

Dec/Jan 2006



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kathie@almadalefarms.org

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Treasurer:
Renee Samuels 853-1900

Secretary:
Mary Jane Doran 861-7010

Architectural Review:
Jim Share 853-9340

Whitt Dukes
Tom Powell

Pajama Party with Santa December 15th



Attention all children of
Almadale Farms!

Santa will be at the Clubhouse Thursday, December 15th to read you stories and hand out goodies. His elves suggest you come in your warm and cozy pajamas. There will be milk and cookies for all! Call Katie Nellessen for more information (861-9888) (Parents, don't forget your camera.) *See You There!*

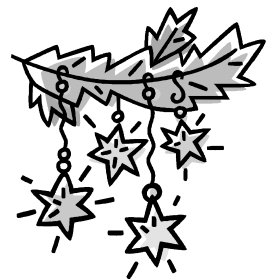


1851 Hartwell Manor N.
Collierville, TN 38017
Phone: 861-1028
www.almadalefarms.org

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



daphneinoffice@almadalefarms.org



Happy Holidays!!!

Night Visitors

Will Stafford

A late night visitor may soon be paying a visit to you or your neighbors. In my case, I have already received multiple visits from this black and white forager—the skunk. Skunks—referred to as a polecat by my Dad—are common throughout the suburban areas of Shelby County and appear to have taken a particular liking to our area. Their numbers seem to have increased in inhabited areas in recent years—perhaps because human activity and developments have provided them with favorable conditions (food sources and shelter) and above all—discouraged predators such as foxes, bobcats, large dogs and great horned owls. In the Almadale Farms area, skunks have very few enemies except for cars and trucks. I have seen several dead skunks on Houston Levee Road—just south of Almadale Farms.



Skunks, raccoons and armadillos all have the same protein needs that we humans have. That is why they dig holes in lawns in their search for grubs—especially the Japanese beetle grub. Several repellents such as moth balls, fox urine, blood meal and other substances have been used in usually futile attempts to discourage skunks from returning to the scene of the crime. However, if you have grubs in your lawn, the skunk will likely return. If you're tempted to trap a

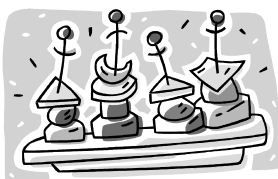
skunk—forget it—you will regret your rashness and never smell the same.

Skunks are born in April and May and may have 2 to 16 young in one litter. However the average litter size is 6-8. Skunks grow rapidly, reach the size of a large house cat, have long bushy tails and have a white streak from their foreheads down the middle of their backs. They walk like women whose shoes are too tight. Skunks are best known for their special scent, have a pair of scent glands near their tails and take special alarm at menaces such as charging dogs and cars within 25 feet. Skunks possess a spray accuracy of 10-12 feet. As a boy I encountered several skunks and received a special “education” on one occasion.

If you encounter one, speak softly to it (I'm not kidding) be wary and back away slowly. A skunk hates surprises...especially loud ones. Before spraying, a skunk will stamp its feet—its unique warning! Actually I've been hoping to see one of our spotted visitors from the safety of a second floor window...so far without success. Since I can't prevent this beautiful animal from foraging in my lawn, I'll just be grateful for their removal of grubs and gladly fill their holes with soil.

T.G.I.F.

Barbara Parkhurst



Thanks to Len and Denise Hostetter for hosting the October T.G.I.F. We had a tremendous turnout and the food was fantastic! There will not be a get together for December, but please contact me if you would like to host in 2006. It is not too early to check your calendars and reserve your month! Have a wonderful holiday to everyone on "The Farm"!!

Semi-Annual Dues Payable January 1st

Dues are payable January 1st and July 1st (\$480 per year—two payments of \$240). Payment is considered late if received after the 10th. To avoid late charges, please be timely with your payments. Bills will be mailed the 15th of December. If you have any questions, please call Daphne at 861-1028.



