

**Green Mountain
Civic League**



GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIC LEAGUE

Newsletter

April 2015

<http://www.greenmountaincivicleague.org>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual SPRING Green Mountain Civic League Meeting

7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21

at the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department,
aka Huntsville Fire and Rescue Station 13

SPRING GREEN MOUNTAIN CLEANUP

Saturday, April 25

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

Please take a morning to preserve the beauty of our neighborhoods! It only takes **an hour or 2 hours** at most. Thanks!

Also if driving please **slow down** when approaching our cleanup crew!!!

The **Huntsville Police Department** will be **patrolling for speeders** and the **Green Mountain Fire and Rescue Volunteers** will be providing escort.

Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department

Rummage Sale

Friday & Saturday, 1-2 May

Drop off goods the evening of April 30 or call 256-881-6556 for pickup by appointment

FALL ANNUAL GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIC LEAGUE PICNIC

At the Madison County Nature Trail

Sunday October 4th, 3:00-5:30 pm

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Good Day to all our Green Mountain Neighbors,

We will be hosting our Spring Green Mountain Civic League **General Membership meeting** on Tuesday, April 21st at the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. The agenda is shown below, with both the **Minutes** and **Treasurer's Report** from the **October 2014 General Membership Meeting** included for your advance review and concurrence. We'll also be holding our Officer elections, so, please do attend, and come prepared to: discuss any exceptions to the Minutes/Treasurer's Reports, approve the final on both of these, and vote on our Officers.

We've invited Dr. Harry Hobbs, Huntsville Utilities, to be our guest speaker. Dr. Hobbs will talk about the Huntsville Utilities organization, governance, and management structure, and also address: customer service; natural gas, water, electricity, services; scams; and Georgetown University Energy Prize. Please join me there to welcome our guest!

Next, a request please, to extend an invitation to any new, or other legacy, Green Mountain residents who are not currently civic league members. We will have membership forms available at the meeting for new members, and current members will be able to pay 2015 dues as well.

And finally, we are always looking for additional volunteer support for Community Watch, Area & Block Captains, and the Volunteer Fire Department. The appropriate

contact information for each committee lead is provided, along with a listing of your current slate of officers, and their contact information at the end of this newsletter

Hope to see you on Tuesday, April 21st at 7pm for the Spring General Membership Meeting!

Mark Prill, President, GMCL

SPRING GMCL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order – Mark Prill

Minutes – Susan Prill (Acting Secretary)

Treasurer’s Report – Anita Reck

Vice President – Beverly Humphrey

Introduction of speaker, Dr. Harry Hobbs, Huntsville Utilities

Committee Chair Reports:

Membership/Database – Anita Reck

Beautification – Nancy Corbelle

Communications – Susan Prill

Website – Michele Garrett

Public Safety – John Wardlaw

Nominating Committee – John Wardlaw

Events – Norma Oberlies

Liaison – Beverly Humphrey

Bylaws – Curtis Strange

Block Captains – Fred Hinckley

Ex-officio Member Reports:

Volunteer Fire Department – Russ Rawson

Neighborhood Watch – Barry Beavers

The Preserve at Clayton Pond HOA – Jeff Bachman

Old Business

New Business

Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, & Secretary)

Adjourn

Fall General Meeting Minutes

5 October 2014

President: Mr. Phil Riddick was introduced as the guest speaker to talk about the future of Grissom High School.

District 5 County Commissioner Phil Riddick:

Current plans are to use Grissom High School's current campus, once a new one is built in 2017, as a county library and a south Huntsville police precinct.

The City of Huntsville will take over the current location on Bailey Cove Road once the new campus is complete. The Huntsville Parks and Recreation Department will take over the school's gym and ball fields once the students move to the new campus on National Boulevard. The auditorium will be used for a community theater, although it's still unclear who will run the venue. The Huntsville Police Department will also open a precinct in one of the wings of the former school building.

The big project is a new library to serve south Huntsville. The total cost is about \$8 million. The city and county have pledged \$2 million each which means fundraising will have to cover the other half of the cost.

