

Feb/March 2006

Almadale Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

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Kathie Jones 854-8917
kathie@almadalefarms.org

Vice President:
George Shaffrey 854-6700

Treasurer:
Renee Samuels 853-1900

Secretary:
Mary Jane Doran 861-7010

Architectural Review:
Jim Share 853-9340

Whitt Dukes
Tom Powell



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

Annual Homeowners Meeting Thurs. Feb. 16th

Please make plans to attend our yearly meeting to learn how our neighborhood is improving. We need only 25% of our 280 homes to be represented—either in person or by proxy—to conduct a meeting and elect a board of directors. ***If you are unable to attend, please give your proxy to someone who can.*** Check-in begins at 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. Meeting starts at 7:00.

This year we are very happy to have **PJ's Coffee & Wine Bar** provide their delicious coffee and pastries for our meeting! PJ's, now open in Almadale Crossing, is owned by Almadale residents **Jon & Cari Hurt**. PJ's Coffee originated in New Orleans 27 years ago. Since then it has grown tremendously. The Almadale Crossing store is #105. The roasting facility is still located in New Orleans and has survived the hardships of Katrina with the help of an exceptionally dedicated roast master and his team.

Stop by PJ's to enjoy great coffee, great desserts and great wine. Say hello to managing partners **John Stockbridge** and **Jennifer Sharp** and thank them for supporting our Annual Meeting!





Gardening in Almadale Farms

Will Stafford

I have often been asked how I am able to grow gourmet tomatoes in the soil of Almadale Farms. The transformation wasn't easy. A little history if I may...here's my story.

I had lived in Memphis at the same address for 32 years. I had a 20'x 30' garden....situated next to a 6' x 6' x 4' compost bin...in which I grew various vegetables including multiple varieties of tomatoes. I also had the following fruit trees—pear(2), pecan(3), apples (4), plum(2), nectarine(1), English walnut(1), filbert(2), Chinese chestnut(1), crab apple(2), pomegranate (3) and a grape arbor. I also had a very large purple martin colony.

However, we had been thinking about a move for some time and Collierville seemed to be an ideal destination. Almadale Farms was chosen in 1997—specifically 1866 Winsley Way because of its relative smallness compared with our Memphis lot and more importantly the absence of any backyard trees or vegetation. There was never any doubt that my back yard would have to be acceptable to purple martins and appropriate for a shade free garden. Then the work began—and it wasn't easy.



Upon arrival, I immediately started transforming some of the worst gray clay soil I had ever seen into a productive, organic garden. I marked off an area 20' x 30' and began the laborious procedure of digging and tilling the soil. I actually had to use a pick in digging portions of the garden. I first added approximately 40 big sacks of pea hulls—courtesy of Russell's Farm Supply, a large amount of catfish meal, cottonseed meal, the contents of my Memphis compost bin, alfalfa pellets, crushed leaves and some Osmocote before planting. Even the first year's vegetables tasted much better than store bought produce.

Each subsequent year I have ritualistically added more organic material including several bags of hair which is rich in protein. In the third year, a major additive was 7 yds.of leaf mold which I strongly recommend to everyone for all types of gardening. I have routinely followed the same procedure each

year and have added crushed oyster shells, rock phosphate, catfish and alfalfa pellets to the "menu." I use sugar and crushed oyster shells to combat nematodes.

My garden never would have been possible without my trusty Troybilt tiller which has served me well since 1982. Other garden tools which I find very helpful are the Dutch hoe and other specialty tools which I have accumulated over the years.

Additionally I use the wide row, raise bed techniques successfully. With the exception of some lime, a small amount of Osmocote and Roundup—primarily for perimeter weeds, I use absolutely no chemicals. As a result I now have a rich organic garden alive with beneficial insects and earthworms. Unlike chemical fertilizers, organic additives build the soil. My garden is very conveniently located near bird feeders whose visitors are helpful in controlling insects.



I consider my garden a work in progress. Intensive gardening requires committed attention and is a never ending labor of love. I do have one complaint...a rascally rabbit has taken up residence in my backyard shrubbery and has developed a taste for broccoli. I have stopped growing broccoli but that's all right...just as long as that rabbit does not take a liking to my tomatoes.

