
THE *Old Town* GAZETTE

June 2024

It's Going to be a HOT Summer, ya'll!



**That's why you need to be at our coooooool poolside
Porch Party on Sunday, June 23 from 4-6.**

**Relax by the pool and meet your neighbors. This is an
adult-only event. You are asked to bring an appetizer to
share and it's BYOB, rain or shine. Hopefully great HOT
weather. We look forward to seeing you there!**

**Find the address and other information in this Gazette.
Lots of events coming up and other items you need to be
aware of.**

**You've been great about sending in your current email
addresses so now we can update you on important city
events you need to know. Thank you!**

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 Kyle Scholl at (678) 641-1171

2024 OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES:

President	Derek Simpson	Simpson.shannon@comcast.net
Vice President	Dwight Wright	dwight.wright@adtran.com
VP for Membership	Kyle Scholl	kyle_scholl@yahoo.com
Secretary	Katie Davis	kmdean89@gmail.com
Treasurer	Cathey Carney	oldhuntsville@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	Blakely Sherrod	blakelysherrod@gmail.com
Board of Directors		
	Lucy Brown	hblb4569g@gmail.com
	Kyle Husband	kyle@offbeatcoffeestudio.com
	Alice Lawler	sfalia39@gmail.com
	Cathy Self	2929cathy@gmail.com
	Edgar Dalrymple	eddyboyblues@gmail.com
	Jacque Taylor	jmt406@icloud.com
	Jan Dorning	jandorning@hotmail.com
Our City Councilman	Bill Kling	bill.kling@huntsvilleal.gov
Legal Advisor	Richard J.R. Raleigh Jr	

Stormy Weather May 8th

The evening of May 8th was unexpected and scary for lots of neighbors. The tornadoes that hit Huntsville did damage to Old Town, Twickenham, Blossomwood, Maple Hill Cemetery and many other areas near us. We lost many very old trees and were grateful that there were no deaths or major injuries. We are most appreciative to the city workers of Huntsville as well as Huntsville Utilities and volunteers who were out cleaning, restoring lines, directing traffic, giving us updates, etc. and so much more. Thank you for your effort and hard work.

This letter was sent to Mayor Battle and the City Council in late May, from the Old Town Board.



Old Town Historic District

Huntsville City Council
308 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

May 24, 2024

Dear Mayor Battle and Members of the Huntsville City Council,

The Board of Directors of the Old Town Historic District Association would like to extend our appreciation to the City of Huntsville for the exemplary efforts made in the aftermath of the recent tornado. The swift and efficient mobilization of city services to clean up and remove debris has not gone unnoticed and deserves commendation.

It was reassuring to witness our city come together with such dedication and professionalism. The hard work and commitment of the city employees and all involved in the recovery efforts are truly commendable and greatly appreciated.

Please convey our thanks to all the departments and individuals who played a role in the clean-up and recovery process. Their hard work has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

With sincere gratitude,

Board of Directors
Old Town Historic District Association

FEATURED OLD TOWN HOME

SENT IN BY MALCOLM & BETSY TARKINGTON



424 CLINTON AVENUE EAST

THIS PICTURE FROM A 1954 POSTCARD OF HUNTSVILLE STREETS

I came here from Lawrenceburg, TN in June 1965, looking for a job. Walked in to The Southerland Building, recently built at 806 Governor's Drive, then was a department of Southerlands Blueprint and Drafting Supplies. A couple of days later I went to work there and have been there ever since! In the fall of 1966 our store separated and moved in as a department of the short lived Montage on the north end of Dunnivant's Mall. It closed the end of 1967 at which time we moved to a small store midways of the mall, until 1975 when we moved to the present location.

Betsy and I purchased the business Jan. 1968 from Dave Southerland.

We have moved with the times with high and low spots due to market trends, starting with major camera lines such as Nikon, Leica, Hasselblad, etc. We no longer sell new but we have a very active business in used cameras and much interest in film photography which all but disappeared after 2000.

