

Green Mountain  
Civic League



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**GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIC LEAGUE**  
September 2019 Newsletter  
<http://www.GreenMountainCivicLeague.org>

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**FALL GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIC LEAGUE GENERAL MEETING & PICNIC**

**TOMORROW!! Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3:00-5:30 pm**

**at the Madison County Nature Trail Pavilion**

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

**FALL GREEN MOUNTAIN CLEANUP**

**Date *still TBD*, 2019**

**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.

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**WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Good Day to all our Green Mountain Neighbors,

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As a final reminder, we will be hosting the **Fall General Membership meeting & Picnic** of the Civic League, per the agenda below, tomorrow, Sunday, September 22nd, at the Madison County Nature Trail Pavilion. We will plan to have our picnic first, and then follow up afterwards to complete our standard General Membership Meeting (agenda items below).

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

Also, please do extend an invitation to any Green Mountain residents who are not current members of the civic league. We will have membership forms available at the meeting for new members, and current members will be able to pay 2019 dues as well.

And finally, per the **Announcements** below, we continue to look for additional volunteer support for Community Watch 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 tomorrow Sunday, September 22nd, for the Fall General Membership Meeting and Picnic!

Mark Prill, President, GMCL

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**AGENDA**  
**Green Mountain Civic League**

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**Fall General Membership Meeting  
September 22nd, 2019**

**Spring 2019 General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Vice President's Report  
Treasurer's Report**

**Committee Chairs Report:**

**Database  
Membership  
Emergency Notification System/Next Door  
Beautification  
Public Safety  
Communications  
Events  
Liaison  
Bylaws**

**Ex-officio Member Reports:**

**Volunteer Fire Department  
Community Watch  
The Preserve at Clayton Pond HOA  
Inspiration on Green Mountain HOA  
Archives  
Old Business  
New Business**

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

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**Green Mountain Civic League**  
**Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**April 28, 2019**

**Board Members Present:**

Mark Prill, President  
Bev Humphrey, Vice President  
Anita Reck, Treasurer, Database, & Membership  
Ann Phillips, Secretary  
Nancy Corbeille, Beautification  
Shelly Harris, Safety  
Susan Prill, Communications & Community Watch  
Fred Hinckley, Emergency Notification  
Russ Rawson, Green Mountain Fire Department

**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Caroline Kennedy, Capital Campaign Director of the new South Huntsville Library

Ms. Kennedy provided a brief overview of the Sandra Moon Complex – including tennis courts, multi-purpose fields, walking trails, pickleball courts and the new South Huntsville Library. She then provided exciting details of the South Huntsville Library with the primary goal of meeting as many community needs as possible. Among those details, the new South Huntsville Library will include:

- 40,000 square feet of space designed to meet community needs
  - A Maker Space to include 3D printers and a CNC wood carving machine
  - Friends of the Library Bookstore
  - Creative Commons Area adaptive to host traveling arts and science exhibits
  - A coffee shop with a walk-up window to serve users of the outdoor
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Sandra Moon Complex space

- A young adult/teen library and social space to include video games, board games, etc.
- Children's library to include professional puppet stage
- Adult library organized in same manner as a Barnes & Noble bookstore and including a quiet space with fireplace and chairs
- Two large event spaces and smaller meeting rooms

The plan is to break ground by August of this year and open in the summer of 2021.

A Q&A session was held after Ms. Kennedy's presentation during which she covered the following information: field trip opportunities for school children, laptop access within the library via a laptop vending machine, library volume count, and estimated cost as well as methods to donate including naming opportunities for specific areas in the library.

Additional Note: Digital information showing the layout of the Sandra Moon Community Complex, specific layout of the South Huntsville Library, and a link to the website through which donations can be made, was subsequently emailed to the GMCL membership following the meeting.

**President:**

The Spring Green Mountain Civic League Meeting was called to order by the President, Mark Prill. The Fall General Meeting minutes were accepted.

**Vice President:**

Information from Mark Craig, Madison County License Director: The Tax office being installed in the South Precinct Police office (on Bailey cove across from

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"Old Grissom") will be open in May. Residents can get car tags, pay taxes et al, without needing to go downtown or to Parkway Place and stand in line.

