

August/Sept 07

Almadale Farms Newsletter

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1851 Hartwell Manor N.
Collierville, TN 38017
Phone: 861-1028
www.almadalefarms.org

Daphne's Office Hours
Tuesday 9:00-3:00 &
Friday 9:00-12:00

Almadale Farms Area News

- **Houston Levee Road Work:** The process for obtaining the 28 easements has taken longer than expected, so the project will not begin until the Fall of 2008. The purchasing department will contact us about obtaining a temporary construction easement which would allow supplies and equipment on our property for the length of the construction. Our old wood fence will be removed and we will replace it with one that matches the other vinyl fencing using the reimbursement from the town. The town owns 114 feet of right of way and the new road would be approximately 37 feet from the back property line of our homeowners whose properties back up to Houston Levee.
- **GE Dishwasher Recall:** Please check online at <http://geappliances.com> to see if your dishwasher has been recalled. This recall includes 2.5 million dishwashers manufactured between Sept 1997 & Dec. 2001. The recall is because of a problem with the liquid rinse-aid wiring that can cause a fire or property damage. Certain models of: Eterna, GE, GE Profile, GE Monogram, Hotpoint and Sears Kenmore. The recall hotline is 1-877-607-6395.
- **Rezoning Request:** Developer R.S. Harris has requested a rezoning of the property SW of Frank Rd & Houston Levee from R-1 Low Density residential to MPO (Medical Professional Office). At present the request has been pulled from the Planning Commission agenda for August. Check our website more info & updates on this issue.
- **National Night Out Against Crime:** Tuesday, August 7th at the clubhouse. Cookout, giant slide, balloon & face artists! *Please bring donations of Back to School items for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Memphis!*



daphneinoffice@almadalefarms.org

**Almadale Farms
Neighborhood Watch
National Night Out
Against Crime**



**Tuesday, August 7th
@ the Clubhouse
Begins 6:30 p.m.**

Visit www.almadalefarms.org



Don't Scare The Crows

Will Stafford

At a length of 18 to 21 inches, the American crow is a large bird. It has a glossy sheen and is completely black—black eyes, black feet, black legs, black tongue and black talons. Crows are solitary and usually build their nests 50 to 70 feet above ground in a tree crotch or on a heavy limb near the trunk. The crow's nest is a cup of twigs and sticks lined with grass, bark, pine needles and moss. Females lay 3 to 7 eggs which hatch in approximately 17 days. Young crows are usually able to fly in roughly three weeks and have a life span of approximately 15 years. Their favorite food is waste corn.

In my younger days in rural west Tennessee, I was an enthusiastic crow hunter. Back then the farmers were very tolerant if a hunter respected their fences and livestock. I became fairly adept at calling crows from a distance and "talking" to them with the aid of small wooden crow call. Occasionally, a young, unskilled crow would come close enough to fall within range of my shotgun pellets. The clever and alert crow was a fine bird to hunt—at least I thought so. It wasn't exactly a game bird in the true sense—since very few people "ate crow"—but to my way of thinking, the crow was a better bird to hunt than the quail, dove or some other game bird. In addition crows were unprotected and available all year long—often in large numbers. There was no moral question since farmers considered crows to be a pest known to feed on the eggs of game birds and the young of other helpless wild life. They also ate newly planted seeds, tender seedlings, transplants, fruits and berries.

After several years of hunting crows, I realized that they were among the craftiest of all wild creatures. For example, crows would shy away immediately if I had a gun but if I went out unarmed, they would allow me to come well within range without becoming scared. An appreciation of the language and communication skills of crows made a

real impression on me and improved my hunting skills. Crows use low key talk to advise others where there is food or say hello to a friend but will become boisterously loud when danger lurks. I particularly enjoyed their frenzied cawing when they cornered a great horned owl or owl somewhere—inviting all to the badgering of their worst natural enemies. Especially impressive was watching them stand in a silent sentinel over a fallen companion.

