

---

# THE *Old Town* GAZETTE

April 2022

---

## 2022 HIDDEN GARDENS OF OLD TOWN TOUR SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022 1-5 PM



- \* 2122 MEMBERSHIP LISTING
- \* HISTORIC HOME INFORMATION
  - \* ANNIE MERTS UPDATE
- \* HOW TO GET THE LATEST  
OLD TOWN NEWS TO YOUR  
COMPUTER/PHONE
  - \* PORCH PARTIES
  - \* SUMMER ACTIVITIES
- \* WEBSITES YOU'LL REALLY  
WANT TO KEEP
- \* GARDEN CLUB INTEREST
  - \* GREAT RECIPES
- \* MESSAGE FROM OUR CITY  
COUNCILMAN



# HIDDEN GARDENS OF OLD TOWN - JUNE 2022

June 5, Sunday, 2022 from 1-5 pm is the date for the Hidden Gardens of Old Town. There will be much activity downtown and throughout the city this summer and many will be coming in from out of town to see our historic neighborhoods.

## Sprucing up the Neighborhood

Please be sure to spruce up your yard or decorate your porch or front door with a wreath, many visitors will be coming through our neighborhood!

---

## Are You a Musician? We Need You!

Do You know of a Good Band, Guitar Player, Musician who would like to perform during our June Garden Tour? We have many great porches that would be perfect stages during our event on June 5 from 1-5.

Email our OTHD President Blakely Sherrod at [blakelysherrod@gmail.com](mailto:blakelysherrod@gmail.com)



# FROM THE DESK OF BILL KLING -

## OLD TOWN CITY COUNCILMAN DISTRICT 4



I was born and raised in Huntsville and have memories as a young child of taking dance class lessons at Miss Irene Jones Studio of Dance, which was located on Clinton Avenue, as well as taking piano lessons from Mr. Gary Cooper who lived on Calhoun Street.

After being News Director at WLRH public radio for six years, I was elected to the City School Board, and started monthly parent "office hours" so parents could come talk to one of their elected school board members. This had never been done before.

Four years later, I ran for and was elected to a seat on the City Council. Again, one of the first things that I did was to set up monthly "town meetings," which included my sending out meeting notices to the local newspapers. It was at one of those meetings that I met Tanjie Lyon, an employee from the City Transportation Department. She was the niece of Aunt Eunice Merrill, (Eunice's Restaurant) whom we all know and love. Tanjie and I became friends, started dating, and two years later we got married. As was pointed out in an article in Old Huntsville Magazine, I became the city council member who met his wife by posting an ad in a newspaper!

As a City Council member, one of my most important duties is working to improve neighborhoods throughout the City. Lowe Mill, McThormor Acres and Merrimack are now listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Additionally, Mayfair, Westlawn, and the Medical District all have great improvement. West Huntsville, along Governors Drive, shows progress taking place with the Campus 805-Stovehouse-Foundry development.

Now it is time to focus our energies on Downtown. When the proposal came before the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission to partially demolished the historic Merts Center, with very little advance notification to the public, the City Planner and I got the vote delayed on this issue until the following month. I held a neighborhood meeting so that the residents of Downtown could learn about this project, and be able to give their input. Their input has been incorporated into the final action that took place.

Additionally, I see the need for much work to be done to improve the sidewalks located downtown. We have uneven brick and concrete slab areas that need attention, so that residents can safely walk, or push a baby stroller on them. Due to the age of Downtown, we need to make sure that the sewer and drainage systems are working properly. Recently an area on Eustis Street was identified as having blockage. Problems like this need to be cleared up to avoid flooding.

Another project that I want to work on is the constructing of a bicycle lane/park benches/lighting/walkway for an linear urban park going from UAH into downtown.

I believe the downtown, as well as the City of Huntsville as a whole, has a great future. I hope to be able to contribute to its future progress!

### **Contact Me!**

**email: [bill.kling@huntsvilleal.gov](mailto:bill.kling@huntsvilleal.gov)**  
**Phone: (256) 534-7704; Cell (256) 337-3045**  
**I Promise You - I will Respond!**

---

# Join a Thriving Community!

Old Town Historic District is a great community and you're part of it! We have made it easy for you to renew your annual membership this year by including a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Your membership helps improve our neighborhood, adds to our everyday security and gives us a voice to keep our good quality of life here.

With a membership you get a complete directory of our district as well as important information regarding updating your historic home. You receive emails that tell you the latest in construction projects, planning and zoning changes, etc.

It takes all of us to form a great neighborhood. Take the time to join now!

## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

If you know of a new resident who has just moved into Old Town let someone on the board know - we like to welcome all newcomers with some fresh-baked treat and a welcome package about our district! Contact Cathey Carney at [oldhuntsville@knology.net](mailto:oldhuntsville@knology.net)

## COMMUNITY WATCH GROUP

A community watch group made up of Old Town members walks or rides bikes frequently through our district looking for anything unusual.