**Treasurer:** Cash balance beginning January 2018 was \$2,901.21, with cash at the end of 2018 of \$3,287.99. Income of \$1,976.00, less expenses of \$1,589.22, equated to a cash increase for the year of \$386.78.

See Appendix A below for the complete report from the Treasurer.

**Database:** As of 3/31/19, there were 422 residences listed, with another 47 lots under construction. This brings the total to 469.

**Membership:** As of 12/31/18, there were 365 residences. For calendar year 2018, 139 memberships were paid, or 36% of total membership.

**Communications:** GMCL has 325 Green Mountain addressees to which we send email notifications. Since the fall meeting we've sent out 20 GMCL emails and 27 Community Watch email reminders for a total of 47 emails. We also posted the email content on the GMCL Facebook page reaching 143 members.

**Community Watch:** There are 43 households participating in Community Watch (CW) across all neighborhoods of Green Mountain. Since the fall general meeting, we lost 2 households and gained 1. Each participating residence will be doing Community Watch roughly every 4 months. We continue to look for additional volunteers to assist in this effort.

GMCL representatives attended the HSV Community Watch & HSV Police Department Christmas Dinner on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Early Works Museum Grand Ballroom. Police officers and community watch leaders were recognized for their contributions.

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**Beautification:** The Green Mountain Cleanup was completed on April 13<sup>th</sup> with good support from GMCL members.

**Next Door:** The GREEN MOUNTAIN Neighborhood includes almost all of the area on Green Mountain. Excluded is a portion of Inspiration, which has its own Next Door Neighborhood.

We have 208 of 340 individuals currently enrolled as members, including a few in the Preserve subdivision.

It was recommended that responsibility for all Social Media platforms be placed under the control of a single Board, or Ad Hoc Member who is thoroughly familiar with these platforms. Responsibility would include the existing Facebook page, the Next Door program, and any other such platforms as the Board decides to use.

**Public Safety:** Shelly Harris, Committee Chair of Public Safety, submitted the following report:

**Streets and Right-of-Ways:**

**New Traffic Signs**

**Nature Trail Directional Sign**

After a new driveway was installed at the top of Green Mountain Road just beyond the existing Madison County Nature Trail directional sign, it was noted that drivers searching for the Nature Trail could easily be confused by the sign because it directed drivers to take the next right turn. Drivers unfamiliar with the location of the Nature Trail could have easily mistaken the right turn for this

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new driveway, which could have created a very dangerous situation. The Safety Committee contacted Traffic Engineering about the misleading sign which was quickly replaced within two weeks with a new Nature Trail sign that directed drivers to continue straight to South Shawdee Road, where a right turn sign already existed.

### **Additional Curve Signing**

Following another wreck on Green Mountain Road in the large curve with the passing lane on September 21, 2018, Traffic Engineering was contacted to request a wet-weather collision study of this particular curve. The Safety Committee received the following response from the Director of Traffic Engineering, Dan Sanders:

“This location was examined in June 2018. At that time, in a 5-year period, we found two collisions that were wet-weather related: one on 12/5/17 and another on 5/22/18. (Note: The wreck that happened in March makes 3 reported collisions.)

By comparison, the curve area that was treated with Open Grade Friction Course (OGFC), further down the Mountain, had 13 wet weather wrecks in a 5-year period.

Back in June, I said that I didn’t see enough of a wet-weather pattern at this location to recommend OGFC. I also said that we’d keep an eye on it to see if the frequency increases, and that we might need to revisit it if that was the case.

We have since performed a curve analysis here, and one of the outcomes was the need for better signing through the curve; specifically, the use of chevron

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signing.

My recommendation is that we install this signing first, and if there continues to be more wet-weather wrecks and increased frequency, that we look at OGFC treatment.”

The new chevron signs were quickly erected and to date, the Safety Committee is unaware of any additional wrecks in this location.

### **Share the Road Signs**

In early March, two new “SHARE THE ROAD” warning signs were erected at the top and bottom of Green Mountain Road, noting “HEAVY TRAFFIC 3:00pm - 7:00pm MON – FRI”.