Then it happened. I lost interest in hunting crows and started spending more time walking in the woods and fields just admiring and attempting to mimic the crow caws. It seemed that I could look directly into their black eyes and hear them talking to me. My interest in crows was further aroused after reading several articles about this magnificent bird.

Attitudes have changed about crows and they have adjusted well to living in our suburban society. They perform many valuable services—especially in the summer—keeping busy eating grubs, bugs and dead animals but they are also amnesiacs and are notorious for storing acorns, walnuts and the seeds of wild shrubs and trees. Have you ever wondered how an abandoned field reverts to a forest? Crows likely planted many of those trees with their forgotten nuts.

Crows are considered the most intelligent of all birds and are highly adaptable. Their antics are legendary and have even been referenced in National Geographic Magazine. Conservationists concerned about endangered species have no reason to worry about the American crow which has survived organized shootings, bombings and poisoning. It is now protected. Unlike the effect on some wildlife, human alteration of the landscape has favored the crow. It has lost much of its fear of man and can be seen in parks and playgrounds. I have also seen them on the roofs of many of our Almadale Farms homes. The crow is a survivor and is a sign that we have not gone too far in turning our farms and landscapes into technological wastelands.

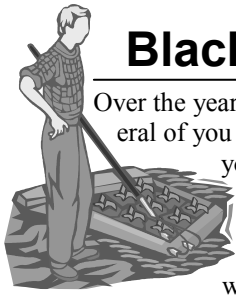
August & September Yard of the Month Winners



Rene & Bill Platten
1852 Harwell Manor North



Bonnie & Craig Parnell
1899 Almadale Lake Drive



Black Gold

Will Stafford

Over the years I have had conversations with several of you regarding ways to improve the soil in your small garden plots and containers where you grow vegetables, flowers and ornamentals. I was surprised recently when a neighbor ask me what about composting—a subject close to the heart of all organic gardeners. Unfortunately, there has often been an air of cultish mysticism surrounding the art of composting. I'm not surprised since it is easy to get confused by gardening magazines and books that describe the "science" of composting within such narrowly defined terms—often indicating there is one, and only one, method of composting.

What is compost? Simply stated, compost is partially decayed organic material. It is a dark, easily crumbled collection of plant products with many of the characteristics of humus, the major organic component of soil and is considered by many gardeners to be the top all around soil amendment.

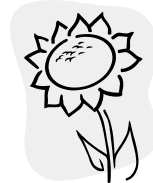
How is compost made? The modern practice of composting is little more than speeding up and intensifying the natural process of decaying and decomposition. Making compost is not difficult and can be done easily at home. Essentially, the basic methods call for layering ingredients—usually organic refuse—in piles in mixed proportions. Some purists turn the heaps in order to accelerate bacterial action within the pile. Your compost heap will be built of organic refuse. The most readily available ingredients include lawn clippings (nitrogen), leaves(carbon), hair (protein), good soil, manure—excluding dog and cat manures—shredded newspaper, ashes, pine needles, hay, plant clippings and kitchen wastes—especially banana peels, coffee grounds, tea grounds and egg shells. The two basic ingredients are carbon and nitrogen. Almost any organic matter may be used. I also like to use an activator substance such as cotton seed meal or alfalfa pellets as an

added nitrogen boost. However, this is not critical. Be attentive to having a good mix. Once you have started mixing materials, the fun begins. Inside a compost pile millions of decay organisms, insects, microbes and bacteria—aided by self generated heat—feed, grow, reproduce, and die while transforming household and garden wastes into compost. Begin your search now for compost ingredients in your own backyard, kitchen and neighborhood. You probably won't have to travel far to find a wealth of nutrient rich materials.

