

**Green Mountain  
Civic League**



---

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIC LEAGUE**

**Newsletter**

**September 2015**

**<http://www.greenmountaincivicleague.org>**

---

***PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!***

**FALL GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIC LEAGUE**

**GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL PICNIC**

**Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:30pm**

at the Madison County Nature Trail  
Signup / RSVP Information below

**FALL GREEN MOUNTAIN CLEANUP**

**Saturday, October 24**

**Meet at the Madison County Nature Trail at 9 a.m.**

Please take a morning to preserve the beauty of our neighborhoods! With enough helping hands, it only takes **an hour or 2 hours** at most. Thanks!

Also if driving during that time, please **slow down** when approaching our cleanup crew!!!

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

---

---

## **WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Good Day to all our Green Mountain Neighbors,

We will be hosting a brief **General Membership meeting** of the Civic League, per the agenda below, *after* eating at our **Annual Fall Picnic** on Sunday October 4 at The Nature Trail. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come out for some good eats! The Civic League will provide the BBQ and residents are asked to bring something to contribute to the potluck picnic – salads, desserts, casseroles, and the like. If you do plan to attend, and haven't already, please RSVP NLT **October 2nd** using the signup form included in this Newsletter.

Both the **Minutes** and **Treasurer's Report** from the **April 2015 Spring General Membership Meeting** are included for your review and concurrence. Please come prepared to discuss any exceptions, and/or vote on both of these at our fall meeting.

Our focus at this meeting will be a discussion, led by our Beautification Committee, of progress and the forward plan for the Passive Park, working with the city of Huntsville.

Also, please do extend a picnic invitation to any Green Mountain residents who are not current members of the civic league. We will have membership forms available at the picnic for new members, and current members will be able to pay 2015 dues as well.

And finally, per the **Announcements** below, we are also looking for additional volunteer support for Community Watch, Area & Block Captains, and the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. The appropriate contact information for each

---

is provided, along with a listing of your current slate of officers, and their associated contact information.

Hope to see you on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, for the Fall Picnic!

Mark Prill, President, GMCL

---



Bring a dish to share: vegetable, salad, or dessert; barbecue, buns, drinks, and eating utensils will be furnished.

Please return below portion to Norma Oberlies, 5001 Green Oakes Circle, 35803, or send an email with the information to [rosepointe@comcast.net](mailto:rosepointe@comcast.net) if you plan to attend.

Need to know *how many* **Not later than Thursday Oct. 2nd** so we can ensure we have enough food & drinks.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### **AGENDA**

**Green Mountain Civic League General Membership Meeting**

**October 4, 2015**

**Call to Order – Mark Prill**

**Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Treasurer's Report**

---

**Membership**

**Beautification**

**Public Safety**

**Communications**

**Website**

**Events**

**Liaison**

**Bylaws**

**Block Captains**

**Volunteer Fire Department**

**Neighborhood Watch**

**Archives**

**Old Business:**

- *GMVFD Status*
- *Mailbox Numbers*

**New Business:**

- *Rezoning Special Exception Request Update*

**Adjourn**

---

The minutes from the April General Membership Meeting and the current Treasurer's Report are below. Please come prepared to vote on both of these at our fall meeting.

**Green Mountain Civic League**  
**Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**April 27, 2015**

**Board Members Present**

---

Mark Prill, President  
Bev Humphrey, Vice President  
Anita Reck, Treasurer  
Joyce Morgan, Acting Secretary  
Susan Prill, Communications Chair  
John Wardlaw, Safety Committee Chair  
Russell Rawson, Fire Chief  
Nancy Corbeille, Chair, Beautification Committee  
Fred Hinckley, Block Captain

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mark Prill. The minutes for the Fall general meeting were accepted without changes.

Mark then spoke to a number of meetings in which the GMCL had been represented, or which were of interest to the GMCL, including:

**3 March 2015** - Public Forum on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose was to discuss the ***Preparation of the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan.***

**17 March, 2015 – GMCL Board Meeting**

**18 March, 2015 – Huntsville’s South Precinct Quarterly Leadership Meeting**

Captain Corey Harris, South Precinct Commander

Officers – Marcus Hendrix, and Ryan Burch – Community Liaison Officers

Guest Speaker: Ms. Janel Ploge – Huntsville Police Department

Communications Supervisor

- Single, Multi-agency, state of the art 911 Center; HPD is just one of the agencies
    - One 911 Call Center in Madison County, versus 12 Call Centers in Jefferson County
  - Call Takers versus Dispatchers
-

- Discussion on How to Place a Call
  - Location is primary
  - Potential for 30 different folks to answer, so repeat calls may require the same information
  - Emphasis on callers requested to provide as much detail as possible

Captain Harris:

Emphasis on continuing 2015 Activities after a successful 2014

**28 March, 2015 – Southside Park Grand Opening** on Chaney Thompson Road, Huntsville, AL

**1 April, 2015 – South Huntsville Planning Meeting** – hosted by Dr. Jennie Robinson

At the Bailey Cove Library, re: 2 May – South Huntsville Cleanup Day

**15 April, 2015 – Ditto Landing Plan**

Missed the unveiling at the Kingston Pavilion at Ditto Landing starting at 6pm

Mark then introduced a guest speaker, Mr. Gary Whitley, of Huntsville Utilities. Mr. Whitley has been with Huntsville Utilities for 3 years. Mr. Whitley discussed the role of Huntsville Utilities offering insight into (1) the approval process for expenditures of more than \$125,000; (2) home energy audits for new homes; (3) natural gas which is not presently on Green Mountain; (4) water quality with discussion of a new water pressure plant with installation of smart meters which can monitor usage; (5) power outage surges and the possibility of installing boosters; (6) utility rates; and (7) warned of scams from callers claiming to require payment of past due balances.

**Vice President:** Bev will move forward with securing and affixing address numbers on both sides of all mail boxes. Bev also shared a framed 12 x 18 print of the Green Mountain covered bridge that is being given to: a) those making significant monetary donations of \$5000 to \$10,000 for the land purchase; and b) will be presented as a Thank You memento to a number of principals involved in making the land purchase a reality.

---

**Treasury report:** Anita Reck provided detailed information on the income and expenses for calendar year 2015. The combined cash balance as of April 20th was \$3,718. This is \$355 less than the December 2014 balance. Expenses included \$429 for the Spring Newsletter, plus \$74 for membership dues received. During this time period, there were also expenses of \$1,662 relating to the property purchase campaign. However, thanks to a generous contribution, the funds were 100% reimbursed for those disbursements.

Report was accepted. See Appendix A below for the complete financial report from the Treasurer.

**Database:** No report.

**Membership:** Anita Reck provided an update. As of December 2014, there were 117 paid memberships, or 47% of the 249 households. From December 2014 to April of this year, 51 new residents have been added. This brings the current count of households to 300.

**Block Captain:** No Report.

**Beautification:** The Spring Mountain Clean-up, originally scheduled for April 25, was changed to May 2 due to a forecast of inclement weather. (This date also coincided with the South Huntsville Cleanup day organized by Councilwoman Jennie Robinson and the Green Team.) Volunteers met at the Nature Trail at 9:00 a.m. to obtain supplies. Officer Anthony Baisden, from the Huntsville Police Second Precinct, patrolled South Shawdee during the cleanup efforts. Beverly Humphrey, from the Green Mountain Fire Department, assisted Officer Baisden in this patrol. The staff at the Nature Trail arranged for a garbage truck from the county to be on site for litter disposal and the City of Huntsville Inmate Labor Coordinator scheduled a cleanup of Green Mountain Road prior to our mountain top efforts.

**Public Safety:** Members attending the meeting informed John Wardlaw of the concern with a tree that is leaning across Valley Green Road.

**Communications:** Susan Prill's report indicated GMCL has 241 addressees across all of Green Mountain who are sent email notifications, including several residents within The Preserve at Clayton Pond & Inspiration on Green Mountain

---

communities. The average open rate on these notices is 67%. The open rate for the Land Purchase notices ranged from 69-75%. In addition to the Community Watch schedule distributed by Barry Beavers, Neighborhood Watch, courtesy reminders are sent to individuals on Wednesday prior to the weekend of their duty.

**Website:** No report.

**Events:** The Annual GMCL picnic will be 4 October, at the Madison County Nature Trail with set-up beginning at 2:30. The Picnic time will be from 3:00-5:30, with setup prior and cleanup after those core hours. A discussion of the difficulty in reserving the park and securing parking spaces resulted in a decision to change the date going forward. Mark Prill will talk with the park officials to try to secure a permanent reservation for the last Sunday in September of each year for the picnic. The picnic is for paid members only. Membership dues can be paid at the picnic.

**Liaison:** No report.

**By-Laws:** No report provided.

**Volunteer Fire Department:** Russell Rawson provided an update on the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (GMVFD). For some historical perspective, Green Mountain was annexed into Huntsville in the mid-1970s to allow mountain children access to city schools. Part of the "gentleman's agreement" behind the annexation was the continuation of a volunteer fire department to provide fire protection for the mountain until the population was adequate to justify a paid station. There have been promises from previous city council members of a paid station for Green Mountain, but a paid station for Green Mountain is not economically justifiable at this time. Even if a new station is built at the intersection of South Shawdee and Village Square, it probably will not be manned by paid firefighters on a full time basis.