Share the Road signs indicate the likelihood of cyclists on the roadway. They are used where the road is not wide enough for bicycles and cars to be operated safely within one lane. Therefore, “share the road” means “one after the other.” The bicycle driver, or group of cyclists, has the right of “first come, first served” and the full use of the lane. Because the majority of Green Mountain Road is designated as a NO PASSING ZONE, motorists wishing to pass the cyclist, must yield and wait until they reach the designated PASSING ZONE to pass.

### **Speed Limit Enforcement Message Signs**

Two portable traffic message signs were placed on South Shawdee Road on March 19, 2019 to notify drivers that the speed limit of 30 mph would be strictly enforced. The signs were placed between Fears Road and South Village Square.

### **Flashing Lights on Stop Signs**

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As of April 17, 2019, solar-powered, flashing red lights have been added to the existing stop signs at the Green Mountain Road and South Shawdee intersection, as well as to the stop signs on South Shawdee at the 4-way stop at South Village Square. This effort was very well received, though there was discussion of considering more technologically advanced solutions in the future.

### **Damaged Traffic Signs**

The Safety Committee notified Traffic Engineering on January 3, 2019 that the two-arrow directional sign located on the north side of the intersection of North and South Shawdee Road on Green Mountain had been knocked down. The sign was replaced the same day.

Additionally, one of the chevron signs located near the bottom of Green Mountain Road was knocked down. Traffic Engineering was notified on March 27, 2019 and promptly responded that crews would inspect the area and make the necessary repairs.

### **Clogged Drainage Inlets**

On January 3, 2019, the Public Works Department cleaned out the clogged drainage inlets along Green Mountain Road.

### **Road Erosion Issue**

A section of South Shawdee Road, just north of the Madison County Nature Trail entrance, had a substantial edge drop-off that was causing some motorists to veer closely to the center line of the road to avoid the edge. The ditch alongside this section of road was recently excavated, causing further erosion of the road,

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and in some areas, the fog line was no longer visible due to the deteriorated asphalt. The issue was reported to the Public Works Department on February 4, 2019, but when no response was received or action taken, the Safety Committee utilized the SeeClickFix app to report the issue on February 7, 2019. Within one week, the damaged section of the road was repaired.

## **Road Paving**

Dale Road was paved on 29 March 2019.

## **South Green Mountain Road Ban of 18 Wheelers**

Owens Crossroads installed a sign at the base of South Green Mountain Road banning all 18 wheel tractor trailers from driving up the back side of Green Mountain following the recent incident in which an 18 wheeler could not make one of the curves, shutting down the road. The closure of Cecil B. Ashburn has forced the truck drivers to find an alternate route from Huntsville to Owens Crossroads, but since there is not a similar sign at the base of North Green Mountain Road, nothing prevents or warns the 18 wheeler drivers from coming up the north side to reach Owens Crossroads. The map (and GPS guidance) of South Green Mountain Road is very deceiving to a truck driver unfamiliar with Green Mountain. The driver has no warning about its steep, treacherous nature until it is too late and there is nowhere to turn around.

Traffic Engineering and Jennie Robinson have been notified of this issue and the Safety Committee has requested that the City install either a NO THRU TRAFFIC or LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY sign just for the 18 wheelers for North Green Mountain Road, which would allow the trucks to still make their deliveries to the Green Mountain community but hopefully deter them from travelling down the back side of the mountain.

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Following an evaluation by Traffic Engineering, the City does not believe additional signage is required per their response below:

“Based on our traffic evaluation and accident information, we do not believe that there is problem associated with 18-wheeler truck traffic on this roadway. We further believe any large trucks that are using the roadway to get across the mountain should be temporary and will cease once Cecil Ashburn is reopened in a few more months. Due to the above findings, we are not able to provide signage as requested. We will continue to monitor the location and make appropriate changes, should they warrant.”

The Cove Monkey Facebook page was offered as a source to get updates on Cecil Ashburn roadwork progress.

**Crime and Vandalism:**

No known instances of crime or vandalism were reported to the Safety Committee.

