



Message from the President

As I sit on my back deck this rainy December afternoon and reflect on the past year I find myself encouraged. At the beginning of this term we on the Executive Committee identified six goals to advance. Those goals were to:

- *Increase CHCA membership and participation*
- *Make a safer neighborhood through Neighborhood Watch and other means*
- *Continue progress on neighborhood-wide historic designation*
- *Endorse the Rental Property Maintenance Ordinance Initiative*
- *Enhance the appearance of the pavilion at Armstrong Park*
- *Improve cooperation with the Highland Park Neighborhood Association*

Although we have seen only a slight increase in Capitol Heights Civic Association membership it is clear that we have enjoyed increased participation. The **Military Appreciation and Thanksgiving Dinner** was an unqualified success. The dinner was sponsored in part by the **Alabama State Employees Association** as well as **Smoke House Bar-B-Que** in Millbrook in addition to the individual contributions of cash and home cooked dishes. Attendance was estimated at seventy-five persons and the food was incredible. Special thanks to **DJ Pollard** for arranging the turkeys and taking charge in the kitchen as well as **Glenn Donald** and **Nancy Blair** for their support.

The **Neighborhood Night Out**, partly sponsored by **BONDS**, was another great success. This year **Cindy Keeping** built on the success of **Lynn and Brenda Bryant** who sponsored the event for many years at their house and held an old fashioned picnic at Armstrong Park. **Bruce and Debbie George** along with their great band **The Shouting Stones** followed by **Rob Thornhill** provided musical entertainment as **Bonnie Wallace** and **Mayor Strange** danced

the Jitterbug. Thanks to **Robert Henderson** and **Randall Culp** for manning the grill.

Debbie Garrison and **Jonathan Guyette** advocated for a curfew for school-age children similar to one in effect in Mobile. After hearing their call, a small group met with **Councilman Tracey Larkin** who told us there is an unenforced ordinance in place that is intended to give the police the tools needed to address truants and other unruly youth. After our meeting, Mr. Larkin met with Public Safety Director **Chris Murphy** who committed to research the Mobile ordinance and respond back to us.

Cynthia McCollister has agreed to chair the Historic Designation Committee. She has already prepared a plan and has been provided a budget that will advance this important initiative. The groundwork has been done and the "feets on the streets" effort begins in earnest this January. January is also the month that we will complete the sidewalks survey that will assist the city (**Christy Anderson**) in preserving our hexagonal block sidewalks and granite curbs as well as providing a database for future sidewalk projects.

The Executive Committee endorsed the **Rental Property Maintenance Ordinance** initiative undertaken by **Cindy Keeping** and myself. We have met with **Councilman Larkin** on this topic and are pleased to announce that the issue has been assigned to a committee of the city council chaired by **Councilman Glen Pruitt**.

We have applied for a \$5000 grant from BONDS to add adornments to the pavilion at Armstrong Park to give it a Craftsman Style appearance more in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. We also intend to provide some landscaping as well as security lights.

We have not made as much progress as I would have liked in forging a strong relationship with our neighbors in Highland Park. Although, with the opening of **KRU on Mt. Meigs**, owned by CHCA members **Mendel Brown** and **ND Seibel** and situated in Highland Park on Mt. Meigs Road we have a great opportunity to rekindle those relationships.

Stacy Trantham and **Robert Henderson** continued with the Feral Cat Program. This year they developed an interesting logo for t-shirts.

More good news, the situation with the IRS is resolved and the Capitol Heights Civic Association has its 501(c)(3) non-profit status restored. Thanks to past president **Rich Anderson** for laying the groundwork for getting this important designation restored.