Recently The National Fire Protection Agency followed by the Insurance Services Office changed the requirements for a structural fire engine. GMVFD's current 25 year old structural fire engine no longer meets minimum requirements for our

---



station. As a result many mountain residents may face drastic increases in their fire insurance premiums.

It is not practical to upgrade Green Mountain's current engine to meet the new standards. Huntsville has pledged \$100,000 towards the purchase of a replacement engine. GMVFD is responsible for the remainder. Green Mountain needs a compact maneuverable fire engine capable of delivering protection to residents on narrow roads and long driveways which is significantly less expensive than a custom engine like Huntsville's. Several candidates have been identified and are currently being evaluated. A fund-raising committee has been proposed to solicit donations for the fire department to purchase a new fire engine. Russell will be serving on the committee.

It was noted that the fire department is looking for more volunteer fire fighters.

**Neighborhood Watch:** Barry Beavers (not in attendance) will continue with Neighborhood Watch through August 2015 when hopefully a replacement will be named.

**Archives:** No report.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** A short discussion addressed the opportunity associated with residents' periodically making firewood available at no cost to mountain residents. Citizens are encouraged to use various social media venues for making the information known.

**Committee Chairs Elections:** Elections were held. The Board members are confirmed to be Mark Prill who will continue to serve as President; Beverly Humphrey who will continue to serve as Vice President; Joyce Morgan who was voted to serve as Secretary; and Anita Reck who will continue to serve as Treasurer. Thanks to John Wardlaw for serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

---

**Appendix A – Treasurer's Report**

---

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Financial Activity - 2014

	<u>Civic League</u>	<u>Community Watch</u>	<u>Combined</u>
January'14 beginning cash	\$ 2,151.08	\$ 1,424.84	\$ 3,575.92
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Dues/donations	1,033.14	508.86	1,542.00
Decal reimbursements	41.54	20.46	62.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,074.68</b>	<b>\$ 529.32</b>	<b>\$ 1,604.00</b>
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>			
Newsletters, postage	(198.84)	(97.94)	(296.78)
Picnic food, supplies	(194.24)	(95.67)	(289.91)
Postal box rental	(61.64)	(30.36)	(92.00)
Bank charges	(22.78)	(11.22)	(34.00)
Appreciation gift	(30.43)	(14.99)	(45.42)
Mailbox project supplies	(11.25)	(5.55)	(16.80)
Website renewal	(105.73)	(52.07)	(157.80)
Property purchase	(116.91)	(57.58)	(174.49)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (741.82)</b>	<b>\$ (365.38)</b>	<b>\$ (1,107.20)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 332.86</b>	<b>\$ 163.94</b>	<b>\$ 496.80</b>
December '14 ending cash	<u>\$ 2,483.94</u>	<u>\$ 1,588.78</u>	<u>\$ 4,072.72</u>

---

### CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### (1) GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERS WANTED

Please reach out to our new or current neighbors who may not members and ask them to join the civic league.

---

## **(2) COMMUNITY WATCH CHAIR & VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Our Community Watch Chair is vacant. We are in need of a volunteer to lead this effort for our community. And, our current roster of volunteers has been diminished due to relocations and opt-outs among residents.

The result is that our time between duty cycles has been reduced to 4 months, but enough volunteers to make that 6 months or even a year would be great.

Please contact Acting Coordinator Susan Prill. Membership form is below.

## **(3) AREA & BLOCK CAPTAIN VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Area & Block Captains are needed to provide rapid two-way communication in urgent or emergency situations.

Please contact Fred Hinckley at [FHinckley1@comcast.net](mailto:FHinckley1@comcast.net) or 256-880-0701

## **(4) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS WANTED**

Our Fire Department manning level is low, and the Department can use any and all volunteer support as firefighters, as well as additional emergency response support crew members. Please consider helping to support our neighbors.

---

### **Green Mountain Civic League (GMCL) Officers**

**President:** Mark Prill ([president@greenmountaincivicleague.org](mailto:president@greenmountaincivicleague.org))

**Vice-President:** Beverly Humphrey  
([vicepresident@greenmountaincivicleague.org](mailto:vicepresident@greenmountaincivicleague.org))

**Secretary:** Joyce Morgan

**Treasurer:** Anita Reck

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

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

**Communications:** Susan Prill

([email\\_distributions@greenmountaincivicleague.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** Susan Prill (acting [communitywatch@greenmountaincivicleague.org](mailto: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

---



Are you interested in participating on a Civic League  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your interest:

Beautification \_\_\_\_\_ Block Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Communications \_\_\_\_\_  
Events \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Public Safety \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to participate in the Community Watch Patrols? \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteers are needed by the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department when the  
volunteer fire fighters are on a call. 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

*Please include your check for dues! OR BRING THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO  
THE PICNIC*

---