



Capitol Heights Newsletter



October 2018

Midtown Montgomery's Friendliest Historic Neighborhood

Montgomery, AL



The Saint Charles Ghost

My grandparents lived on Saint Charles Avenue when I was young. My grandfather worked out of town on weekdays so my grandmother was often home alone and I loved keeping her company. The Halloween of my 6th year was spent at Grandmama's house. My older brother was out gallivanting with his friends in Cloverdale and my younger brothers

were home with Mama and Daddy, so for Halloween it was just me and Grandmama. There were lots of kids in the neighborhood in those days and I joined in with a few of them and we walked from house to house gathering treats. My grandmother and some neighbor ladies sat on the front porch talking and snapping beans.

After my friends and I had been to every house on the block we sat down and exchanged goodies. My choice of treat was candy cigarettes. Something caught my eye and I looked up and saw a large white ghost coming down my grandmother's driveway. I froze. It was huge. It must have been 10 feet tall. I watched it come down the driveway into the street.

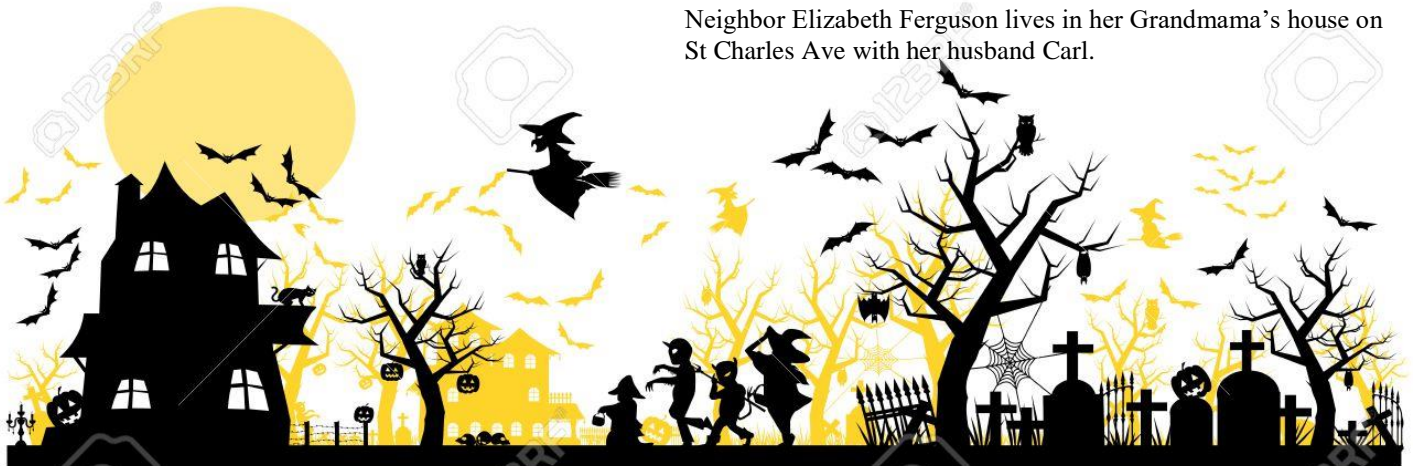
By this time mayhem had begun. There were screams and children scattering to get as far away from the ghost as possible. The long thin ghost slowly glided down the middle of the now empty street. I've never run so fast in my life. I ran through front yards, ran down a driveway, ran through back yards, jumped bushes, climbed over fences, and finally flew through Grandmama's back door. I was crying as I ran around the house looking for my grandmother. I remembered she had been sitting on the front porch so I yanked open the front door but she wasn't there. Nobody was there. I was all by myself but I felt safe inside the house. Grandmama was probably at a neighbor's house and didn't know the horror that was currently floating down the middle of her street.

I sat on the sofa eating what candy hadn't bounced out of my bucket, and after what felt like an hour I heard the back screen door slam. My heart hit the ceiling. I didn't make a sound. Then I heard her call out my name. I jumped off the sofa and ran into the kitchen and into my grandmother's arms. As I rattled off everything that had happened. Grandmama went to the freezer and took out a carton of ice cream and fixed us both a bowl of vanilla ice cream topped with chocolate syrup. Between bites I told her what happened. She said I shouldn't worry since the ghost had probably moved on to another street by now.

After the ice cream was finished I took a long hot bath in the claw foot tub. When I was wrinkly enough I dried off and got into my nightgown. On heading down the hall to the bedroom I noticed Grandmama stuffing a load of white sheets into the washing machine. I talked with her while she swept up dirt from around the back door. I was tired and went on to bed waiting for Grandmama to join me after she finished cleaning. She was always cleaning.

