

**Green Mountain
Civic League**



GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2012

<http://www.greenmountaincivicleague.org>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual SPRING Green Mountain Civic League meeting

(See agenda at the end of this newsletter)

Monday, April 16, 2012

7:00 p.m.

At the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department on South Shawdee

SPRING GREEN MOUNTAIN CLEANUP

Saturday, April 21

Meet at the Green Mountain Nature Trail at 9 a.m.

It seems that the same small group of volunteers shows up every fall and spring, and there is a dire need for more help from residents on the mountain. Do you have a scout in your home? This would be an excellent opportunity for them to partake in a community project. Please take a morning to do your share to preserve the beauty of our neighborhoods! Thanks!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

There is a runoff election for the County Commission District 3 seat on April 24 between Republican candidates Joey Parker and Eddie Sisk. They are seeking the seat being vacated by our friend, Jerry Craig, and each has agreed to be at our April 16 General Meeting. Each will speak for five minutes prior to the Call to Order.

Most importantly, we wish Jerry a happy retirement; we all appreciate his support over the years. Thank you, Jerry!

Your neighbor, Pete Pryor, will also speak at our General Meeting, and will describe the recent installation of the geothermal system on his property. Several residents have requested an opportunity to learn about this process and its success.

The recent redistricting of the County Commission areas resulted in part of Green Mountain being removed from District 3 and placed in District 5, which seems to make no sense. The redistricting review occurs by Federal mandate every ten years, based upon the last census. The issue was taken to the local attorney who assisted the Commission in the redistricting and submission to the Justice Department for approval. He, in turn, informed the Commission members of our request that all of Green Mountain be in District 3. Phil Riddick, present District 5 Commissioner, phoned me with the information that the entire commission had met and agreed to pursue the requested change. However, because of State Code, no action of this type can be initiated until six months after an election. He said that would put it off until August of this year. I will pay close attention to the Commission's pursuit of the requested change.

Attention will also be paid to ensuring the resurfacing of Valley Green and Riverview Roads is in the 2013 Huntsville City budget.

As you know, some break-ins have occurred at the Nature Trail in the recent past, with losses of equipment. Increased security is now in place. Each of us must take notice of unattended vehicles: get the description and tag number! Report any suspicious activity to the Police Department at 256-722-7100.

This is also a reminder of the past request by the Volunteer Fire Department to have your house number on both sides of your mailbox, especially on South Shawdee, as some emergency vehicles now come up the mountain from the Hampton Cove area. Questions have been asked as to the location of the recent fire on the mountain. It was on Land Trust property at the north end of Mountcrest at the edge of the cliff and down the bluff.

Much good work is being accomplished by your Green Mountain Civic League Board members to address and resolve issues brought to their attention by you, the residents of our beautiful Green Mountain community.

Please observe the speed limits – 25 mph in all of our neighborhoods – 30 mph on South Shawdee and Green Mountain Road. Also, remember there is a City leash ordinance governing your pets as well as a noise ordinance which applies to disruptive barking dogs.

Thank you good neighbors and good citizens!

Beverly Humphrey

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1)The Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a YARD SALE at the Firehouse on MAY 4th and MAY 5th. Please bring your gently used clothing, unloved home decorations, stored furniture, totally unsuitable gear, and toys needing children to play with them on Thursday, May 3rd or Friday, the 4th of May. And have your friends bring their really good stuff that they can no longer use as well. If you want to donate but will not be in town on those days, give us a call (256-882-5802 or 256-882-1563) and we can make arrangements to acquire your really good stuff early.

The Fire Department will have meetings for current and potential volunteers on April 19 at 7:00 p.m. at The Annex on South Shawdee, and on May 24 at 7:00 p.m. at The Annex. On June 28 and July 26, the meeting will be held on the 28th at the Nature Trail (weather permitting) at 7:00 p.m. **The GMVFD always needs and welcomes volunteers.**

Finally, thanks to every one of you who donated to the GMVFD in 2011; we were able to make our annual mortgage payment and are in good shape financially to be able to do so again in 2012. Your investment in our community is invaluable and on behalf of the volunteers at the Fire Department, as well as all residents of Green Mountain, thank you again!

(2) Mark your calendars now: Civic League's FALL PICNIC and community meeting

Saturday, October 14, 2012

Elected officials will be our guests.

Bring something to share potluck.

Entertainment "maybe."

(3) A reminder to go to the Green Mountain website (listed at the top of page 1) if you ever have questions, concerns, or comments for any of the GMCL officers.

Minutes

**Green Mountain Civic League Membership Meeting
October 2011**

(NOTE: In the absence of our recording secretary, Leslie Curtis, the following minutes are submitted by Norma Oberlies, who graciously agreed to serve in her stead.)

