



**Jimmy Gunn**  
President  
Woodmere Dr.

**Sam Whatley**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Salisbury Pl.

**John Cannady**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Dunwoody Ct.

**Margaret Berry**  
Secretary  
Pampas Dr.

**Gary Matthews**  
Treasurer  
Pampas Dr.

## **Our Special Guest Speaker for the WNA November General Meeting Police Chief James Graboys**



James Graboys first joined the Montgomery Police Department (MPD) in 1991 after graduating from the Citadel in 1990 with a BA in Political Science/Criminal Justice. His career with the MPD has spanned over two decades in which he has served and supervised in the Patrol, Juvenile, Community Oriented Policing, and Administrative Divisions. Chief Graboys served at every level of command, retiring as a Major from the department in 2011.

During his career he was awarded both the Medal of Valor and Medal of Merit.

In 2011, he became a member of the Alabama State University Police and Human Resources departments where he instituted and administered the Federal Violence Against Women (VAW) grant, creating an ongoing program to combat sexual and domestic violence on campus and within the community. Shortly thereafter, he assumed the duties of Chief of the Alabama State University Police Department, where he served until 2019.

In 2020, Chief Graboys began working with Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) as a Senior Compliance Specialist, until he was called in June of 2024 to serve as the Interim Chief of Police for the Montgomery Police Department. In January of 2025, he was named sitting Chief of Police.

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**Please make plans to attend this meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> to learn firsthand what the Chief has to say about police activities in Montgomery and our Woodmere neighborhood.**

Woodmere Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 231473  
Montgomery, Alabama 36123

[www.woodmeremontgomery.org](http://www.woodmeremontgomery.org)

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On Facebook at  
[facebook.com/woodmeremontgomery/](https://facebook.com/woodmeremontgomery/)

### **Woodmere Neighborhood Association Meeting**

**Thursday, November 13, 2025 6:30 p.m.**

**Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium**

**Guest Speaker: James Graboys  
Chief of Police, Montgomery Police Department**

## WNA Officer Nominations for 2026-2027

Woodmere Neighborhood Association elections are here so be sure to attend our November 13<sup>th</sup> General meeting at the MMFA so you can vote. Nominations will be accepted from the floor but several of our willing neighbors have already volunteered to run:

### **For President: Ron Bridges**

Ron and his wife, Eunice, have been married for 54 years and moved to Woodmere in November of 1982 with a three-year-old son. Along the way, they added two daughters, and all the kids grew up right here in Woodmere. Among them, they have given Ron and Eunice seven wonderful grandchildren, so Ron is keenly aware of kids' needs today.

A US Air Force veteran, Ron spent a couple of years teaching before serving as a clerk, supervisor, manager, management labor representative, EEO adjuster, and finally Transportation Manager for the U. S. Postal Service. Along the way, he clocked four years as President of the National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) for Montgomery and two more years as President of the NAPS for the state of Alabama. When he retired from the USPS, he picked up a three-year gig at Costco to stay busy.

Ron watched Woodmere grow through his years here and feels that it is still an excellent place to live. He and Eunice have already served on the WNA Board for several years, so he understands the job and its commitment. If elected president, he will work with an eye on our safety, potential financial growth of our homes, and increased neighborhood friendliness and cooperation.

### **For 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Open**

### **For 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: John Cannady**

John Cannady has also lived in Woodmere for over 20 years and many of you met John when he spoke at our August general meeting. He and Kay have been married for almost 30 years and have three children, eight grandchildren, and their pet - Buddy Pablo.

John's varied careers include the Air Force, teaching, mechanics, IT, and air conditioning. Check out the last newsletter for his bio. He is an extensive community volunteer, including five years as Vice President of the WNA, as well as the VP of the Volunteers In Police Service and Board member of the River Region Tennis Team.

John's goals for Woodmere are also centered on neighborhood safety, and he wants to see the WNA grow and prosper. He will keep his sleeves rolled up to see that the WNA thrives and improves in every way possible, including helping to keep our neighborhood streets clean.

### **For Secretary: Bernice Blount**

### **For Treasurer: Gary Matthews**

Gary Matthews and his wife, Kellie, have lived in Woodmere since May of 1979 and have raised their three children and a large variety of pets here. He has served as the WNA Treasurer since October 2019, after the former Treasurer Phyllis Tillery moved away, and works on getting the eNewsletters emailed to members.