President: Before the official GMCL General Membership meeting started, recognition was given to local dignitaries who were in attendance: Mayor Tommy Battle, District 5 County Commissioner Phil Riddick, and District 3 City Council

Contenders Dr. Jennie Robinson and Mr. Walt Hennessee. In acknowledgment of his recent retirement after 27 years of dedicated service to the Green Mountain Community, our newly-retired Mail Carrier, Mr. Gayle Lee, was presented with a framed picture of the Green Mountain Nature Trail Bridge. And, as a special activity, three pots of mums, donated by the Earth Touch Nursery, were given away during the meeting via a number draw from among the GMCL members who were present.

Board Members Present:

Mark Prill, President

Beverly Humphrey, Vice President, Liaison

Anita Reck, Treasurer, Database, Membership

Susan Prill, Communications

Nancy Corbeille, Beautification

John Wardlaw, Nominating Committee

Norma Oberlies, Events

Russ Rawson, Volunteer Fire Department

President: The Fall General Membership Meeting was called to order by the President, Mark Prill. New members were recognized. The Spring General Meeting minutes were adopted as written.

Vice President: The work continues to ensure reflective numbers are on both sides of the mailboxes on Green Mountain. Emergency vehicles may approach from either side making it especially important when it is foggy to be able to find the correct address. Seconds can make the difference between life or death. A sign-up sheet was on the reception table, with a request for all members to take the time to indicate that a number or numbers are needed to be affixed on the mailbox at their address. The work would be accomplished at no cost to the individual.

Liaison: The Neighborhood Association Meetings address neighborhood problems that need resolution. A list of items was provided four years previously, but no action had been taken since, and as a result, membership/participation had been dwindling

due to the lack of results and apparent lack of interest on the part of the Huntsville City leadership. Our District 3 City Councilman had been reminded. The meetings will move to a quarterly basis and the next one was projected to be in October.

Treasurer: Through August 2014 the GMCL had \$4593; \$1398 income and \$381 in expenses. There are more outstanding expenses pending as the civic league tends to average \$1300-\$1500/year, and Annual Fall picnic expenses had yet to be reported. The website renewal is coming up for ~ \$175-180/year. The Treasurer's report is shown at Attachment 1.

Data Base: The database is running smoothly, although we do still have some updated content corrections that still need to be incorporated

Membership: 102 members have paid, which is a 41% of 249 houses. Mark Prill emphasized that we need to communicate and hold to the commitment that the annual Civic League picnic will be for Paid GMCL members and invited guests.

Block Captains: No Report

Beautification: The Fall Green Mountain Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 25. Those who want to help should meet at The Nature Center at 9 am. We will assign sections of the main roads to the volunteers and will provide vests and grippers. The City of Huntsville will be contacted to handle the cleanup of Green Mountain Road.

Public Safety: The Committee Lead position is vacant. Bev Humphrey talked with Terry Hatfield about the 2015 budget and talked with John Olshefski about the GMCL's first two road repaving priorities: – Valley Green's 1.0 lane-miles and Sloan's 0.2 lane-miles.

We still need more speed limit signs along South Shawdee. Bev will contact the City and Mark Prill will talk with Dennis Madsen, Huntsville City Long-Range Planning

Director, as a follow-up to an earlier ride-along regarding any road safety planning changes. A member asked about speed bumps/tables to slow traffic. Mark Prill answered that a speed study indicated they were not viable for South Shawdee Road; however they may be viable for Monte Vedra Road, if the consensus of the residents along Monte Vedra wanted to pursue installation.

Bev Humphrey announced that John Wardlaw has agreed to accept the Public Safety Committee position.

Website: No Report. Mark Prill recognized Michele Garrett for her quick responsiveness in getting notices posted on our web page. Many Thanks for the excellent support.

Events: Mark Prill recognized Norma Oberlies for organizing the picnic. Mark purchased a speaker system for GMCL use at the picnic and other meetings. He will submit the receipt to the civic league for reimbursement. Anita Reck would like to have a speaker on Lightning Protection at an upcoming meeting.