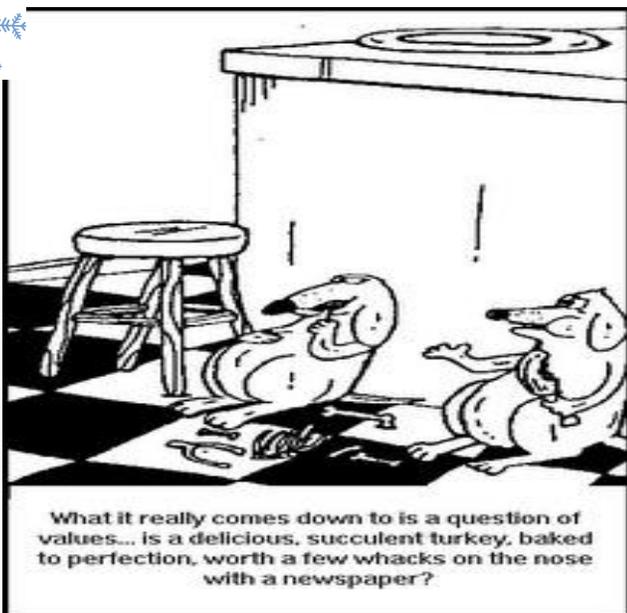
The highlight of the year was the **2014 Capitol Heights Candlelight Tour of Homes**. Many thanks to the homeowners who opened their houses to the tour - without them the tour could not exist. Thanks also to the many volunteers like **Karren Pell, Trisha Crowley** and **Wanda Oswalt**, and the sponsors who provided great support. I would be remiss not to mention the hard work by all the volunteers in support of prior tours. This year's success is due in large part to the work of many who have come before.

Finally, special recognition goes to **Gwen Moore, Chairperson of the 2014 Candlelight Tour of Homes**. Gwen's hard work and innovative thinking resulted in a very successful tour. She paired sponsors with specific needs in such a way that all tour expenses were covered before a single ticket was sold. She thought to partner with **Brantwood Childrens Home** to give the tour a special purpose beyond a simple fundraiser for our association. Because of Gwen's work and that of the many sponsors, volunteers, and homeowners, we were able to add to our treasury and provide a generous contribution to an important children's charity right in our own backyard. Good work Gwen. It should be noted that **Treasurer Ken Reynolds'** tight grip on our checkbook kept expenses to a minimum.

Did we accomplish all we wanted last year? No, but we had a lot of fun and we made real progress on the important goals we established for ourselves. We have a lot of work ahead; but, we also have great neighbors, talented volunteers (too numerous to mention all here), and a community spirit others envy. As I stated earlier, I feel encouraged and I hope you do too.

Happy New Year!!!

Terry W Robinson
President
Capitol Heights Civic Association



CAPITOL HEIGHTS BY CANDLELIGHT...



CONGRATULATIONS

to **Cynthia Frederick** who won the raffled Christmas Cookie Tray at the ticket booth!!

We would like to announce and thank the following Sponsors for this year's

Capitol Heights by Candlelight Tour:

Adams Drugs

Bama Country 98

Boatner's Drugs

CB Photography

Capitol Heights Historic Living Earthfare

Lamar Advertising

Sandra Nickel's Realty

The Battery Source

Treherm & Wells, DMD

A special thank you to our Grand Marshall – Olivia Deas!!

Upcoming Events for 2015

The event planners for CHCA would like to announce the year at a glance. Please mark your calendars so you & your family can participate. If you would like to volunteer on any project, please call Gwen Moore at 868-1168.

“Yard of the Month”

Starting in March and running through September we will recognize 2 “YOM”. 1 Winner and 2 Honorable Mentions from the North side of CH and 1 winner and 2 Honorable Mentions from the South side of CH. Each Monthly winner will receive a \$15 gift certificate from Little Mountain Growers. In November, an award will be given to the “Yard of the Year!” which will be determined from all the monthly winners. The Yard of the Year recipient will receive a \$50 gift card. Our new judge, Gwen Moore will be seeking an outside person to assist in judging. Judges will be looking for yards that have been improved, clean and freshened with plants and flowers.



To be announced



Membership Dues and Election of New Officers.