We have always offered photo finishing services starting as a dealer for Kodak mostly processing slide film which customers projected at home, along with 8 mm movie film. We now offer digital transfer from slides and movies.

Restoration digitally of old photos through our staff, or our online service is one of our most satisfying services, almost bringing tears when the restored work is picked up! Film has made a strong comeback, typically people are finding old rolls stored away for years, many still have useable photos even after 20 years or more. In any case many memories are revived and customers are thrilled, which makes us happy! The other market is young adults who "discovered" film, using either old cameras from relatives or one of many used cameras still available, shooting film, bringing it to us to process so they can email it to their I-Phones!

Over the years we have seen many changes and many customers have passed on but memories linger on with the help of photographs. The store still operates six days a week and has for 59 years.

Old Town

We moved to 424 Clinton Avenue in the fall of 1973. Our house is one of the 4 Nolen houses built for their daughters in 1900. There is ally way access to the back adjacent alley facing Steele Street.

All houses at that time were painted white, we boldly painted ours blue with Betsy's trim designs. Our roof is still stamped metal shingles, probably replacing the wood shingles about 1905 or so. We have enjoyed this old house for 50 years, though maintenance is always a challenge. We, Frances Rice, Ralph and Linda Allen, Ed Keniston, the Fuchtmans, Ken Gentle and probably some others I have missed, formed Old Town association in the early years 1974-75, becoming the second historical district adjoining Twickenham. We would meet in each other's houses at that time, Ed and I and Harvie Jones documenting with photos. I don't remember too much about those meetings, but we needed to start somewhere.

From Deane Dayton: Regarding the above picture, based on the four identical houses on the right side of the picture, I believe the picture was taken in the middle of the 400 block of East Clinton looking East. The identical houses on the South side of the street were built about 1900. I believe identical houses are the houses at 420,422,424 and 426 E. Clinton. The first house (420) has either been radically altered or replaced. The stonework in front of the houses still exists.

Malcolms answer - the first house was burned in the upper floor in the 1950s and a new roof line installed and only has one floor.



FROM THE DESK OF BILL KLING

OLD TOWN CITY COUNCILMAN DISTRICT 4

The big news is that we have a new operational City Hall. It is a beautiful building, but its major function is to bring numerous outlying city departments together with our existing departments under one roof, and will help to make city government more efficient and responsive. This is your City Hall, and I hope you will come visit soon. There are numerous local Artists whose works are represented in it. This building will be a source of pride, beauty, and functionality, for the next 100 years.

During the next one and a half to two years, the existing/old City Hall will be slowly demolished. When this process is completed, the land that the building sat on will be used to expand Big Spring Park.

Our city Public Works, Landscape Management, Police, Huntsville Utilities, and others did a great job removing downed tree trees and branches from the recent bad weather occurrences. Torn sidewalk squares, downed cable wire and street repairs are taking place now.

Traffic, flow and congestion continues to be one of the major concerns that I have. One project that I am excited about is the ring road process around the outlying areas of the city. Currently, we have Rideout Road running off of I565 heading north. It runs into Rideout Road extension, which goes north to MLK, which dead ends at North Parkway.

In the future, we will see development of an extended road from North Parkway going to Hampton Cove, which will head south to become the Southern Bypass which will come back and connect at 565/Rideout Road. This ring road will take much of the traffic congestion off the central portions of the city, including Downtown and the Medical District.

I will continue to regularly walk around the downtown area in order to call in potholes, dangling cable TV wire, sidewalk repairs, etc. that are needed, etc. Many of the damaged areas from the tornado have already been called in to the appropriate departments.

Have a great summer!

Your City Councilman, Bill Kling

Contact Me!

email: bill.kling@huntsvilleal.gov

Phone: (256) 534-7704 Cell (256) 337-3045

I Promise You - I will Respond!

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.