By-Laws: No Report

Volunteer Fire Department: The City of Huntsville has purchased the station and house previously owned by GMVFD. The GMVFD has entered into a 25 year lease/operating agreement. Station 13 is now also Huntsville Fire and Rescue Station (HF&R) 13. Per the agreement, the GMVFD will be the first response for the next 25 years backed up by HF&R. This year to date we have more than doubled the number of calls responded to last year. Most of the calls remain medical in nature, but Fire and Rescue personnel are seeing increases in other areas including construction-related calls in Inspiration. The team is in of need new members, especially younger residents.

Insurance issues still exist: The station, at 13013 South Shawdee Road, has been added to the listing of the city fire stations on the HF&R website. Google Earth calls

the road in front of the fire station South Shawdee Drive not Road. This causes the listing to appear in the wrong place. It also prevents the station from being placed on the stations map on the website. The city wants to place a freestanding sign in front of the fire station. The city sign department is working to design a sign that they feel sure would be acceptable to the residents of Green Mountain.

Our operations are progressing somewhat better. The station will be manned by a HF&R crew whenever severe weather is forecast. This was done on a trial basis last winter. After the new station 6 is opened on Drake Avenue Monday, GMVFD is scheduled to receive equipment from the old station 6. This includes an emergency generator and transfer switch. Better heating equipment for the truck bays, and vehicle exhaust ventilation for the truck bays. Supplies are to be prepositioned at the station to provide for a crew manning the station for several days if isolated.

HF&R Station 19 on Old Big Cove Road is well under way. The new engine for that station has been ordered with equipment specially designed for the South Green Mountain road including multiple brake systems. In other news, within the last year the department has added an EMT, 14 members have completed Medical First Responder training and 2 members are currently completing advanced firefighter training. Again, we need new members, especially younger residents under 60. We have jobs for anyone at any level of involvement, but we really need more, younger people in the department.

The City painted the fire hydrants however they were all painted the same color. The hydrants are supposed to be painted according to a color code that indicates flow capacity, so the Fire Department has the action to ensure the erroneous paint colors are fixed.

Neighborhood Watch: In Barry Beavers' absence, Mark Prill observed that the advance notifications are going out as planned, and that Neighborhood Watch is always looking to enlist more volunteers.

Archives: No Report

Communications: The GMCL has 231 addressees that we send email notifications to across all of Green Mountain, including those residents in The Preserve at Clayton Pond and the Inspiration on Green Mountain communities. We are averaging 62% open rate on the notices. If anyone is a GMCL member and is not getting email distributions please let Susan know. Also each residence can have 2 email addresses so see Susan if you want to add an email address. The Community Watch courtesy reminders have been picked up under Communications so people should be getting the reminders on Wednesday prior to the weekend of their duty. Please let Susan know if you are not receiving the automated reminders.

Old Business:

1. Letter Status Update: Russ Rawson's letter request is still valid. As a reminder to everyone on the mountain - during emergency situations, the scene is considered a crime scene until such time as the police have arrived and declare it differently. All residents are encouraged to acknowledge and adhere to on-scene Fire Department personnel direction.

2. Fire Plug Repainting: As previously discussed, all the fire plugs had been painted by the City of Huntsville.

3. Killed or Injured Animals: Call Huntsville Animal Services if a deer or other animal has been killed or injured alongside the road.

4. Civic League Positions: John Wardlaw took over the Safety Committee Chair. We are continuing to look for new people to fill other civic league positions.

5. Membership: Mark Prill would like to work on an initiative to revitalize and broaden the GMCL membership.

6. Proposed Commercial Rezoning: The current situation with the commercial rezoning request that went to the Planning Commission has created an environment which generally pitted members of the GMCL and Inspiration on Green Mountain communities as adversaries, which they are not. The Green Mountain Civic League is an umbrella organization that includes The Preserve at Clayton Pond and Inspiration on Green Mountain. While perhaps the members of those communities are uniquely

members of their respective Homeowners/Community Associations, they are all still valued members of the overarching GM Community (as represented by the GMCL, and we need to move beyond the specific rezoning topic and work toward the greater good of the whole Green Mountain Community. We include Mike Friday and his staff on distribution for our GMCL Mail Chimp emails, along with 3 couples (at present) in the Inspiration on Green Mountain community. Some people are putting their sentiments on Facebook and some direct emails have been received; while these venues are good, we request that issues be brought out in the General Membership forum for broader exposure and discussion. A question was asked if Community Watch patrols also goes into Inspiration on Green Mountain; the answer was yes.