**Website:** No Report

**Events:** No Report

**Liaison:** Beverly attended two Neighborhood Association meetings at City Hall. Created by Mayor Battle to identify and address neighborhood concerns, the Association has approved recommendations to ensure there is a Rental Inspection ordinance strong enough to make absentee rental property owners maintain their properties to acceptable neighborhoods standards; those recommendations are now in City Department hands. Other recommendations

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on other issues have not yet been acted upon by the City.

**By-Laws**: No report.

**Volunteer Fire Department**: Recently the GMVFD's medical response unit (a 1998 Ford Explorer with over 160,000 miles) failed and was found to be beyond repair. This unit is needed to respond to over 90% of the GMVFD's calls. A replacement has been acquired and, with the input of many hours from volunteers, made ready to provide service to the Green Mountain residents. The new Ford has heavy duty electrical and cooling systems designed for emergency vehicles, the latest safety features to protect first responders, and warning lights that will stand out even on the foggiest nights on Green Mountain. No aid in the cost of this new vehicle has been provided by the city.

Replacements for two of the GMVFD's obsolete defibrillators (over \$3,000) are ordered and the *LUCAS* electrical CPR device has completed its annual maintenance and calibration at a cost of over \$1300. GMVFD is the only fire station in the city responding with an advanced electrical CPR device. The costs of the GMVFD's medical operations are **not** subsidized by the city.

The costs to provide support services for residents of Green Mountain have depleted the GMVFD's already limited operational reserves to the point that some needs must go unfilled. The board will work with individuals regarding corporate or institutional grants and donations, and a request was made to the attendees to please consider making a donation to the GMVFD, with the reminder "Remember the life we save may be yours."

As is true with the vast majority of volunteer fire departments, the GMVFD is in desperate need of new members, with openings in non-emergency areas such

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as administration and maintenance, as well as needing responders in everything from traffic control thru EMT and structural firefighter. The department will provide necessary training and equipment. Established department members can provide access to significant first responder discounts. Please consider coming to one of the GMVFD's meetings at 7PM on either the second Thursday (EMS specific training) or the last Thursday (business meeting and general/fire training). During the upcoming summer months the GMVFD will often use the last Thursday meeting to conduct drills afterhours at the Nature Trail. If you would like to talk about department operations or arrange a tour of the facilities and capabilities, please call Chief Russell Rawson (256)883-5802 and leave a message.

**The Preserve at Clayton Pond:** No Report

**Inspiration on Green Mountain HOA:** Donna Quick-Keckler committed at the March 28 GMCL Board Meeting to be a liaison to GMCL to get the word out more. Donna will post information on the Inspiration Facebook page to let Inspiration residents know about GMCL and provide links to the website.

**Archives:** No Report

**Old Business:**

- Numbering Mail boxes: Ensuring mailbox address numbers are visible during the worst low-visibility conditions is a safety issue so emergency vehicles can easily find the property number no matter the location; seconds can make a difference. To ensure each mailbox on Green Mountain has address numbers on both sides of the mailbox, an audit was done on North Green Mountain Roads. Despite this project being on two Scoutmaster's lists, so far there has been no prospective Eagle Scout looking for a project to finalize the effort. If anyone knows of any
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prospective Eagle Scout please let Beverly know.

- The GMCL Board continue the investigation to collect information and validate the reality concerning any Emergency Medevac Landing at the Passive Park. Russ Rawson reported that the new company operating Medevac has no concerns landing in the passive park if the need arises.
- A previous suggestion for a new gardening club was no longer deemed viable with Bob Jones, who had volunteered to lead the group, moving off Green Mountain.
- The Hazardous Tree assessment action will be closed. The relevant information was shared regarding each home owner being accountable for maintaining or removing dead or diseased trees on their property that may impact power lines.

### **New Business:**

- A PayPal option for payment of GMCL dues coming soon.

Anita Reck and Michele Garrett are working on providing PayPal as a convenient option for members to pay their annual dues. A PayPal account has been established, and successful payment testing has taken place between PayPal and the GMCL financial institution. Currently, Michele is working on creating an online fillable form and an encrypted https website. Once that is accomplished, the form and payment will be completely electronic. Projected timeline of final testing of the form, payment and online reporting is the second week of May.