It wasn't long and dishes were washed and the kitchen light turned off and Grandmama came to bed. I was asleep before her bedside lamp was turned off. I had no idea that just a few hours earlier my grandmother was holding above her head a broom stick over which was draped white sheets that had been sewn together so as to be long enough to cover her shoes as she walked down the middle of Saint Charles Avenue. I was snuggled up that night in bed with the Saint Charles Ghost.

Neighbor Elizabeth Ferguson lives in her Grandmama's house on St Charles Ave with her husband Carl.



TRICK
TREAT

We wish everyone a safe and Happy Halloween

- If you are giving out candy, please keep your porch light on so the area is safe coming and going on your porch.
- Be mindful of your pets, with all the activity outside, they can get a little nervous.
- Drivers...SLOW DOWN...be on the lookout for children.
- Reflection tape on costumes and flash lights are a good idea for visibility.
- Capitol Heights has sidewalks – use them!!



OCTOBER 2018 CHCA MEETING

General Membership Agenda

Capitol Heights Civic Association, Inc.
United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
2000 Winona Avenue Montgomery,
Alabama 36107
October 9th, 2018 7 PM

Call to Order:

Montgomery Police Department- Discussion

Guest Speaker-

Department of Home Land Security FEMA
Community Preparedness - What you need to know.

Old Business: Quorum not present at last meeting.
Discussion from last meeting on approvals for:
Adopt A Fire Station event and budget.

South Capitol Parkway electrical for Christmas
decorations. Asking City of Montgomery to take over
responsibility and expense of repair and providing
electricity during Christmas season.
Approval to send letter on behalf of the association.

Lock and keys for the CHCA shed.

Community Garden donation.

November Veterans-Military Appreciation dinner.
Donation to CHUMC.

Comments, Announcements, and other business:

Adjournment:

If you have an article or comment to share, please call me
at 315-0344. History articles, your corner of the
neighborhood articles or events are especially welcomed!!
Cindy



CAPITOL HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

WEBSITE

capitolheightsmontgomery.org

CHCA 2018-19 OFFICERS:

Gene Gunter	President
Danita Rivers	Vice President
Terry Robinson	Treasurer
Mae Tullis	Secretary

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Paul Rawlinson
Bruce George
Nancy Blair
Cynthia McCollister
Alexine Saunders

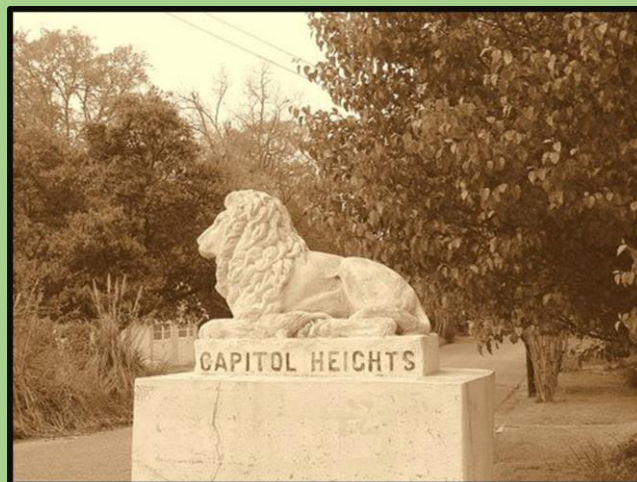
CONTACT US:

capitolheightsmontgomery@gmail.com



CAPITOL HEIGHTS MONTGOMERY
CAPITOL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY GARDEN

*"Midtown Montgomery's Friendliest
Neighborhood"*





FRESH

1004 Madison Ave
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday,
5Am - 2Pm,
Year Round**



Montgomery's Salvage Warehouse

423 Madison Avenue



Neighborhood Tid-Bits:

**Capitol Heights
United Methodist Church**
has a **Bible study** for youth and
another for adults every
Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

CHUMC also has a
monthly



**FREE COMMUNITY
DINNER**
every third Saturday at
6:00 PM.

CHUMC is located at 2000 Winona Ave



*Please join us for the
30th Annual Holiday Market*

October 10-13, 2018

Multiplex at Cramton Bowl

220 Hall St, Montgomery, AL 36104

*This shopping extravaganza features a wide variety of
specialty shops and holiday trends that attracts
thousands of shoppers from Montgomery and the
surrounding River Region to kick off our holiday
shopping season.*

*Proceeds from Holiday Market support JLM's various
community projects that help to strengthen women and
families in the River Region area.*



MMFA

Family Art Affair

Get your creativity going
as you visit the studio
and complete a
make-and-take art
project. This free family
program has specific