Regarding the recent activity on the Commercial rezoning proposal, Mark Prill stated that during the Planning Commission meeting, the District 3 City Councilman voted in favor of the rezoning proposal, and in opposition to the GM community petition efforts. Despite the opposition, the plan is to go forward with a presentation to the City Council, again presenting the opposition case. If the rezoning proposal passes the City Council; Mr. Friday and his company would have the right to develop it within the restrictions of the ordinances.

Question: Is the property still currently for sale?

Answer: No, it was for sale at \$250,000 for 5 acres, but the GM Community did not exercise the purchase option prior to the Planning Commission meeting date, which was the deadline.

The GMCL Board cannot act unilaterally without support from the community at large. Since Mr. Friday owns the property, if the Green Mountain community members are still interested, they would have to raise the money to make Mike Friday whole. If the Green Mountain Community purchases the property, then one idea was that it could possibly be rezoned/resold as residential to recoup the money. We had petitions signed that included over 70% of the mountain residences for a total of over 4000 years of residency on the mountain ranging from ½ year to 58 years residency. A comment was made to Mayor Battle, that the behavior of a couple of the

Planning Commission members had not been helpful. An additional comment was made to both Dr. Robinson and Mr. Hennessee that they might inherit this issue if elected to the City Council.

Question: A member expressed support in purchasing the property and asked if it could be a park instead of residential.

Answer: While Mr. Friday had resisted the idea of developing the parcel as a park, instead of a Commercial boutique, if the GM Community bought it there could be interest in making it a park.

Question: How will rezoning the subject 5-acre entity impact the adjoining property?

Answer: The back side of the Preserve at Clayton Pond will remain R1; on the south side is a home which is R1; the east side of South Shawdee will go from R2 to R1 as part of Mr. Friday's residential Phase IV, and the north side will go from Commercial and R2 to R1.

Statement: A member stated that the Fire Department would be better in the middle of the mountain adjacent to all the new homes. Suggestion to talk with Mr. Friday to see if he will swap with where the Fire Department is now, and then the City put a new Fire Department on the commercial property. It would be a nice tax write off for Mr. Friday and he would be able to access his Inspiration on Green Mountain property through where the current Fire Department is now.

Answer: Phase III already has a loop road and the lots prevent direct access from where the fire department is currently located. All Inspiration on Green Mountain traffic outputs onto South Shawdee across from Riverview Drive.

Question: To Mayor Battle, what about the City purchasing the property?

Answer: Mayor Battle – Suggest you get in contact with Mr. Friday.

7. **Bikers.** As much as we'd likely prefer to see them elsewhere, the reality is that we need to be conscious about walkers and bikers going up and down Green Mountain Road. We need to stay aware, be patient and share the road, especially with the

future growth of the Greenways that will extend access to Green Mountain.

During the wrap up, Mr. Prill stated he is also looking for other inputs or comments. It's likely that the City Council meeting on October 23rd will be the last effort for the GMCL board; the rest will be up to the larger community. When the Board does go forward to the City Council, we will need the strength of participants; the Planning Commission attendance was anemic, and the speakers were balanced on both sides of the issue. To 'make a statement' that will be heard we need involvement from the community at large to affect the outcome of issues affecting our community. We've had a lack of participation in membership meetings and board meetings, and we need more involvement from a larger group of people. So far it has been the same people and there's too much burden on too few people. As your representative spokesperson, he requested additional help; we need more volunteers to support the Volunteer Fire Department, Community Watch, and Clean Up. We need everyone to support the mountain.