You are Invited to our June 2024 Old Town Porch Party!

Our first porch party was a huge success and thanks to Derek and Shannon Simpson for such a fun afternoon. The next one will be held on June 23rd, Sunday, from 4-6.

This is an Adult Only get-together.

The location is 103 Calhoun in Old Town, home of Johnny and Alana Burks and will be around their pool. There will be neighborhood signs to remind you. Bring a snack or finger food of your choice to share with others.

**This is BYOB so bring your beverage of choice and chairs if you like.
Come join us for a fun afternoon and meet your neighbors!**

Upcoming Fall Event - Spookyfest to be held on the grounds of Providence Classical School on Saturday Oct 19th! Your kids loved it last year and it'll be better than ever! Stay tuned for more information as it gets closer.

Good Information Links

A wealth of local historic info and great home photos - Huntsville History Collections - by Deane Dayton www.huntsvillehistorycollection.org/

Old Town Website link - oldtownhuntsville.org/

Huntsville Historic Foundation - historichuntsville.org/

Making changes to your historic home? Be sure and go to this link:
huntsvilleal.gov/inspection/documents/HHPC.APPLICATION.pdf

Five Points link: fivepointshistoricdistrict.org/

Historic Signs for your Home: If you are interested in a historic sign or insert for your home the contact information is Mike Self, email him at drmsself007@gmail.com.

He can give you the timeline, cost, process etc.

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 4 times a year and are in digital form as well, so that we can get updated information to you instantly. To send us your updated information, please email oldhuntsville@gmail.com



SOLD!
BLOSSOMWOOD



SOLD!
DOWNTOWN

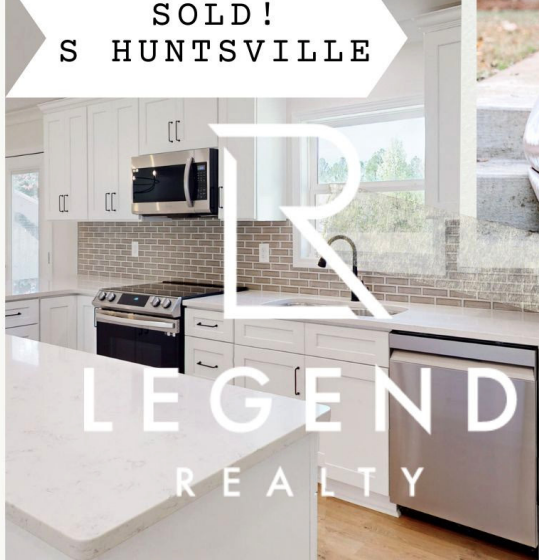


AARON &
SHANNON HASE

202-288-0962
@THEHASETEAM



SOLD!
S HUNTSVILLE



LEGEND
REALTY



NEW LISTING
JONES VALLEY

WAS THERE AN ELEPHANT BURIED ON EAST CLINTON AVENUE?



On December 15, 1968, North Alabama was riveted by the news of a possible major archeological find in Huntsville. William Thomas Young, a resident of 507 East Clinton Avenue, was working on replacing a floor in his home, and upon finding a pile of loose bricks underneath, decided to remove them. What he discovered next would earn his home a spot in Huntsville trivia for all time to come.

A skeleton, the biggest that anyone had ever seen, was uncovered. Everyone agreed that the bones were of some type of animal but no one could imagine what kind of a creature could be so huge.

Immediately, speculation began about the bones. As the word spread, gawkers began lining up on the street trying to get a view. Old history books, with pictures of dinosaurs, were hastily retrieved from dusty attics and neighbors began talking of the Tyrannosaurus and Trachodons that once stalked this region. One person who lived on Clinton even suggested calling the Smithsonian Institute to have them fly in experts.