There's plenty of opportunities to volunteer and help out this year with neighborhood events. Sign up at the Annual Meeting or contact Daphne for a list of needed volunteers. It's a great way to meet new friends and help keep Almadale Farms the great place to live and play!

Annual HOA Meeting Feb. 16



Collierville Pet Hospital

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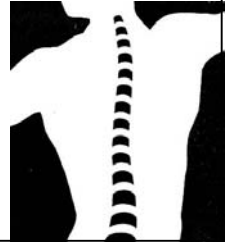
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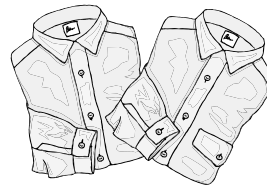
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Almadale Farms Pet Registry

Mary Jane Doran

I set up the Pet Registry last year 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. The photos of registered pets can be viewed on our web site. To report a lost or found pet call me @ 816-7010 and I will list the information on the "Pet Alert" page of our web site. It could save you a great deal of worry!

Pet's Name: _____ **Dog** _____ **Cat** _____

Breed: _____ **Male** _____ **Female** _____

Color: _____ **Age:** _____ **Weight:** _____

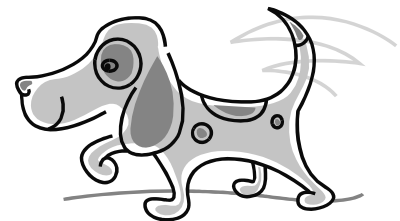
Comments:

Owners: _____

Address: _____

Home # _____ **Work #** _____ **Cell #** _____

Don't forget to send a picture!



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Ornament Exchange

Rene Platten



It was an honor to host the **Almadale Ladies Ornament Exchange**. What a fun girl's night out. A special thank you to our Bunko Ladies who provided food and drinks for close to forty participants. It was wonderful to have so many new neighbors join us. Can't wait till next year!

Almadale Neighbors Make Christmas Wishes Come True

Rene Platten

Participation was great again this year. We collected close to the same as last year with 32 Almadale families providing gifts, cash and household goods. There are a couple of families who adopted their own Big Brother-Big Sister family. Way to go!



The Watts family was so excited and grateful for all we did for them. Each of them opened one gift while we were there. Demarious was thrilled about having a bike and game table. He wanted to call friends over right away. He showed us his favorite dance routine in his school pants which he tore the knee out of that day. I'm sure Ms. Watts was relieved when they found new uniform clothes under the tree.

All Laddesha wanted for Christmas was the mannequin head with hair which she happened to open while we were there. She wants to be a beautician and a chef when she grows up.

Ms. Watts was so proud of her first home she asked us if we had time to see it. It brought tears to our eyes to realize her dream with her. She was one of 25 chosen from the projects to have a new home where a portion of her rent money will go in a fund that allows her in 3-5 years to use the money for a down payment towards purchasing a home.

A special thank you to Terri Kiehna for wrapping all the gifts, Jaymie Salley for shopping and delivering with me, and of course all of you who made this a Christmas the Watts family will never forget. Your generosity also enabled 150 BBBS children to have an ice skating party complete with food and gifts for all.

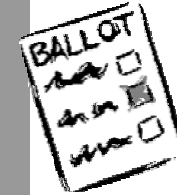
Almadale Farms truly is an amazing community of caring people wanting to make a difference.

Update on Wolf River Blvd Opening

The opening of the latest section of Wolf River Boulevard is just a few weeks away. The new leg connecting Houston Levee Road to Byhalia Road is expected to be completed and open to traffic by the end of February. The new road should ease congestion along Poplar, especially during the morning and evening rush hours. Initially, the new section will be two lanes in some places, four lanes in others. Eventually Wolf River Boulevard will have six lanes separated by a wide median.

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.



Found

A camera lens cover at the Clubhouse after Santa's visit.

A child's bike helmet near pool area.

