the success of Neighborhood Watch. They help keep neighbors informed.

Our Neighborhood Watch has aided the police on several incidents that have led to arrests and stolen items have been returned. When good neighbors report suspicious behavior crime is reduced in our little corner of the world.

All residents are invited and encouraged to participate in the Capitol Heights Neighborhood Watch. A community's best way to establish a crime free environment is to be unified and committed.

For more information or to sign up as a Block Captain or find out who serves your area as a Block Captain contact: cindykeepingrealtor@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP

We are currently accepting membership dues for the 2011 – 2012 year. Dues are \$20 per household and are renewable in May of each year. Dues can be paid at any regular meeting or mailed to P. O. Box 70065 Montgomery, AL 36107-0065

8th Annual CLOVERDALE - IDLEWILD YARD SALE

Saturday, September 29
7am - 11am

Lower Cloverdale Park - 3100 block of Cloverdale Road (intersection of Cloverdale / Dupont / Audubon).

Call Elaine Kieffer 334-262-2477 for more information

THANK YOU!

Rex Owens and Chris Coleman of

United Rentals

for all they do to help the Capitol Heights Civic Association.

Show your appreciation and call them at 277-3330 for all of your rental needs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18 **Vote** Visit www.sos.alabama.gov for ballots and polling locations

September 29, 7 – 11am **Cloverdale-Idlewild Yard Sale**
Lower Cloverdale Park - 3100 block of Cloverdale Road (near the intersection of Cloverdale and Dupont and Audubon). Will feature a lot of furniture. Call Elaine Kieffer for more information: 262-2477.

September 25, Noon **BONDS Resource Training** Effective Communications. Josh McFall, Facilitator. Third Floor Conference Room, 25 Washington Avenue. This Free, no reservations are required. Call BONDS with your questions at 625-2126.

October 4, 7pm **Old Alabama Town Revue** Karren Pell and the Southern Renditions present their free variety show: A Musical Romp Through Voting Rights and Halloween. Old Alabama Town Church.

October 9, 7pm **CHCA Regular meeting** Fellowship Hall of the Capitol Heights United Methodist Church, 2000 Winona Avenue.

October 13, 9am – 1pm **Fall Fling: Art in the Park** Vicker's Park, South Madison Terrace. Join your neighbors in the park for fun, food, and art. Free event.

October 16, Noon **BONDS Gathering of Neighborhoods** Speaker: Derrick Cunningham, Deputy Sherriff for Montgomery County. First Baptist Church Caring Center. 200 South Perry Street. Optional lunch is available for \$6. Call BONDS with your questions at 625-2126.

November 6 **Vote** Visit www.sos.alabama.gov for ballots and polling locations

November 13, 6:30pm **CHCA Regular meeting & Thanksgiving Dinner**
Fellowship Hall of the Capitol Heights United Methodist Church, 2000 Winona Avenue. Bring a dish to share and join your neighbors for a feast.

December 15, 3 – 8pm **Capitol Heights by Candlelight: Toyland** Walking tour of historic homes decorated for the holidays. Tour begins at Vicker's Park. The route will feature James Avenue, Capitol Avenue.



Old Alabama Town Revue
Vote...If You Dare
October 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Old Church at Old Alabama Town

Karren Pell and Southern Rendition

featuring:
Greta Lambert
Tim Henderson
Toni Wood-Myers




Described as a Deep South "Prairie Home Companion" this holiday show is filled with original and traditional music, poems, monologs, fun, and laughter.

Volunteers Needed

Capitol Heights by Candlelight 2012

Planning for the 2012 Candlelight Tour has begun and CHCA needs volunteers to organize the event. This year's theme is Toyland.

This is our biggest fund raiser of the year and we need your help to make it a success.

Please call Cynthia at 530-1097.