Gary has an accounting and finance degree that led to 40 years working in the accounting, auditing, and finance fields. He retired from the State of Alabama in 2016.

A long-time member of the WNA, Gary has witnessed the organization's history and actions with appreciation and gratitude. "I missed out on so much by not being more involved earlier on," he attests. He hopes to make up for it now.

## Woodmere - Pick it Up!

It is hard to imagine why anyone would not want to keep our streets and parks clean! Have you seen the following posted in parks and other public areas before?

Four reasons why people litter:

1. They are jerks.
2. They don't care about God's natural beauty in the great outdoors.
3. Mommy still picks up after them.
4. All of the above!

Yet, many of us are concerned and doing something about it. It's not unusual to see our neighbors picking up trash as they walk. Plus, the Clean City Commissioner, Al Grove, has donated banners and signs to put up discouraging these litterbugs!



Woodmere Business Owners Barbara & Jarvis Jerido are doing their part! Hanging proudly in front of their Right Touch Auto Detailing & Tropical Smoothie Businesses is a statement to stop the unsightly trashing of our neighborhood. Stop by to enjoy a refreshing smoothie or a hotdog and tell them thanks for hanging the sign!

Another banner is proudly displayed at the Bell Road YMCA. According to Kay Cannady, our WNA member who visited local businesses to discuss displaying the banner, the YMCA manager said members have stopped to thank them for reminding people not to litter.

Kay Cannady has another banner if you know of a business in Woodmere that will join us in this anti-littering campaign. Call 334-315-0723 for more information.



## That's No Chicken!

One of the unexpected joys of living in Woodmere is the occasional sightings of two guinea fowls. Most of us have no idea who owns them but they have become neighborhood pets, leaving delightful little spotted feathers as calling cards in our yards. And even though the hens talk all the time, the WNA guineas refuse to stop and answer questions, so we did a little research on their breed.



**A Guinea Is Not a Chicken**, not even remotely the same. Chickens like coops but unless you clip their wings extremely short, guineas will roam free. They know no boundaries, so they will walk into the road and expect you to get out of their way. Originally from West Africa, they sport dominant personalities, grow to almost two feet and generally weigh about 3 pounds. Their average life span is 10 – 15 years.

Guinea hens (with beautiful long eyelashes) apparently make a noise that sounds like they are saying, “Come back, come back,” while the roosters (larger waddles and a more prominent horn) go “Chi chi.” Both are loud, which makes them great watchdogs! Guinea fowls will not back down from predators – not cats, dogs, raccoons, hawks or humans. They will attack fiercely and generally win but if all else fails, they will fly away. Yep – guineas fly, which serves their preference to nest and sleep in trees.

Quite social, guineas live in flocks in the wild, foraging together in search of food. They are very adaptable and can live in most climates, although their legs are thin and suffer in freezing temperatures, so they seek out barns and coops for warmth. Because they travel in close-knit groups and won't leave one another, they also keep warm at night by roosting together. Most species of guineas mate for life.

Speaking of their delicate legs, please do not try to catch our neighborhood guineas. If you grab them by the leg, they will whip around on you and break it. Remember, they are fast and aggressive when they perceive danger - and they do not particularly like children.

Guineas are quite stout birds with plenty of meat, on the darker side, and with fewer calories and fat than chicken. Europeans consider them a richly flavored delicacy, so they are often on the menu in high-end restaurants.

Guineas are also good layers with 12 to 30 eggs in each clutch. They do not lay daily throughout the year as chickens do but they will lay several clutches in a year, producing as many as 140-150 brown speckled eggs with pointy tips and thick shells. The eggs are smaller than a chicken egg and the hens rarely nest in a coop, so you could find them in a large patch of grass. The moms tend to disappear for a spell, reappearing later with a bunch of babies in tow. Unfortunately, they are not good mothers and will resume wandering as soon as the “keets” are all hatched. Farmers often place their eggs in a chicken nest, so they will inherit a surrogate chicken mom.

One of the greatest benefits to our having guinea fowl neighbors is their organic pest control. Guineas are omnivores, eating small invertebrates and a variety of seeds. They can wipe out populations of ticks, grasshoppers, slugs, caterpillars, spiders, scorpions and even snakes. What is more, they are good gardeners, eating bugs without scratching at the ground or pecking at plants. This makes them much more of a help than a hindrance around our neighborhood!