Call Daphne 861-1028

Annual HOA Meeting Feb. 16

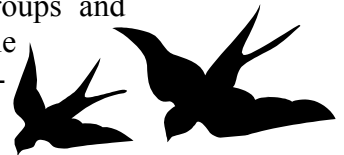
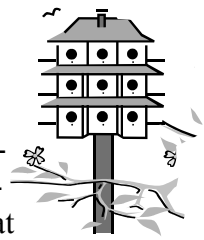
A Purple Martin Calendar for Almadale Will Stafford



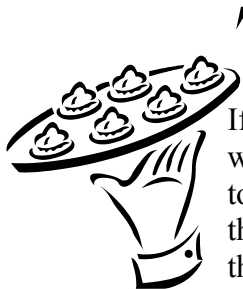
Since people have asked me about arrival and other dates for purple martins, preparing a more detailed martin calendar seems quite appropriate. I especially hope that the 12–14 Almadale Farm homeowners who have been adopted by purple martins will find this information useful.

The following dates are based on my 20 years of recordkeeping and are approximations—since the dates of the referenced events may vary slightly. **March 15**—Arrival Dates. The first arrivals will be mature birds that usually arrive two weeks ahead of the rest of the flock. It is believed that many older martins will return to the same site. Immature martins will arrive up to a month or so later. For a time the martins will gorge themselves on available insects in order to regain weight and strength lost during their perilous flight from South America. **April 15**—Nest Building. Serious nest building now commences. Building materials will consist of twigs, dried leaves, grass, mud and other materials. A martin's nest is very neat, tidy and compact. They are great housekeepers and systematically remove all waste products—especially after the martins arrive. **May 15**—Egg Laying. Normally a martin will lay one egg daily for 3–5 days. Af-

ter the laying is complete, incubation of the clutch begins and hatching will occur for all martins at approximately the same time so that they may later migrate south together. **June 1**—Hatching Occurs. This becomes the busiest time of the year for adult martins are kept very busy searching for high protein insects—especially the dragonfly—to satisfy the voracious appetites of the young martins. **July 1**—Fledging (feathering) should be complete. Flight training begins once the young martins have matured and are encouraged by their parents to take to the air. Adults take the young martins on training flights and teach them how to maneuver, catch and eat insects, drink water and avoid predators—all while in the air. **August 1**—one of the saddest days of the year for your writer and thousands of other martin adoptees. It is migration time. Martins will gather in staging areas in large groups and prepare for their multiple flights to their winter residences in South America.



Are you interested in purple martins? Give me a call if you want me to help you determine if your residence has a suitable martin site. This should be done by March 1.



T.G.I.F.

Barbara Parkhurst

If you are interested in hosting a T.G.I.F. in your home, please give me a call. Since we will be having the Progressive Dinner in April, February or March would be a great time to have a T.G.I.F. For those of you who have never attended or hosted, you just provide the house, plates, flatware and soft drinks. Everyone brings an appetizer or dessert and their beverage of choice. It really is great fun and is a wonderful chance to meet your neighbors.

Barbara Parkhurst 861-5054

Date Set For Progressive Dinner

Sue Taylor

This year's Almadale Farms Progressive Dinner will be **April 8th** with appetizers starting at 6:00 p.m. Get a head start and line up your sitter now! Give me a call to sign up to come. Also, if you can host the appetizers, an entree, or desserts, just let me know. The number of entree hosts needed will be determined by the number of participants. The Progressive Dinner is the highlight of our Almadale Farms Social Calendar, so don't miss out!!

Sue Taylor 853-4416

Annual HOA Meeting Feb. 16

AF & St. Jude Miracle Mile Walk Renee Samuels



As most of you know that we decided to postpone the event until early this Spring. We will walk/run/bike in the early spring, hopefully have a huge turnout, and raise money for the ongoing treatment and research for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

The event is for one mile, **one miracle mile**. The research and work at St. Jude has paid off for those with various forms of cancer. Miracles happen everyday due to the work at St. Jude. Some types of leukemia now carry the gift of life instead of death. What a wonderful cause to support the local, world renowned cancer treatment center.