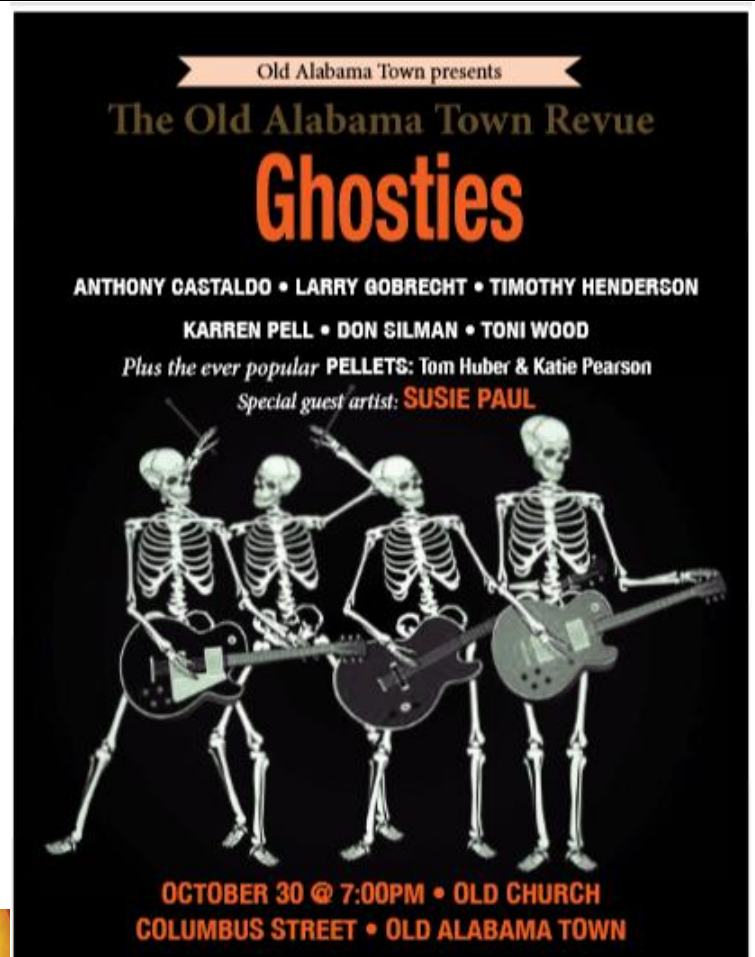
themes related to Museum exhibitions and is sure to
be fun and engaging
for the whole family.

Sunday, October 28th

2-4 pm

Join us in the studio to paint a
colorful
and creepy spider web artwork
using water colors!!





6:00pm -9:00pm

Last admission tickets are sold at 8:30pm

Join us for 12 nights of horror and fun at Zoo Boo.

Climb aboard the thrill ride of a life time Haunted Hay

Ride or mosey on over to the Pumpkin Pull for a good,

ole fashioned, non-scary, traditional hay ride. Enjoy

games, bouncy castles, concessions and much more at

Zoo Boo. Gates open nightly at 6pm, and the first

Haunted Hay Ride will pull out at dusk. \$17 (ages 3 years old and

older). Ticket includes entry, one ride on either the Haunted Hay Ride

(scary ride)

or the Pumpkin Pull Hay Ride (non-scary) and one sheet of game tickets

(10 tickets per sheet).

Montgomery Zoo members receive a 50% discount on Zoo Boo admission. BUY TICKETS ONLINE NOW

The New and The Old

The Old Alabama Town Revue begins a new season on October 30th 2018--the day before Halloween. Therefore, our program is focused on a Halloween theme: "Ghosties."

The OAT Revue features 3 Capitol Heights residents: Karren Pell, Tim Henderson, and Toni Wood. For our first show, we Have several new original songs, a couple of original songs we are excited to perform again, and several old faves. We are also honored to welcome poet Susie Paul who will read her poems about these poplar apparitions.

Besides a new season, you may notice we have a new date. This season our date will not be set. However, I will be sure to let you know wayyy in advance of our next show. Our other news is that we have a new bass player: Don Silman. Don performed with us on our spring show, and we are very excited that he is now the newest member of the Revue Crue.

We are looking forward to seeing friends old and new at our first show of the new season. The time is the same-7:00 pm, and so is the place-the church in Old Alabama Town on Columbus Street. Come in through the gate on Columbus Street. Walk through the double doors of the old church and slid into those wooden pews. Nothing new about those pews

soooo **Don't forget your cushion.!**



YARD OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2018



105 S. LEWIS ST



1929 CAPITOL AVE



2114 MADISON AVE



Thank you to all neighbors who clean up their yards, plant flowers, trim, and edge, etc. to make our community beautiful.



RECOGNIZING A RENOVATION THAT HELPS CAPITOL HEIGHTS



KUDOS TO THE DEVELOPERS WHO
TRANSFORMED THE APARTMENT BUILDINGS
AT 402 FEDERAL DRIVE AND 2706
WINDSOR FROM BOARDED-UP EYE-SORES TO
COMPLETELY-RESTORED ASSETS TO THE
HOUSING STOCK OF OUR AREA. WHILE
ACROSS THE STREET FROM CAPITOL
HEIGHTS, THEY ENHANCE OUR IMAGE.
GREAT JOB!