Bev Humphrey requested the civic league purchase the speaker system and reimburse Mark Prill. Recommendation was approved.

New Business: Comments were made about: the continued need to address the speeding issue along South Shawdee Road; and the fact that we will be needing either Mr. Hennessee or Dr. Robinson's help us with some of our issues upon their election as the new District 3 Council Member.

Meeting was adjourned.

Attachment 1.

TREASURER'S REPORT			
		Community	
	<u>Civic League</u>	<u>Watch</u>	<u>Combined</u>
January'14 beginning cash	\$ 2,151.08	\$ 1,424.84	\$ 3,575.92
<u>INCOME</u>			
Dues/donations	904.50	445.50	1,350.00
Decal reimbursements	32.16	15.84	48.00
Total Income	\$ 936.66	\$ 461.34	\$ 1,398.00
<u>EXPENSE</u>			
Newsletters, postage	(169.07)	(83.27)	(252.34)
Picnic food, supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
Postal box rental	(61.64)	(30.36)	(92.00)
Bank charges	(13.40)	(6.60)	(20.00)
Mailbox project supplies	(11.25)	(5.55)	(16.80)
Total Expenses	\$ (255.36)	\$ (125.78)	\$ (381.14)
Net Income	\$ 681.30	\$ 335.56	\$ 1,016.86
August '14 ending cash	\$ 2,832.38	\$ 1,760.40	\$ 4,592.78

GMCL Membership Form

NAME: Last _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____

(Cell) _____ (Work) _____

E-Mail address: _____

(by providing you are giving GMCL permission to send email to your address)

2015 MEMBERSHIP (per household)

Civic League \$ 8.00

Community Watch \$ 4.00

Green Mountain Decals: _____ x \$2.00

TOTAL: \$ _____

Are you interested in participating on a Civic League Committee?

Beautification _____

Block Captain _____

Communications _____

Events _____

Membership _____

Public Safety _____

Would you agree to participate in the Community Watch patrols?

(If yes, we need your e-mail address _____)

Volunteers are needed by the GMVFD. Would you like to assist?

___ Being present in the station during a call

___ Directing traffic at the required site

___ Clean up at the station

Make check payable to: ***Green Mountain Civic League***

Mail to: Green Mountain Civic League

P.O. Box 14327

Huntsville, AL 35815

Green Mountain Civic League (GMCL) Officers

President: Mark Prill (president@greenmountaincivicleague.org)

Vice-President: Beverly Humphrey (vicepresident@greenmountaincivicleague.org)

Secretary: Joyce Morgan

Treasurer: Anita Reck

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

Beautification: Nancy and Richard Corbeille Schedule and manage clean-up days on the mountain.

Communications: Susan Prill (email_distributions@greenmountaincivicleague.org) Facilitate and expand communications among residents through newsletters, email announcements, and the Green Mountain website.

Website: Michele Garrett (webmaster@greenmountaincivicleague.org) Maintain/update the GMCL 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: Anita Reck Expand membership and maintain accurate and timely records.

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

Liaison: Bev Humphrey (vicepresident@greenmountaincivicleague.org) Contact and communicate with local government entities in matters pertaining to the interest of the GMCL.

By Laws: Curtis Strange Maintain and update the GMCL by-laws.

Nominating Committee: John Wardlaw Generate candidate lists for the GMCL officer and committee chair positions.

Block Captains: Fred Hinckley Recruit and coordinate block captains to provide rapid two-way communication in urgent or emergency situations.

Ex-officio Members:

Community Watch: Barry Beavers (communitywatch@greenmountaincivicleague.org) Manage neighborhood surveillance program in which residents keep watch over one another's houses, patrol the streets, etc., in an attempt to prevent crime.

Volunteer Fire Department: Russ Rawson Manage fire department composed of volunteers who perform fire suppression and other related emergency services for Green Mountain.

Archives: Vacant Maintain accurate and comprehensive records of the GMCL and public issues related to Green Mountain.

Preserve at Clayton Pond: Jeff Bachman

Inspiration on Green Mountain: Vacant