We would like to make this a yearly event if we achieve success in Almadale Farms. If anyone would like to help us kick off this event in the spring, please let us know. If you or someone you know would be interested in donating, working water stations/check in booths, preparations for the race, please call Renee Samuels at 853-1900.

Everyone is invited, so bring your relatives and friends to participate. We will post signs and deliver fliers when we begin planning for the event, so stay tuned!

Remember, every mile, every penny, every moment matters. It all adds up to the success of fighting childhood cancers. Thank you in advance for your help!

What's New @ www.almadalefarms.org

Always a work in progress—I've recently added a "Pet Alert" page. (I understand it's already working!) If I'm contacted with lost or found pet, I will list the information on this page. You can find a link to the page on the left menu bar. I'm still collecting pet registrations and in the process of updating the "Pet Registry Photo Page" at this time. I really need your pet's pictures to make this work. So please fill out the Pet Registry form in this newsletter.

Also, along the same idea, I've added a "Neighborhood Watch Alert" page that will contain information on any active Neighborhood Watch notifications. After the last couple of Watch notices there were considerable confusion about the details. Hopefully this will be useful as well.

As usual, you can find Architectural Change forms, Clubhouse rental info, Covenants and Board minutes, newsletters along with neighborhood events and area interests.

Please contact me with your input. maryjane@almadalefarms.org
Thanks MJ Doran

Welcome New Neighbors



Audrey Henson
1993 Lonhill Cove

Sean & Melissa Fagan
2010 Coors Creek Cove

Thomas & Kathleen Rivers
1925 McCool Forest

Billi Yang & Li Jun Ren
1876 Lilac Lane

Kevin & Kassy Brannstrom
1878 McCool Forest

David & Cariss Schzinblum
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Neighborhood Reminders



Architectural/Landscape Change Requests are required. This includes the addition of play sets, landscape changes, pools, fences, patios, arbors, paint color changes, or any other structural alterations to one's house. Fines will be issued for non-compliance.

For Sale Signs: Covenants allow for one sign of not more than six square feet per lot. Sign must be placed behind the sidewalk. No other signs are allowed.

Trash Carts & Recycling Bins: Put away on Monday evening. Notices will be sent out for non-compliance. Automatic fine each week they are left out after 3 notices.

Trailers: Keep behind fence or in garage. Notices will be sent out for non-compliance. Automatic fine each time it is out after 3 notices.

Lakes: Reminder that there is no fishing, boating, swimming. Do not put anything in the lakes. This will be considered vandalism & you could be fined by the association.

Dogs & Cats: Please do not let your pets out unattended! They may be picked up by Collierville Animal Control where you will have to pay to reclaim them.

Neighborhood Watch Chairpersons: Linda Badger (854-6391) and Tom Powel (861-2367). Thanks to our Chairpersons our Watch is successful. We have over 30 Block Captains that are contacted by either Linda or Tom whenever the Watch is activated. This helps keep us all informed!



Pool Committee Update

Renee Samuels

This past season has been an enjoyable, organized pool season. We hope to continue this in our future seasons.

We contracted with **Riviera Pool Company** for the maintenance and upkeep. They have done a great job and have made the pools the cleanest they have ever been, according to the frequent pool users!

As you may have noticed, two trees were removed adjacent to the pools, one by Mother Nature and the other (overhanging the new pool) by necessity. The small leaves and sap strained the pool system and made it difficult to maintain clean tiles and water.

This past season we purchased additional pool lounge chairs, umbrellas and umbrella stands.

We also purchased covers for the furniture to add years to the life of the lounge chairs.

I wish to thank all homeowners that provided help in keeping the pool area clean, the umbrellas rolled down and relief after the storms. Additionally, a big thanks to all of you that adhered to the request of parking on the pool side of the street only. This helped with traffic flow, along with the safety and convenience of the homeowners that face the pools.

A special thank you to **George and Lauren Shaffrey, Craig Parnell, Don Samuels and Tyler Samuels** for going above and beyond with their help. It was greatly appreciated.

If you would like to serve on the pool committee next season, please go by the Clubhouse and sign up or call Daphne in the office.

Annual HOA Meeting Feb. 16