Unfortunately, the puzzle was quickly solved and Huntsville missed the opportunity to become the site for an archeological dig. A local historian remembered hearing tales of an elephant being buried somewhere on Clinton Avenue and by putting two and two together, solved the mystery. It seems as if a circus had come to town in the fall of 1893 and erected its tents about a half-mile outside of town in a location now known as Five Points. As the circus was packing up and getting ready to leave town, one of its elephants died. Circuses and traveling carnivals were notorious for leaving sick and dead animals behind, so when Sheriff Jere Murphree heard of the dead elephant, he quickly informed the circus that they could not leave town until the elephant was properly buried.

Mr. Bradshaw, the manager of the circus, then hired a local man by the name of Gentry to bury the carcass for the sum of ten dollars. Although some people back then thought that ten dollars was a large sum of money, it was also a large elephant. Mr. Gentry hitched his team of mules to the carcass, the circus left town, and everyone was happy.

In retrospect, it seems as if Mr. Gentry might have been a bit on the lazy side, for instead of digging a hole to bury the carcass, he took the easy way out. On the 500 block of East Clinton, there had at one time been an old brickworks, and adjacent to the works was a large hole from where the clay for the bricks had been dug. It was here that Gentry dumped the carcass, and finished filling in the hole with old bricks and rubble.

And it was here, years later, that homes were built, with Mr. Young eventually buying the one with the secret.

So the next time you go by 507 East Clinton, take a long look. It's probably the only house in America with an elephant buried underneath it. (Story by Tom Carney published in Old Huntsville magazine in 1993).

A Message from our Preservation Planner for Huntsville (HHPC)

Hello residents of Old Town!

May was certainly a busy month in the life of our city. Huntsville celebrated its 9th annual Historic Preservation Month with #PeopleSavingPlacesHsv. This year's local campaign featured preservation professionals and advocates with an emphasis on downtown development and revitalization.

On April 25, Mayor Tommy Battle kicked off Preservation Month at a news conference with a view at Baker & Able rooftop bar at 106 Jefferson Street downtown. National expert Donovan Rypkema spoke on the economic benefits of preservation at Ridley Hall on May 2. Huntsville's ongoing growth and development made this a timely presentation and provided ways to incorporate preservation into downtown planning.

I had a blast at Five Points PorchFest on Saturday, May 4. These neighborhood events are such a gift to the city, and I appreciate the hard work that goes into organizing them. To highlight local preservationists, I interviewed Singing River Trail Executive Director John Kvach, Lily Flagg's Signal Podcast Creator and Host SueAnne Griffith and Downtown Huntsville Public Library Special Collections Manager Heather Adkins. Be sure to watch the videos on the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission's Facebook page and Instagram @huntsvillepreservation.

Leading walking tours is one of my absolute favorite things to do. We had fantastic turnouts for both Downtown Huntsville Walking Tours on May 11 and May 18. Preservation Happy Hour on May 16 at Baker & Able tied a bow on this year's Preservation Month festivities.

Amid the monthlong celebrations, Huntsville's downtown historic districts suffered severe damage May 8 from an EF-2 tornado. Old Town was hit especially hard, and although navigating the repairs, cleanup and loss of many old-growth trees is devastating and overwhelming, I am so thankful no one was injured.

On a personal note, I want all our historic district residents to know that I am here as a resource to ask questions and offer guidance. I never want the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) process to be intimidating or a deterrent to accomplishing work that needs to be done, especially in times of hardship. If you are repairing damaged elements using matching materials and design, you do not need a COA to get a building permit. For all other requests, you can apply to the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission for an expedited or commission-reviewed COA at HuntsvilleAL.gov/Preservation.

The City of Huntsville held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 21 to officially open our new city hall. Located at 305 Fountain Circle, my office is in the Planning Department on the fourth floor. We look forward to hosting the first HHPC meeting in the new City Council chambers on June 10. I recommend you use the main entrance on the southwest corner of the courthouse square which leads directly to the second floor where the chambers are located. HHPC monthly meetings are open to the public and will continue to be held on the second Monday of the month at 4:30pm. We have been experiencing some technical difficulties with the AV equipment and livestreaming services in the new chambers, if you watch the meetings online or HSVTV, I ask for patience as we get acclimated to the new space.