The Green Mountain Civic League met at the Green Mountain Nature Trail on October 16, 2011 in conjunction with the Civic League's annual picnic. President Beverly Humphrey welcomed the 80+ residents in attendance.

The Minutes of the Community meeting in April 2011 were approved as read.

Anita Reck, Civic League Treasurer, reported that to date, there are 250 members of the Civic League and 148 have paid their dues for 2011.

Janice Martin, Membership Committee chair, reviewed the list of those residents who have paid in 2011.

Mark Prill, Beautification Committee co-chair, presented a report regarding the bi-annual cleanup, held on Saturday, October 15. Although only 12 residents showed up to participate in the cleanup, the areas to be addressed were successfully covered and tidied adequately.

Chuck Wayne, Public Safety Committee chair, reported that Jim Mathis (Monte Vedra), Phil Fikes (Green Oakes), and Ken McGriff (South Shawdee) are currently serving as block captains.

Chuck also reported on various road repair projects going on across Green Mountain.

Amanda Stokes, a volunteer with the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, announced that there will be a second garage sale to raise funds for the VFD in May 2012.

The meeting adjourned with a potluck supper for the residents of the mountain.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Oberlies

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Public Safety Committee is a standing committee of the GMCL; chair is Chuck Wayne (256-881-9536). This committee is happy to report that City Traffic Engineering has completed the repaving of Monte Vedra Road, and has scheduled the following Green Mountain roads to be at the “top of the list” for repainting and installing raised pavement markers: Dale, Wade point, Riverview and Valley Green Roads. Also, the cul-de-sac at the end of Monte Vedra Road will be inspected to determine if adding white striping along its perimeter will be beneficial to improve visibility during periods of heavy fog. Discussions are in progress with City Engineering to remedy the “blind corner” and associated safety issues on Mountcrest Drive. The City Public Works Services is proceeding forward to let a contract to repair the missing guardrail on Green Mountain Road. The streetlight at the corner of South Shawdee and South Village Square has been replaced.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

(1) MAKE PLANS TO HELP WITH THE **BI-ANNUAL MOUNTAIN CLEAN UP**, Saturday, **April 21st** **Please** take a couple of hours on Saturday morning to do your share to preserve the beauty of our neighborhoods! Plan to meet at 9 a.m. at the Nature Trail to receive safety vests, trash bags, and can grabbers. It seems that the same small group of volunteers shows up every fall and spring, and there is a dire need for more help from residents on the mountain. Thanks!

(2) The last election generated numerous signs on the mountain and the GMCL Board requested an investigation of the city ordinance governing this issue. Provided for your information here are relevant excerpts from the Huntsville Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Zoning Ordinance, Article 72. Sign Control Regulations:

Non-commercial, attached and ground signs in residential districts only: (1) advertising political parties, issues, or candidates; (2) announcing an upcoming non-commercial event such as a school function, church bazaar, or fund raiser by a bona fide non-profit entity; or (3) that are otherwise an exercise of the constitutional right of free speech may be erected under the following conditions:

- **72.6.1.** When the same are related to or concerning a pending election to be held within the city or county, such signs may be erected and maintained temporarily prior to said election and shall be removed no later than ten days after the election or any runoff election.
 - **72.6.2.** When the signs are for an upcoming non-commercial event, such signs may be erected and maintained temporarily no earlier than six weeks prior to the event and shall be removed no later than ten days after the conclusion of the event.
 - **72.6.3.** No more than two such signs shall be maintained on any lot at any one time.
 - **72.6.4.** The signs may not contain any commercial advertisements or otherwise relate to a commercial use, service or product including without limitation the use, service or product of the owner or tenant on the lot on which the sign is located.
 - **72.6.5.** In residence 1, 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 2, 2-A, 2-C and planned development-housing districts the size of such signs shall not exceed six square feet.
 - **72.6.6.** No height or setback shall be required, except as provided in section 72.6.8, and except that no such sign shall be erected so as to violate the corner visibility provisions of
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this ordinance.

- **72.6.7.** A \$25.00 annual permit fee shall be paid to the zoning administrator by each candidate or campaign organization or non-profit entity erecting non-commercial signs within the city of Huntsville. The application form for non-commercial signs shall be signed by the person responsible for removing or having removed said signs within the authorized time period. The name and address of the candidate or the campaign organization or non-profit entity shall be clearly printed on the face of said signs.
- **72.6.8.** No such signs shall be erected in or on any public right-of-way, public park, public building, public grounds, or other public place, except that in residentially zoned districts such signs shall be erected a minimum of ten feet from the back of the curb or from the edge of the pavement if there is no curb regardless of the actual location of said right-of-way. No such signs shall be affixed to any tree, fence post or telephone or utility pole, and it shall be unlawful for any person to erect or maintain any such signs upon the property of another without first having secured authorization or permission of the owner or person in possession of the property.