## Financial Report

	July	August	September	2025	Budget
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>17,104.24</b>	<b>17,211.20</b>	<b>17,167.82</b>		
<b>Income</b>					
Membership Dues (Includes Online Dues)	242.36	347.36	168.40	2,414.36	3,038.24
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00
Cameras & Speed Humps	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Handbooks	5.00	15.00	0.00	49.10	385.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>247.36</b>	<b>362.36</b>	<b>168.40</b>	<b>2,498.46</b>	<b>3,423.24</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Mailouts	0.00	355.74	0.00	1,202.40	2,000.00
Flock Safety Cameras	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flags	0.00	0.00	203.85	203.85	0.00
Meeting Rooms	0.00	0.00	0.00	770.00	720.00
Printing Handbooks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	153.05	141.00
Signs & Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.50	0.00
Postage	140.40	0.00	0.00	140.40	0.00
PO Box Rental	0.00	0.00	244.00	244.00	232.00
Admin Expenses	0.00	50.00	0.00	150.00	330.24
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>140.40</b>	<b>405.74</b>	<b>447.85</b>	<b>2,946.20</b>	<b>3,423.24</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>17,211.20</b>	<b>17,167.82</b>	<b>16,888.37</b>		

<b>2025 Members</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>98</b>		
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**Notes to the Financial Report:**

- 1 \$12,000 of the balance is reserved to pay for Flock safety cameras.
- 2 Membership dues were raised to \$35 starting in 2025.
- 3 Total memberships in 2024 were 92.

Visit us online at [www.woodmeremontgomery.org](http://www.woodmeremontgomery.org)

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2026 WNA Budget			
	Amount		Comments/Explanation
Carry forward balance (@ 9/30/2025)	\$ 4,888.37		Includes prepaid dues for 3 members
<b>Revenues</b>			
Membership Dues	\$ 2,310.00	(1)	Based on 66 enrollments
Membership Dues Online	976.72	(1)	Based on 29 enrollments
Advertisements			
Handbooks	-		Assumes no handbook sales
Donations	-		Assumes no donation
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 3,286.72</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>			
Mailouts and Postage	\$ 1,500.00		
Meeting Rooms	650.00		
Website & email services	153.00		
PO Box Rental	244.00		
Door Prizes for Quarterly Meetings	200.00		
Signs & sign repairs	82.50		
Admin/Misc.	-		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,829.50</b>		
Gain/(Loss) 2026	\$ 457.22		
Less: Allowance for 2026 WNA Projects	?		
Carry over balance at the end of 2026	\$ 5,345.59		
Notes:			
(1) Based on enrollment of 98 members in 2025 (less the dues for 3 members who have already paid)			

## IT'S TIME AGAIN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Thanksgiving is coming, then Christmas and New Year's Eve. The year will soon be 2026 before you know it. But before you get engrossed in the busyness of the holidays, please take a few minutes to support your neighborhood for the new year. The WNA continues every day to protect and increase the investment in your home. You can help this by renewing your WNA membership for 2026.

Please renew your WNA membership online at <https://woodmeremontgomery.org/> or complete the membership form on the following page and mail it with your check for \$35 to the WNA, PO Box 231473, Montgomery, AL 36123-1473.

The WNA invests its time, volunteer services, and resources to keep Woodmere a desirable place to live and to protect your property values. We encourage you to invest in the WNA for 2026 before you become distracted by the holidays.



# Membership Form

Woodmere Neighborhood Association

PO Box 231473

Montgomery, Alabama 36123

www.woodmeremontgomery.org

info@woodmeremontgomery.org



Please list individuals in the household:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

New Association Member

Renewal

Please note: We now send most neighborhood notices via email so please provide your email address. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at info@woodmeremontgomery.org.

Also, the Association is always looking for volunteers. Please indicate your areas of interest below:

WNA Officer

Crime Prevention Committee

Zone Coordinator

Streets & Sidewalk Committee

Media Committee

Block Captain

Parks & Recreation Committee

Other skills or interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your \$35 check payable to:  
Woodmere Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 231473  
Montgomery, Alabama 36123

For WNA use only:  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note: Annual Membership Dues are now \$35**