Why make and use compost? You have likely discovered that our Almadale Farms soil is an acidic, hard, clay based composition and not very fertile. Compost increases organic matter in the soil—while building sound root structures and healthier plants. It also makes the soil airy so it can drain well. Compost attracts and feeds earthworms, nature's aerator—while reducing plant stress resulting from droughts and freezes.

What about composting systems? Compost can be made with or without enclosures. There are multiple composting systems. The easiest is a simple pile which can be made in a secluded spot in your back yard or you may prefer a concrete block bin, a garbage can, plastic bags, wire mesh fence collectors or tumblers. There are other arrangements. I have used both the concrete block bin and the tumbler (which I don't recommend) and am currently using the trench method of simply burying material directly in my working vegetable garden. Match your compost style to your space, garden style or neighbors' ideas of neatness.

When will your compost be useable? Your compost is ready when the materials placed in your pile or other enclosure have been transformed into a dark, rich humus-like substance which will have a woody, clean aroma. Dig it into planting areas, spread it around shrubs, flowers and trees or use it in potting mixes for indoor and outdoor plants. Your plants will thank you



T.G.I.F

Barbara Parkhurst



We are looking for someone to host August or September T.G.I.F. You can have it on the Friday that best fits your schedule. All you do is supply the house, the paper products and the soft drinks. How easy is that?!! Just give me a call.

Almadale residents, just look for the sign!

Barbara Parkhurst
861-5054 Home
218-1952 Cell

Good To Know

Dr. Gretchen Kelly, Collierville Pet Hospital



Feline heartworm disease is caused by infection with *Dirofilaria immitis*. Even though cats are not considered to be the natural host, cats are infected by being bitten by a mosquito carrying the infective larvae. Typically cats have a lower worm burden than dogs, but just a couple worms in the cat can be fatal due to the small size of their heart and blood vessels. Also, the cat's immune system is extremely reactive against heartworms and cats develop more of a lung disease, complete with respiratory stress, and coughing or vomiting chronically and sudden death may occur, just as it may occur in infected dogs.

Heartworm infection in cats is a more elusive diagnosis than in dogs. A willingness to pursue the diagnosis frequently entails application of multiple diagnostic tests, some of which may need to be repeated on several occasions. Of these, heartworm serology (blood test), thoracic radiography (chest X-rays) and echocardiography (ultrasound of the heart) are the most useful methods of clinical confirmation.

Typically treatment is reserved for cats that demonstrate signs of illness. Cats that become ill need supportive therapy and depending on the circumstances, this may include steroids, electrolyte solutions and an oxygen cage. Adulticide (chemical used to kill adult heartworms) is the treatment of choice for heartworms in dogs. However, cats do not tolerate the Adulticide treatment very well and Adulticide administration is considered the treatment of last resort for cats in stable condition.

Heartworm disease is best combated by monthly heartworm preventative either orally or topically. Currently there are four choices of monthly heartworm preventative. They are monthly oral doses of Interceptor (milbemycin oxime) or Heartgard (ivermectin), or monthly topical doses of Advantage Multi (moxidectin) or Revolution (selamectin). The Advantage Multi and Revolution products also prevent fleas, ear mites, and intestinal worms.

In the south due to our mild winters heartworm preventative is recommended all year long without interruption. Start protecting your cat against heartworm disease, ask your veterinarian about heartworm preventative today.

gretchenkelly@comcast.net



Replacing Your Roof?

The procedure is the same as any other ARC submittal with the exception of the time delay. Because of the amount of requests, Daphne is approving these types of applications ASAP. Go to www.almadalefarms.org and download the Architectural Change form or stop by the clubhouse during Daphne's work hours.

1. Submit the completed form and type of shingles to be replaced. (The new shingles should be **3-Dimensional Architectural** shingles, not the basic "three-tab shingle" that some of the older homes have.)
2. Submit a sample if the color is different from the original roof.
3. Leave the form and sample with Daphne at the Clubhouse or leave it in her lock box by the office door.
4. Once processed, Daphne will contact you ASAP.
5. Call 861-1028 if you have questions.