You can be a daytime Community Watch member just by being watchful while walking your dog, jogging, driving, etc.

Be very observant and if you see anything out of the ordinary or just suspicious, call the non-emergency police # 256-722-7100.

## IMPORTANT CITY MEETINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED - HERE'S HOW TO SEE THEM ON YOUR OWN TIME:

City Council Meetings:

[www.huntsvilleal.gov/videocategory/city-council-meetings/](http://www.huntsvilleal.gov/videocategory/city-council-meetings/)

Historic Huntsville Preservation Commission Meetings:

[www.huntsvilleal.gov/videocategory/historic-preservation-commission-meetings/](http://www.huntsvilleal.gov/videocategory/historic-preservation-commission-meetings/)

Planning Commission Meetings (includes Zoning changes and Subdivision changes)

[www.huntsvilleal.gov/videocategory/planning-commission-meetings/](http://www.huntsvilleal.gov/videocategory/planning-commission-meetings/)

---



# 2022 Member Listing

Judith & Don Gregory  
 David & Debbie Baughn  
 John & Margaret Bzdell  
 Donna Brown & Kevin Smith  
 Scott McCorkle  
 Lucy Sutherland  
 Rebecca & David Carstens  
 Drew & Leslie Lockhart  
 Tom & Glenda Miller  
 Renda Campbell  
 Herb Francis  
 Pat Payne  
 Blakely Sherrod  
 Frances & Edgar Dalrymple  
 Dan McKittrick & Tom Simpson  
 David & Jodi Nuttall  
 Barry & Judy Carden  
 David & Margaret Powell  
 Kyle & Alyson Scholl  
 Alice Lawler  
 L.A. Dwyer  
 Foster & Virginia McDonald  
 Lucy & Roy Brown  
 Cathey Carney  
 George & Laura Hamilton  
 David & Sandra Ely  
 Nora Knott  
 Mike & Cathy Self  
 James & Karen Cotton  
 Jackie Williams  
 Dale Rhoades  
 Charlotte Richardson  
 Jay & Susan Stinson  
 Benjamin & Elizabeth Cobb  
 Rob & Kathryn Van Peursem  
 Carol & Art Tischer  
 Shannon & Dereck Simpson  
 Karen Totten  
 Jane & Mark Sweeney  
 Clint Caudle & Hannah Nolte  
 Richard & Michelle Buchanan

Don & Deb Thomas  
 Lisa Norton  
 James & Susan Fordham  
 Jeff & Stephanie Hyatt \*  
 Lori and David Smith  
 Sandy & Bob Hovde  
 Nicole Bock & Michael Olheiser  
 Jacqueline Davis  
 Pat Hinrichs  
 Lisa Montgomery  
 Parker & Sarah Jones  
 Dwight Wright  
 Blake & Jan Doming  
 Pat & Connie Cook  
 Karen Maroon  
 Steve & Penny Sumners  
 Tom & Patty Pruitt  
 Rosie Little



## Communication is So Important Right Now!

*In all of our recent district meetings, the one request we had from our residents is more communication about what is happening in our district. No one wants to be surprised about a demolition, or a building going up, or crime news, or what's happening downtown that can and WILL affect us.*

*We are in the process of inputting Old Town resident email addresses into a form that we can use to send you instant messages to your phone and computer. These are NOT NextDoor messages that go to many other areas of Huntsville.*

*This listing will only include Old Town and no one else. This is why it's so important to add your email so that we can send out important messages that we know you'll get in a really timely manner. Pls send to [jandorning@hotmail.com](mailto:jandorning@hotmail.com).*

*Stay In the Know!*

Memberships are good from January - December. Your donations are tax deductible as the Old Town Historic District organization is a 501c3 organization. Every dollar you give goes to the improvements and special events in Old Town - such as the Christmas Luminaries, Summer Social, Community Safety Events, Porch parties, etc. We are a special neighborhood and your involvement is so appreciated!

---

# From Katie Stamps HHPC

The Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission thanks Old Town and Holmes Street United Methodist Church for hosting the March 7 public meeting to discuss the proposed redevelopment of the Annie C. Merts Center. We appreciate the well-reasoned and thoughtful way in which the community presented their concerns. The HHPC understands how impactful this project will be to the neighborhood, and they were very encouraged to see such robust engagement from historic district residents. Thank you!

You can contact me via email at any time and I usually respond right away. Also for any questions regarding your historic home and changes you would like to make, please don't hesitate to call or email!