Thank you for your ongoing stewardship preserving our historic districts. I look forward to working with you and invite you to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Katie Stamps
City Preservation Planner
Katherine.Stamps@HuntsvilleAL.gov
256-650-4779



Katie Stamps is our Preservation Planner for Huntsville (since Nov. 2017) and you can find her at the monthly meetings of the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission. If you ever want to make changes to your historic home, you will be able to interact with Katie and HHPC. She is actually very knowledgeable and great to work with.

You can contact her via email at any time and she responds right away. So 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

2024 Membership To Date

**We have nearly 130 households who are paid members!
Also we want to thank our neighbors for sending in your
updated email addresses - this has enabled us to be able to keep you
current on what's happening in the Old Town district.**

**If you sent in your membership for 2024 and don't see your name on this list, email
Cathey at oldhuntsville@gmail.com**

Richard and Michelle Buchanan
Bill & Tanjie Kling
Donna Brown & Kevin Smith
George & Laura Hamilton
Jacqueline Davis
Rob & Kathryn Van Peurse
Thomas & Phyllis McAlpin
Curt & Janine Harrelson
Penny & Steve Sumners
Doug & Karen Madison
Karen Maroon
Lisa Montgomery
Jeff & Stephanie Hyatt
Charles Jones
Dan & Christy Meeks
Renda Campbell
Karen Totten
Mark & Jane Sweeney
David & Jodi Nuttall
Dan McKittrick & Tom Simpson
Blakely Sherrod
Alice Lawler
Kyle & Alyson Scholl
David and Lori Smith
Jeff Stanfield
Greg & Samantha Hathorn
Jan Doming
Tom Snow
Lucy Brown
John & Lori Walters
Emile & Linda Alt
Edgar & Frances Dalrymple
David & Becky Carstens
Cathey Carney
Nancy Gill
Wayne & Lisa Gregg

Bob & Sandy Hovde
Jacqueline Williams
Diana Davidson
Curt Benzle & Wendy Wilson
Barry & Judy Garden
Lisa Norton
James & Suzanne Fordham
Deb & Don Thomas
Don & Sherry Woody
Jacquie & Rick Taylor
Mike & Cathy Self
Katie Davis
Kyle Husband
Derek & Shannon Simpson
Amy & Steve Cornelius
Robert & Laura Hash
Pat Payne
Charles & Barbara Hopkins
John & Melinda Hamilton
Foster & Virginia McDonald
Drew & Leslie Lockhart
Melissa & Tod Dodgen
Brian & Mandy Roberts
Angie Jackman & Paul
McConnaughey
Sarah & Parker Jones
Rosemary Little
Phil & Mary Catherine Buzzetta
Joanna & Ron Collins
Doug & Rhonda Brewster
Alana & Johnny Burks
Rebecca & David Carstens
Richard & Fiona Bevis
Anna Warren & Robb Hereford
Tom & Patty Pruitt
Jerry Barclay

Mike & Charlotte Dombrowski
Malcolm & Betsy Tarkington
Scott McCorkle
Rachel & Paul Matheny
Lawrence Dwyer
Mark Clouser
Robert Sutton
Coy & Brenda Hallmark
John & Paula McBride
Jim & Linda Crowell
Dorcas Harris & Dick Reeves
Jack & Emily Burwell
Laurie Granda
Katie Stamps
Matt & Katie Carter
David & Margaret Powell
Roger & Ann Bishop
Mike & Barbara Holbrook
Rich & Shannon Raleigh
Danielle & Deke Damson
Tim & Cindy Howard
Nicole Bock & Mike Olheiser
Jean Montgomery
Beth & Ray Morring
David & Sandra Ely
Mike & Amy Cosgrove
John & Kelly Wygal
Conrad & Patricia Cook
Brandon & Lindsay Waggoner
Jim & Patty Grier
Craig & Sherill Clontz
Don & Judith Gregory
Katharine Barnhart
Wendy Stephens
Leslie Thomas and Shaun Collins
Robert & Laura Hash