At the April General membership meeting (April 14th) neighbors will be nominated for office – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 7 Members at Large. At the May meeting (May 12th) elections will take place. Please consider serving your community for a year...participation is key to the advancement of our neighborhood!



May 2, (Saturday)
CHCA will host our first

Tablescape Fundraiser

For all of you who enjoying creating beautifully decorated tabletops this is your chance to shine and invite your friends to enjoy a lovely luncheon. Mark your calendars and watch for more details as they will be announced in future

newsletters. Funds raised will be used pay for CHCA events! Nancy Blair will be the Chairperson for this event



Recognizing our High School Graduates

This year CHCA will recognize our **graduating** high school seniors by placing their names and the high school they attend on a huge banner to be displayed in Armstrong Park two weeks before graduation. We want our neighborhood seniors and their parents to know we're proud of them!!

Parents, please contact Gwen Moore at 868-1188 to provide your child's information!

You asked....we heard!! In the coming months we will announce more details about our



“Patriotic Porch Decorating Contest”

The contest will run from **June**

14th (Flag Day) through July 2nd. We are looking for creative and fun décor showing pride in our country. Pictures of all participating porches will be posted on Facebook and websites - Voting will occur through various types of social media and website. The winners will be announced at the **concert in Armstrong Park on Friday, July 3rd** and prizes will be given out!



**Tuesday, August 4th,
2015
Armstrong Park**

CHCA's Neighborhood Watch invites you to come and enjoy hotdogs & hamburgers, **live music**, games and more! Meet neighbors and our local police who help make our community safe.

ARTOBERFEST - October 24th Vickers Park on S. Madison Terrace. Unique & creative canvas art, framed photography, jewelry, handmade soaps, candles... Beautifully original... Food vendors, face painting & more!



Fun for the whole family!!

If you need more info, please contact Cindy Keeping 315-0344.

November 10th - Everyone is invited to our **Military Appreciation & Thanksgiving Dinner** potluck.

Bring a dish and CHCA will provide the turkey and fixins... good food and great neighbors!! Dinner will be at the Capitol Heights United Methodist Church fellowship hall on Winona Avenue.



Finally, we close out 2015 with our 28th Annual **Capitol Heights by Candlelight Tour**, this year it will be on Winona Avenue!! We will also bring back Christmas lights decorating contest.



Whew!! What a year looking forward to seeing all of you!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

There is a lot to consider when protecting ourselves and our neighborhood. No effort is too small when it builds up community and we show how much we care...like **Michelle Nelson** who when witnessing an abusive situation immediately called out for it to stop and called the police who quickly came and caught the abuser! Or **Paul Ivey** taking it upon himself to plant pansies in our Armstrong Park flower pots... and **Pastor Geoffrey** with **Capitol Heights United Methodist Church** who visited our neighborhood schools to invite the youth to a special party held just for them to give the students school supplies...each and every one of these efforts declare ...

WE LOVE OUR CAPITOL HEIGHTS!!



Capitol Heights United Methodist Church

Announces their **NEW CONTEMPORARY SERVICES** Beginning Sunday, **January 11th 4:00**

Mission Statement -

The **Capitol Heights Civic Association** is established to promote the social, cultural, and architectural wellbeing of the Capitol Heights neighborhood through various educational and community oriented events and activities

Membership dues are good from May through April each year and are not prorated.

\$20 per household

CHCA WEBSITE: capitolheightsmontgomery.org

FACEBOOK PAGES: Capitol Heights Montgomery
Historic Capitol Heights
Capitol Heights by Candlelight

EMAIL: capitolheightsmontgomery@gmail.com

CHCA meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Capitol Heights United Methodist Church on Winona Avenue . 7:00 pm

Capitol Heights Feral Cat Fund T-shirts for sale!!