*Katie Stamps*

katherine.stamps@huntsvilleal.gov

256.650.4779

## 2022 Porch Parties

We are planning to have porch parties this year and will send out information about that as they are scheduled. If you would like to be host/hostess for a summer/fall porch party please let us know by contacting Dwight Wright at [dwight.wright@adtran.com](mailto:dwight.wright@adtran.com).

Only the porch is available for visitors - no one goes in your home.

Attendees will bring a snack or dessert and bring drink of choice. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors!

## Good Information Links

A wealth of local historic info - Huntsville History Collections -  
[huntsvillehistorycollection.org/](http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/)

Old Town Website link - [oldtownhuntsville.org/](http://oldtownhuntsville.org/)

Huntsville Historic Foundation - [historichuntsville.org/](http://historichuntsville.org/)

Making changes to your historic home? be sure and go to this link:  
[huntsvilleal.gov/inspection/documents/HHPC\\_APPLICATION.pdf](http://huntsvilleal.gov/inspection/documents/HHPC_APPLICATION.pdf)

Five Points link: [fivepointshistoricdistrict.org/](http://fivepointshistoricdistrict.org/)

Huntsville Historic Preservation Committee meetings take place the 2nd Monday of each month at 4:30 in the 1st Floor Conference Room of the Public Services Building at 320 Fountain Circle. The public is always invited to attend and give input and some of the meetings get pretty interesting.

Also informative in case you are planning to make changes to your historic home, to see what happens with others in the neighborhood.

*Whether you are an OTHD member or not, we need your email address in order to send you time-sensitive critical information like this. The printed Gazette's come out only twice a year and the digital ones are twice a year, so that we can get updated information to you instantly. To send us your updated information, please email [jandorning@hotmail.com](mailto:jandorning@hotmail.com)*

---

---

# OLD TOWN CONNECT - FROM AND ABOUT OUR RESIDENTS

*What are your favorite family recipes - Send your recipes to [jandorning@hotmail.com](mailto:jandorning@hotmail.com) for inclusion in future Gazette's! Let us know if you try these and loved them!*

## **Whipped Cream Pound Cake**

3 cups sugar  
6 eggs  
3 cups flour {Best with White Lily}  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 cup whipping cream  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter and sugar till fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Mix flour and baking powder and alternating adding with whipping cream. Add vanilla. Place in a greased and floured tube pan. Bake 1 hour and 20 minutes. START IN A COLD OVEN SET AT 325 degrees.

*Mama Pruitt (mother of Tom Pruitt) Patty and Tom Pruitt - White Street*

## **Chicken Spectacular**

8 chicken breasts  
1 (16 oz) can seasoned green beans, drained  
1 (7 oz) pkg. wild rice mix  
1 can sliced water chestnuts, drained  
3 tablespoons chopped onions  
1 can cream of celery soup  
1 to 1-1/2 cup mayonnaise  
1 small jar chopped pimento  
Salt and Pepper  
Cheddar cheese  
Paprika

Cook chicken - cut into chunks - Can use rotisserie chicken. Cook rice by directions on package (until 5 minutes before rice is done). Add onion. Combine other ingredients. Mix and top with cheddar cheese and paprika. Bake 350 degrees until bubbly.

*Lucy Brown - Steele Street*

## **Buffalo Chicken Dip**

1 or 2 packs of cream cheese (your preference)  
1 cup of Ranch Dressing  
Breast of 1 Rotisserie chicken  
1/2 bottle of Texas Pete's Wing Sauce (more or less depending on how hot you like it)  
2 cups of sharp cheddar cheese

Slightly melt cream cheese in microwave then mix with ranch dressing. Layer in bottom of casserole dish. Shred Chicken and mix with wing sauce. Put on top of cream cheese/ranch mixture. Top with cheese. Bake until cheese melts. Dip with Fritos Corn Chip Scoops.

*Cathy Self - Clinton Street*

---

---

# Old Town Historic District Association Membership Form

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 and up Patron

**All membership dues and donations are tax deductible.**

**Comments/Concerns/Questions/Areas of Interest:**

Please send all payments to Lucy Brown, Treasurer, 112 Steele Street, Huntsville, Al 35801

---

Please use your addressed, stamped envelope included with this Gazette to send in your membership for 2022.

Be sure and add your email (s) for fastest communication of info you **NEED** to know!



## OTHD Officers for 2022

Blakely Sherrod, President  
Dwight Wright, Past President  
Dwight Wright, Programs &  
Projects VP  
Lucy Brown, Treasurer  
Katie Davis, Secretary  
Cathey Carney, VP for Membership

### Board of Directors:

Kyle Husband  
Alice Lawler  
Cathy Self  
Mandy Roberts  
Kevin Sanchez  
Kyle Scholl  
Jan Dorning

Legal Adviser:  
Richard Raleigh, Jr.