When PayPal is available, residents who have supplied GMCL with their email address, will be notified and provided instructions or a link to the website. Membership information, forms and PayPal will be on <http://greenmountaincivicleague.org> website under the "Membership" tab. If you don't have a PayPal account, you may pay with a debit or credit card as a guest. The purchase amount will be \$12. At the board meeting in March, it was

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decided not to pass the PayPal fees along to the members. This decision will be reevaluated next year. It is our hope that by providing PayPal as a payment option, membership participation will increase.

- There was discussion at the meeting concerning issues related to mail delivery on the mountain.(Note: a notification was issued to the community following the meeting with references from the USPS website giving instruction on how to deal with relevant issues. There will be no further action by the GMCL Board members.)

**Actions:**

1. Shelley Harris will follow with Traffic Engineering to see if we have enough traffic now to warrant rumble strips at the 4-way stop sign on South Shawdee and the stop sign at North/South Shawdee.
2. Mark Prill to follow up again with Huntsville police to increase traffic patrol on the mountain.
3. Donna Quick-Keckler will check into combining Inspiration Next Door with Green Mountain Next Door.
4. Nancy Corbeille will contact the Huntsville Utilities Arborist to set up a presentation with the Beautification Committee regarding proactive identification and subsequent removal of threat trees.
5. Anita Reck stated at the board meeting that GMCL is approved for 501.4(C). Action is to provide the required documentation.

**Current Announcements:**

**Green Mountain Civic League Members Wanted**

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

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### **Community Watch Chair and Volunteers Wanted**

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 four months. More volunteers are needed to increase that interval to six months or even a year. Please contact the Acting Coordinator, Susan Prill, if you would like to volunteer.

### **Volunteer Fire Department Members Wanted**

Our Green Mountain Fire Department manning level is low. 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.

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### **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:** Ann Phillips

**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.

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**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:** Shelly Harris 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:** Vacant. Maintain and update the GMCL by-laws.

**Nominating Committee:** Vacant. Generate candidate lists for the GMCL officer and committee chair positions.

**Emergency Notification/Nextdoor:** Fred Hinckley 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:** Norma Oberlies Maintain accurate and comprehensive records of the GMCL and public issues related to Green Mountain.

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**Preserve at Clayton Pond:** Kerry Brunson

**Inspiration on Green Mountain:** Donna Quick-Keckler

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**APPENDIX A. TREASURER'S REPORT**

**January '18 beginning cash** \$ **2,901.21**

**INCOME**

Dues/donations 1,918.00

Decal reimbursements 58.00

**Total Income** \$ **1,976.00**

**EXPENSE**

Postal box rental (120.00)

Stamps for spring newsletter (31.50)

Install Passive Park plaque (500.00)

Printing/mailing fall newsletter & membership form (387.32)

Stamps to mail decals (10.00)

Picnic food & supplies (540.40)

**Total Expenses** \$ **(1,589.22)**

**Net Income** \$ **386.78**

**December '18 ending cash** \$ **3,287.99**

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**GreenMountainCivicLeague.org**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM Please Print Clearly**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last**

**First**

**Spouse**

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home**

**Cell**

**Work**

**EMAIL1:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**EMAIL2:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**MEMBERSHIP (per household per calendar year)**

<b>GMCL</b>	<b><u>\$12.00</u></b>
<b>Green Mountain Decals: \$ (\$2.00 each)</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ _____</u></b>

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

Mail to: Green Mountain Civic League

P.O. Box 14327

Huntsville, AL 35815

Please indicate your interest in participating on a Civic League Committee:

Beautification \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Notification \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Cleanup at the station \_\_\_\_\_

**To save cost, the GMCL Newsletter will no longer be sent by USPS mail. It can be viewed:**

**(1) at <http://greenmountaincivicleague.org/category/newsletter/>**

**(2) on the GMCL Facebook Page, or**

**(3) will be delivered via email if address provided on this form**

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