SEMI-ANNUAL DUES – JANUARY 1st

Almadale Ladies Ornament Exchange



Our annual ornament exchange will be held on **Thursday, December 8th at the home of Rene Platten, 1852 Hartwell Manor N.** This is a fun evening open to all the ladies of Almadale Farms. Food and beverages will be provided by the Bunko Ladies and all you need to bring is a wrapped ornament/gift in the \$10-15.00 range. We will use the rowdy, rob from your neighbor format! Please join us for this fun evening.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Adopt-A-Family for Christmas

Rene Platten

We are still collecting for the Watts family through Big Brothers Big Sisters. I hope you all received the flyer in your mailbox about their particular needs and wishes. It's not too late to help out. For the last four years, Almadale Farms neighbors have brightened the faces of families less fortunate.

We are at least 60% behind from last years donations. If you would like to participate please call Rene Platten at 861-4183 or drop off your donation at her home at 1852 Hartwell Manor North **by December 10th.** Cash donations would be greatly appreciated as well.

Thanks for your support.

Architectural Review

Jim Share

Your Architectural Review Committee would like to thank all homeowners for following the covenants so that we can maintain a quality subdivision which enhances homeowner values and quality of life. Your committee, composed of Connie Nelson, Renee Samuels, Craig Parnell, John Wand, and Jim Share are striving to be very timely and fair in their decision making processes. The committee meets regularly on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month and calls emergency meetings as needed. Three yea votes are required for the approval of every proposal submitted.

Homeowners are reminded to submit requests for all changes to the outside of their homes. This includes the addition of play sets, landscape changes, pools, fences, patios, arbors, paint color changes, or any other structural alterations to one's home. **Fines will be imposed for non-approved alterations.**

Road Improvements

Matt Thomson, Collierville Town Engineer

Wolf River Blvd is currently scheduled to open around Christmas. The opening was delayed to allow for some additional safety improvements. Regarding **Houston Levee**, the plans have been reviewed and re-reviewed, changed, tweaked, and adjusted. As of today, I believe the project will be done in two phases:

1. the installation of new utilities and relocation of some other existing utilities, and
2. the actual widening and reconstruction of Houston Levee. Phase 2 should begin sometime in the summer of 2006, and completion about 18 months later.

NOTICE TO HOMEOWNERS WITH DOGS

Please be courteous to your neighbors. Don't allow your dog to bark for extended periods of time.

Collierville Police can issue fines if barking is a persistent problem.



SEMI-ANNUAL DUES – JANUARY 1st

We would like to thank all our Neighbors in Almadale Farms for helping to make this our Best Year Ever!! May you have a Joyful Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Happiness, Good Health & The Love of Family & Friends!!



Barbara Parkhurst
Cell: 218-1952

Sue Taylor
Cell: 493-6492

Crye-Leike, Realtors
Office: 756-8900

Blessings To All

Barbara Parkhurst & Sue Taylor
"Your Service Team"

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Insurance Agency

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mcmills@nationwide.com



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9947 Wolf River., # 105

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Neighborhood Watch Notices

WARNING



Neighborhood Watch
Chairpersons

Linda Badger 854-6391
Tom Powell 861-2367

By now, hopefully everyone has heard from your block captain about the attempted break-ins in the neighborhood. Thanks to Neighborhood Watch, we were able to alert everyone to be on the look-out for suspicious activity. To recap the two incidences, a man was seen running from a house on Liles Lane after attempting to enter a side door at approximately 9:30 a.m. Friday, Nov 18th. The homeowners' son was home at the time. The police told neighbors that other similar instances had been reported in east Germantown. Then, on Thanksgiving night about 12:30, a home alarm was activated on McCool Forest. The homeowners were not home. A neighbor investigated and found the house secure. As the neighbor called police, he witnessed a man running away from the house.

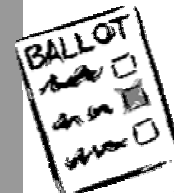
Police have asked for everyone to please call concerning suspicious persons or activity of any kind. **Collierville Police non-emergency # 853-3207.**

If you are going on vacation and you would like for Collierville Police to conduct routine security checks of your residence, please notify the department or go to **www.colliervillepolice.org** to submit an online form.

If you are a victim of theft or vandalism in our neighborhood, after contacting the police, please contact one of the Neighborhood Watch Chairpersons. The information will be passed on to everyone in the neighborhood.

The Annual Homeowners' Meeting will be February 16th.

You will be electing a Board of Directors for 2006. If you would like to be nominated for a place on the board or would like to be on the Nominating Committee, please contact any existing board member or Daphne @ 861-1028.