Treasurer's Report

2011 Activity

Beginning January cash:

Civic League	Community Watch	Combined
\$1,795.11	\$1,249.51	\$3,044.62

INCOME:

Dues/donations:

\$1,129.62	\$ 556.38	\$2,686.00
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Decal reimbursement:

	\$ 65.66	\$ 32.34	\$ 98.00
TOTAL INCOME:			
	\$1,195.28	\$ 588.72	\$1,794.00
EXPENSES:			
		Civic League	Community
Watch	Combined		
-Newsletters/ Postage	(\$339.52)	(\$167.22)	(\$506.74)
-Picnic supplies	(\$304.14)	(\$304.14)	(\$453.93)
-Painting Fire Station	(\$384.51)	(\$189.39)	(\$573.90)
-P.O. Box Rental	(\$46.90)	(\$23.10)	(\$70.00)
-Bank charges	(\$18.76)	(\$9.24)	(\$28.00)
TOTAL			
EXPENSES:	(\$1,093.83)	(\$538.74)	(\$1,632.57)
NET INCOME:	\$101.45	\$49.98	\$151.43
December 2011 ending cash	\$1,186.56	\$1,299.49	\$3,196.05

Green Mountain Civic League General Membership Meeting

April 16, 2012

Agenda

Call to Order – Bev Humphrey

Minutes – Leslie Curtis

Treasurer’s Report – Anita Reck

Vice President – Mark Prill

Introduction of speaker, Pete Pryor: “Geothermal installation”

Committee Chairs Report:

Data Base – Anita Reck

Membership – Janice Martin

Beautification – Susan Prill

Public Safety – Chuck Wayne

Communications – Joani Kerr

Website – Michele Garret

Digital Interface – Susan Prill

Events – Norma Oberlies

Liaison – Chuck Gibb

Bylaws – Curtis Strange

Volunteer Fire Department – Russ Rawson

Neighborhood Watch – Royce Mitchell

Archives – Janice Martin

Old Business

New Business

Set Annual Dues

Nominating Committee – John Wardlaw

Election of Members-at-Large

Adjourn

GREEN MOUNTAIN

CIVIC LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY WATCH

please include your check for dues!

Membership Application

NAME: Last _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ (Work) _____

Has your email address changed since September 2010? Yes _____ No _____

Current E-Mail address: _____

(We will guard your e-address carefully against overuse or improper use)

2012 Membership	Civic League	\$8.00 _____
	Community Watch	\$4.00 _____
100% Tax Deductible Donation to Green Mtn VFD		_____
	TOTAL:	_____

Are you interested in participating on a Civic League Committee? _____

Current committees: Beautification _____ Block Captain _____

Communications _____ Events _____

Membership _____ Public Safety _____

Would you agree to participate in the Community Watch patrols? _____

(If yes, **we really need your e-mail address**, but again will guard it closely against overuse).

Volunteers are need by the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department; would you like to assist? Being present in the station during a call ____ Directing traffic at the site ____ Clean up at the station ____

Please turn in this form, along with your check made payable to the Green Mountain Civic League or mail to: **Green Mountain Civic League**

**P. O. Box 14327
Huntsville, AL 35815**

Green Mountain bumper decals are available for \$2.00 each. How many can we send you? _____ (Please include payment with your dues check) Thanks!!

Green Mountain Civic League (GMCL) Board

President: Beverly Humphrey

Vice-President: Mark Prill

Secretary: Leslie Curtis

Treasurer: Anita Reck

Standing Committees, their Chairperson, & the responsibilities of each committee:

Archives: **Janice Martin** Maintains accurate and comprehensive records of the GMCL and public issues related to Green Mountain.

Beautification: **Susan Prill** Works on infrastructure issues and the appearance of public areas, as well as scheduling and managing clean-up days.

Block Captains: Fred Hinckley Recruits and coordinates block captains to provide rapid two-way communication in urgent or emergency situations on the mountain.

Communications: **Joani Kerr** Facilitate and expand communications among residents through this newsletter and the Green Mountain website.

Data Base: Anita Reck Maintain and secure the GMCL data base of residents' names, addresses, and email addresses.

Events: Norma Oberlies Manage the annual GMCL fall picnic and any other organized recreational events held by the GMCL.

Membership: Janice Martin Expand membership and maintain accurate and timely records.

Public Safety: Chuck Wayne Monitor and alert residents to crime, vandalism, and threats to property on Green Mountain, contacting proper authorities if necessary.

Liaison: Chuck Gibb Contact and communicate with local government entities in matters pertaining to the interest of the GMCL.

Bylaws: Curtis Strange Maintain current bylaws and update with changes approved by the membership of GMCL.