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WHAT'S NEW AT
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Send me your classifieds and business ads to be posted on the "Residents' Billboard" page on our neighborhood website.

Almadale Farms Neighborhood Watch

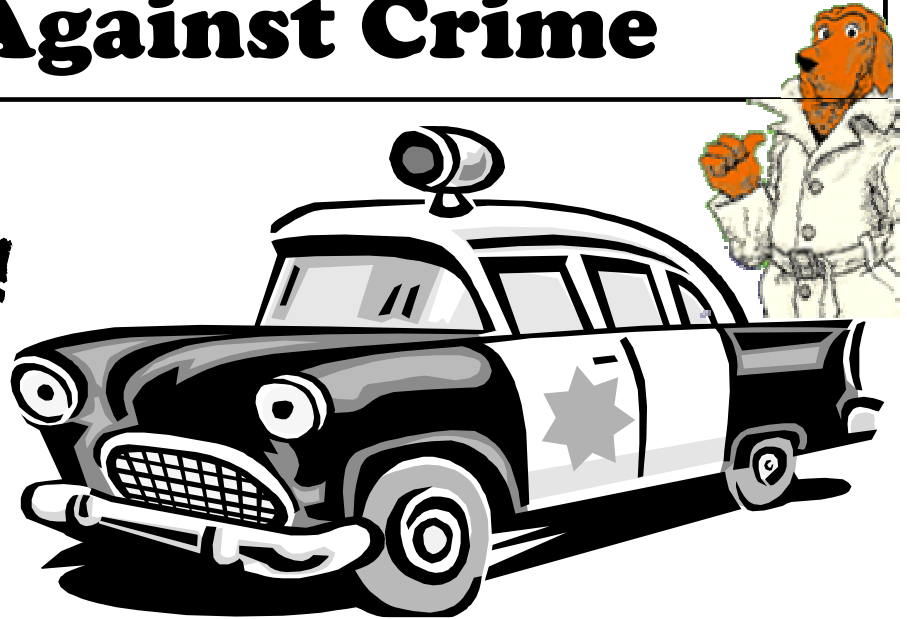
WARNING



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Fourth Annual

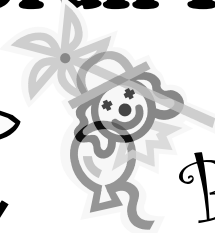
National Night Out Against Crime



Tuesday, August 7th @ the Clubhouse

Party begins 6:30 p.m.

**Collierville Police, Town Officials &
McGruff The Crime Dog to visit.**



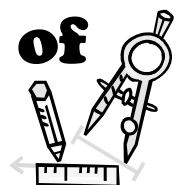
Balloon Art

Face Painting

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Celebrate America! 4th of July Parade



Thanks to **Melissa Marshall** and her family for helping organize this year's parade. We had over 50 kids, highly decorated dogs and lots of moms and pops who celebrated the day by marching the parade route, enjoying popsicles, goodie bags, awards and swimming the afternoon away! *Check out the website for more pictures.*



Welcome



New Neighbors

Antonio & Kelly Montalvo
1958 Lonhill Drive

Bobby & Laura Lee Haygood
1922 Swynford Lane

David & Kimberly Laschober
1939 Brooks Bend Road

Jason & Melissa Manuel
1812 Swynford Lane

Clifford & Jeanette Ewing 1736
Hartwell Manor Cove



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EQUAL

Almadale Crossing 861.5140
WWW.FIRESTONE.COM

It's Bunko Time

Rene Platten

Hi Ladies! We are getting ready for another year of fun and games. The first Bunko will be held at the home of **Barbara Parkhurst on Thursday, September 6th.**

We may be in need of additional permanent players and/or substitutes. We play the first Thursday of the month and no experience is necessary. If you are interested please call Rene Platten at 861-4183.

www.almadalefarms.org