Old Town Recipes



Best Ever Salsa

- 1 28 oz. can whole tomatoes, drained and chopped
- 1/2 onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 lime, juiced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 jalapenos, minced (or more for more heat)
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Mix everything together and chill in the fridge for at least an hour. If you have a food processor, you can leave everything chopped pretty big, throw it all in and pulse until desired consistency.

Stephanie Troup

Banana Bread

Ingredients:

- 3 or 4 bananas, smashed
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1 cup sugar or Splenda (can easily reduce to 1/2 cup)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 1 1/2 cups Whole Wheat flour or all-purpose flour

Method

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. With a wooden spoon, mix butter into the mashed bananas in a large mixing bowl. Mix in the sugar, egg, and vanilla. Sprinkle the baking soda and salt over the mixture and mix in. Add the flour last, mix. Pour mixture into a buttered 4X8 inch loaf pan. Bake for 1 hour. Cool on a rack. Remove from pan and slice to serve.

Jane Tippett, The Historic Lowry House

Lemony Shrimp

- 2 lbs. frozen shrimp tails on, thawed
- 1 stick butter
- 2 whole lemons, thinly sliced
- 1 pkt. Italian seasoning, Lemon/pepper spice

In a 9x13" glass dish melt a stick of butter in 350 degree oven, remove and add lemon slices evenly. Spread thawed shrimp over lemon. Sprinkle spices on top. In oven to bake for 10-15 minutes. I did it for 15 and they were well done. Shrimp absorb the lemon/butter sauce but I save whatever's left when I pour it into my container! Really low carb!

Cathey Carney

More Low Carb and Delicious

Ingredients:

- 1 large head of Cauliflower cut into bite size pieces (approx 6 cups)
- 6-8 strips of bacon cooked and crumbled (Cooked in oven at 400° for 20 mins)
- 6 Tbs chopped Chives
- 1/2 cup Mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup Sour Cream
- 2 cups Colby Jack Cheese { may use cheddar}
- 8 oz container sliced mushrooms (optional)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425°. In a large pot boil water and cook Cauliflower for 8-10 minutes, drain and let cool.

In a large bowl combine sour cream, mayo, 1/2 of crumbled bacon, 3 tbs. chives, 1 cup of cheese, mushrooms(optional) and cauliflower and mix well... place in baking dish and cover with remaining 1 cup of cheese and rest of bacon crumbles. Bake for 15-20 minutes until cheese is melted, top with remaining 3 tbs. chives and serve.

Sara McDouglas

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 and are based on a calendar year.

Comments/Concerns/Questions/Areas of Interest:

Please send to Cathey Carney
716 E. Clinton Ave., Huntsville, Al 35801

Who Has Been Living in Old Town the Longest? We want to know - email oldhuntsville@gmail.com and let us know, with maybe a short story of what brought you here and the changes you've seen. You do NOT have to be a member to take part in this. You'll be featured in an upcoming Gazette!

Here are a few we've heard from:

Karen Maroon - Moved to her home on Randolph Avenue in 1972

Malcolm and Betsy Tarkington - Moved to Clinton Avenue in 1973

Cathey Carney - Moved to her home on Clinton Avenue May of 1972

Rosemary Little - Moved to her home on Calhoun in 1984

Cathy & Mike Self have lived in their Clinton Avenue home for 14 years and have owned it for 20.

We need to hear from more of you to publish in the September/October Gazette - email Cathey at oldhuntsville@gmail.com with how long you've been in your Old Town home!

We're looking forward to meeting our neighbors and being part of the Best Historic District in Huntsville!