Almadale Farms Pet Registry

This is a free service to help locate and return lost pets in the Almadale Farms area. To register your pet, **send this form & a photo of your pet** to the address on the front of this newsletter. You can also download this form on-line at **www.almadalefarms.org**. Only the photo and identifying information will be on-line. Your name and number will only be available through me.

If you find or lose a pet, call me at 861-7010 and it may be possible to locate the owner or pet. So please take a minute to fill out the form below, and send it **in with a picture**. It could save you a great deal of worry!

Pet's Name: _____ Dog ___ Cat ___ Breed: _____ Male ___ Female ___
 Color: _____ Weight: _____ Age: _____ Comments: _____

Pet's Name: _____ Dog ___ Cat ___ Breed _____ Male ___ Female ___
 Color: _____ Weight: _____ Age: _____ Comments: _____

Pet's Name: _____ Dog ___ Cat ___ Breed _____ Male ___ Female ___
 Color: _____ Weight: _____ Age: _____ Comments: _____

Owners: _____
 Address: _____
 Home # _____ Work # _____ Cell # _____

A Few Winter Gardening Thoughts

Will Stafford



If you haven't done so already, December and January are ideal planting months for almost any plant. Our winters are short, and unless we plant early there will not be time enough for plants to become established before the warm spring days arrive.

A key factor is root growth which should be firmly established before leaf growth begins next spring. Continue planting all sorts of shrubs, roses, perennial vines and trees this month. January can be one of the wettest months and you may find the ground too wet to plant. Years of experience in gardening have convinced me that improper planting causes more problems than anything else. The main trouble is in failure to dig the hole deep enough and wide enough. There should always be room in the bottom of the hole for several inches of prepared soil, containing liberal amounts of leaf mold or peat moss.

December is an especially good month to plant trees in Almadale Farms. Don't think you must have a very large tree since a smaller tree will likely overtake a larger one. Just for measurement's sake the two beautiful crimson oaks in my

front yard were planted in 1997 and were a mere 6 feet tall. I must confess that I have used fertilizer spikes annually since their planting. It takes a larger tree much longer to overcome the shock of transplanting.

In choosing trees, get hardwoods...preferably one of the oak varieties. My two favorite oak varieties are the crimson and willow. Avoid Bradford Pear trees which are grafted, brittle and short-lived.

The proper depth of planting is most important. If too shallow, the roots dry out and may be burned by the sun; if too deep, the tree may not survive. If you plant the tree at the same depth it grew in the nursery, it will probably do well.

December is also a good time to apply a dormant oil spray which will destroy wintering aphids, scale and other insect pests. This spray is relatively harmless to beneficial insects and the most beneficial spray of the year. Don't be in a hurry to start pruning; February will be a better time—especially for crape. Early pruning encourages early growth which may be killed by subsequent freezes. Now—go get a shovel and start digging.

New Year's Resolutions



If by chance, one of your New Year's Resolutions is to be more involved in neighborhood activities, here are a few opportunities.

- Volunteer to help organize Almadale's first St Jude Miracle Mile Walk. Call Rene Samuels 853-1900. The event will be held this spring. No date is set as of yet.
- Neighborhood Watch needs a third chairperson to notify approximately ten Block Captains if the Watch is activated. Call Linda Badger 854-6391.
- Help Daphne (861-1028) with the two neighborhood Garage Sales (May & Oct) by placing ads and putting out signs.
- Volunteer to help at the upcoming Annual HOA Meeting Feb 16th. We need help with check-in and vote counting. Call Daphne 861-1028.
- Consider running for the Board of Directors or volunteer for the Nominating Committee. Call Daphne 861-1028.
- Reserve a month to host a neighborhood a T.G.I.F. Party. Call Barbara Parkhurst 861-5054.
- Register you pet with the neighborhood Pet Registry! Go to www.almadalefarms.org
- Volunteer for the Social Committee and help organize our annual events like the Easter Egg Hunt, the 4th of July Parade, Teen Swim Party, etc. Call Renee Platten 861-4183.
- Volunteer for the Garden Committee and help choose Yard of the Month. Call Daphne.

SEMI-ANNUAL DUES – JANUARY 1st