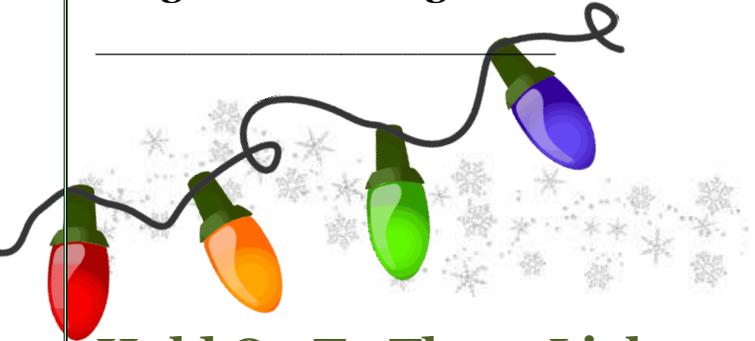


Support the Capitol Heights Feral Cat fund by buying a t-shirt - \$20 donation

Make checks out to - Capitol Heights Feral Cat Fund - Please email Stacy Trantham "The Cat Lady" at got12bamadoes@yahoo.com



...if you know of someone making a difference in our neighborhood, please submit their name and how they are making a difference in our community...
Neighbors making a Difference



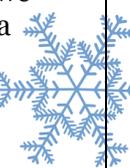
Hold On To Those Lights

A bit of History by Karren

While celebrating the incoming New Year at our very own neighborhood hang, KRU, I was delighted to learn from Gwen Moore that this year, 2015, the Capitol Heights Civic Association will sponsor a house decoration contest with a patriotic theme for one of the national holidays. You understand that I was enjoying a wonderful glass of champagne and wonderful conversations with wonderful friends and so please excuse me if a detail such as the exact date and holiday escaped me. No worries. We should have plenty of time to attend to details.

HOWEVER, I thought I should mention it now for those of you that maybe, like me, haven't quite put up all the Christmas decorations. My idea is to use red, white, and blue Christmas lights for our patriotic decorations. Oh, I am sure many of you had them down, labeled, tied, in boxes and packed long ago. But for those of us who celebrate Christmas Tide (the twelve days of Christmas), or are simply a tad late in getting over Christmas, we might still have a few items to pack away. Just a suggestion.

Our neighborhood has a history of showing patriotism. On July 3, 1924, the neighborhood newsletter, Capitol Heights Weekly, announced that "On the morning of July 4th Old Glory will flutter from the top of Mr. Pinckard's new steel flag pole." Pinckard's home stood on the location of the current Armstrong Park. A strange comment followed that announcement: "Directly under the Star and Stripes will wave the Confederate flag." I understand from my other studies that this seemingly polar combination was not an unusual



occurrence. Ah well. In the September 5, 1924 issue of the same paper, residents were asked to "unfurl Old Glory" from their front porches to "display 100 percent American loyalty" for the occasion of National Defense Test Day. More directions followed: "Those who have no American flags should lose no time in obtaining one or more." So, again I noted something a little strange--what the heck was National Defense Test Day? A brief internet search (what an age we live in) informed me that in the time before national radio networks existed, on September 12, 1924, twenty-four radio stations coast to coast participated in an exercise to discover ways radio might be utilized to help the population respond to a national emergency. We can safely assume they figured it out, so there you have it.

No, I don't know the date of the Capitol Heights Patriotic Extravaganza. I am writing about it now to try and save some of you some time in regards to those Christmas lights. They might help you win a prize. I am unselfishly looking out in your best interests as we will be working it hard over here. I have big plans for some **patriotic pigs**.



And if that last comment is as strange as flying Confederate flags and National Defense Test Day to some of you--you are behind in your contemporary Capitol Heights history.

Happy New Year!!

Karren Pell



(Karren Pell is our very own historian and writer who lives with her husband Tim and their four dogs and numerous cats.)



REMINDER:

Speaking of lights... We found out a bit late to inspire full cooperation from our neighbors, so next year, the first week of January please let's shine a blue light on your front porches in support of our very own Montgomery Police Department.