Tricia Crowley- neighbor, gardener, and
friend.



Keep Capitol Heights Clean



"The streets are so much cleaner since we started
picking up the litterbugs."

No doubt we would like to see those "litterbugs" who
throw trash out their windows or while walking on
our streets picked up and charged for littering. But
the reality is...that's not going to happen. So, we roll
up our sleeves and pick up the litter that gets blown
into our yards and littered on the street. This is OUR
neighborhood and we want it clean.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all neighbors who do their
part to keep Capitol Heights clean!! To the rest of
the neighbors...please join us!!



RIP

MARILYN RUTHERFORD 1928-2018



Marilyn Rutherford, long-time neighbor on St. Charles Avenue. and friend to many, died on Thursday, September 13th at home at age 90, lovingly cared for by her granddaughter April. "The Energizer Bunny" finally ran out of steam.

Marilyn was born in New York but moved with her husband to Montgomery for his work with Blount

Construction. After his unexpected death at age 50 in 1983, Marilyn moved to Capitol Heights, a neighborhood she loved and served until her final days.

Marilyn was an active member of the Capitol Heights Civic Association for many years, serving on the Executive Committee, the Welcoming Committee [many neighbors received her signature pumpkin breads], Yard of the Month, and the initial push for historic designation of certain key streets in the neighborhood. She was an inveterate gardener, keeping her lawn and garden [AND storm grate] manicured until the end [planting, weeding and picking up sticks while on a walker!] Until her second knee replacement, she had a regular walking route in the neighborhood. She attended her last Spring Fling and National Night Out on a cane.

We extend our condolences to her family, and to ourselves. We have lost a good neighbor and friend.

Tricia Crowley



¹ Minna Roth Hill, Sidney Lanier website



1900 Winona

Reading Elizabeth Ferguson's article about the Ghost on St. Charles made me think of other

stories I have heard neighbors sharing about growing up in Capitol Heights. We are rich with stories in this community.

I was talking to my neighbor, Paul Rawlinson, recently, and he was telling me about the football games back in Montgomery between Lee High School and Lanier! So I looked it up to find out what size crowds actually went to the games. According to Minna Roth Hill's article, *A Significant History*, "By the 1960's the rivalry between the two 4-A football teams, the Sidney Lanier Poets and the Robert E. Lee Generals, had become legendary. Lanier's battle cry was, 'The Poet's pen is mightier than the General's sword.' Each year tickets for the Lee-Lanier game went on sale at the box office at Cramton Bowl months before the game and were sold out within hours. Crowds of 22,000 fans or more scurried into Cramton Bowl for the games, which were usually the last game of the season for both teams. The half-time shows were also an attracting factor to the Lee-Lanier games. Showboats, floats, fireworks, and dazzling band performances entertained the crowds. The rivalry between the two schools became an intense and ongoing feud in the city, with pranks and even violence entering into the equation at times."¹

Can you imagine that today?

I thought that by Oct 1st the weather would be cool and I would have a photo of neighbors gathering eating soup on my front porch...sign...next month??

Your neighbor, Cindy





CHCA ANNUAL FALL PORCH DECORATING CONTEST!!

**Time to buy some pumpkins and straw to
decorate our yards and porches for the
Harvest/Halloween season!!**

Deadline October 27th

**Winners will be announced
In Novembers Newsletter!**





Fall on North Lewis Street

The calendar says its fall. The autumn equinox has come and gone. Pumpkin spice EVERYTHING is available in abundance. But these temperatures!! Geez Louise--its still summer on North Lewis Street. The cannas are still blooming. The lantana is gorgeous. However, the spider lilies have burst through the grassy lawn and the sunflowers are blooming up a storm. Maybe cooler temperatures are not so far away.



The house on the corner of North Lewis and St. Charles has sold and the family moved. So we are now looking forward to meeting new neighbors.

Next door to that house, Holly's fall décor is so much fun.



Jim & Judy have been putting in new bath rooms. If you have ever been involved in such a project, you know what a huge undertaking it is--even if the actual work is done by a contractor. I understand that Capitol Heights own Bruce George's company is doing the work so I am confident everything will be fabulous. I have been amused however, by the two toilets sitting on the curb.



Carole and Cindy's coleus have turned bright red and are stunning. Pretty soon they will decorate their porch for Halloween--they always go all out with a big spider and web. YUK! However, this year I have a big ghost to hang from my porch so I'll appear somewhat festive. I am using it for my Old Alabama Town Revue decorations the night before--please see my article in this newsletter. The end of October is going to be busy!!

Happy Fall--one and all. I hope we will be blessed with fall colors and temperatures soon.

