

Oct / Nov 07

# Almadale Farms Newsletter

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President/Grounds Committee  
kathie@almadalefarms.org

**George Shaffrey** 854-6700  
Vice President / Welcome  
Committee

**Renee Samuels** 853-1900  
Treasurer/Architectural  
Review  
renee@almadalefarms.org

**Mary Jane Doran** 861-7010  
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maryjane@almadalefarms.org

**Whitt Duke** 850-1383  
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**Tom Powell** 861-2367  
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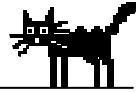
**Bobby Haygood** 861-4325  
Pool Committee



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



- **The fall garage sale is set for Friday & Saturday, October 12th & 13th.** As per our Covenants, we have two sanctioned garage sales a year. No other sales of any kind are allowed throughout our neighborhood.
- The Town of Collierville's **Board of Zoning Appeals** will meet Thursday October 11th to determine the request by developer R S Harris for the 5.5 acre parcel on the SW corner of **Frank Rd and Houston Levee** for a conditional use permit to allow a Day Care Center on the property. See our web site for updated info when available.
- **Walgreens Pharmacy**, at Houston Levee & Wolf River will be offering **Flu Shots** on October 24th. The cost is \$24.95. Must be over 14 years of age.
- **Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste Facility** is set to open in November. They are located at 6305 Haley Rd in Memphis. The Facility will give the community a year-round location to take household hazardous waste such as cleaning chemicals and pesticides for safe disposal. Call 379-4410 for more information.
- **FEMA has updated the flood zones for our area.** Go to <http://msc.fema.gov> to see a map of our area.
- An new **Almadale Farms Directory** will be delivered soon. Send additions or corrections to Daphne at [daphneinoffice@almadalefarms.org](mailto:daphneinoffice@almadalefarms.org) for the next update
- If you would like to be included on our "**Almadale Farms Area News**" email list please send your email address to [maryjane@almadalefarms.org](mailto:maryjane@almadalefarms.org)



[daphneinoffice@almadalefarms.org](mailto:daphneinoffice@almadalefarms.org)



**Garage Sale—October 12th & 13th**



# Honey—What’s for Dinner?

Will Stafford

I’m sure most of us have won a door prize at some point in our lives. One of my most memorable door prize winnings occurred one winner evening in 2003 at a Master Gardeners’ meeting.

Our guest speaker was affiliated with Planet Natural, an organization which specializes in non chemical, organic products for home, lawn and garden. Then it happened. The most exciting part of the evening. After approximately 10 drawings my name was called and it was announced that I had won a tube-shaped papier-mâché-like case of praying mantises. I was so excited I bought two more cases.

For you naturalists, a mantis case looks like a dirt dauber’s adobe. It is the size of approximately two thimbles and includes enough eggs to yield approximately 100-300 young mantises also—known as mantids. I was the envy of all in attendance. Since it was winter, I was careful to keep the egg case in a cool place. The mantis is a warm weather creature but is able to stand subfreezing temperature. More than one unknowing mantis neophyte has learned the hard way that a dormant egg case can fill a warm room full of tiny mantises, so keep them in the refrigerator or some other cool place until spring.

Praying mantis are big, slender odd-looking relatives of the grasshopper family. Female mantises lay their eggs in masses—gluing the egg-like cases to trees and shrubs with a sticky body substance. When fully grown, they are normally 2-4 inches long. Ranging from green to brown in color, they blend in well among grasses and shrubs. Their name originates from the way they hold up their stout front legs as if in prayer. However, this stance is hardly one of pious reverence; preying would be a more accurate description.

The mantis has several distinguishing features. It has a

triangular head with sharp mouthparts, can swivel 180° and has large compound eyes which allow it to see incredibly well. Its arm—like forelegs have sharp hooks that allow it to hold its victims in a viselike grip. It has long spiny legs—giving it an outer space look. Their ability to cock their heads from side to side is unique in the insect world. While mantises have an intimidating look, they are harmless to humans.

Praying mantis are intrepid, lean, mean, eating machines with insatiable appetites and possibly the most fearsome predator in the insect world. Say your prayers if you are an unfortunate insect in the clutches of a mantis which likes to eat its victims head-first and alive. Mantises are lightning fast. When an insect comes within its reach, the mantis strikes, impales and holds its prey with its spiny, front legs. Gardeners like mantises since they eat many harmful insects—including caterpillars, worms, flies, bugs, spiders, wasps, slugs, moths and almost any other insect within their considerable reach. I’ve read that they have been known to eat small mice, lizards and frogs.

Cannibalism is normal among mantises. After hatching, the young will eat one another if they don’t find prey. Their parents have taught them well. It’s a sad, macabre fact of mantis reproduction but after a male mates with the much larger female, she often repays his efforts by biting off his head and eating him. I suppose she can be excused since the male likely has the same intention.

Fortunately, I have several mantises in my back yard, especially in the garden where I grow tomatoes, squash, peppers, onions, greens and other vegetables. Some of my vegetables fall on the ground and, along with the vegetation, this attracts insects. This is just fine with the mantises. There is one grocery problem with the mantises—their voracious appetites. Mantises require a lot of protein and will move on if there is an inadequate insect population to meet their needs. The best way to keep your mantises happy and well fed is to use poisonous insecticides sparingly—better yet don’t use them at all.

## September & October Yard of the Month Winners

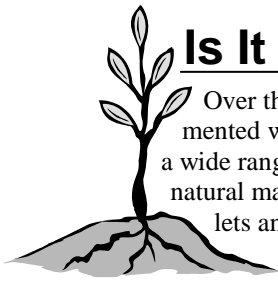


Donald & Helen Weis  
1945 Templeton Circle North



James & Kathleen Jenkins  
1966 Almadale Farms Parkway

**Garage Sale—October 12th & 13th**



## Is It the Miracle Natural Fertilizer?

Will Stafford

Over the years I have used and experimented with many natural fertilizers as well as a wide range of manures and mixtures of other natural materials. My favorites are alfalfa pellets and cottonseed meal. If I were limited to one natural fertilizer, it would probably be alfalfa pellets or meal—preferably pellets since meal can be difficult to use on windy days.

The origin of alfalfa fertilizer is the pod of the alfalfa plant which is amazingly hardy, has multiple nutrients, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, coenzymes, sugars, starches, protein and other trace nutrients. I first heard of using alfalfa products in the garden when I heard a farmer talking about its miraculous qualities approximately 40 years ago. It was only logical that I started using alfalfa pellets when I decided to become an organic gardener. From the beginning I noticed some immediate improvements with my vegetables.

The alfalfa plant is a legume that is easily identified by its purplish or blue flowers which develop into cloves of seed pods and sends up strong, bright green shoots that grow 12 to 40 inches high. The roots probably go deeper than any other farm animal feed crop—having long roots that spread and penetrate down to 25 feet into the soil in search of water and minerals—penetrating soils inaccessible to most plants and weeds. It is also one of nature's miracle plants that can take nitrogen from the air and fix it into its

roots. These characteristics are two of the reasons for the boost it gave to plants and soil but there had to be more to the story.

Finally, in the mid 1970's, scientists at Michigan State University isolated a primary growth stimulant called triacontanol. Since then, there have been multiple experiments indicating this is the growth stimulant which has such positive effects on plants. Hopefully, someday we home gardeners will have this substance in an isolated, marketable form and it will become available to us at a reasonable cost.

I do not limit the use of alfalfa pellets to my vegetable garden. When I moved to Almadale Farms, my back yard and other areas of my lawn were almost bare and reminded me of low grade concrete. Before landscaping with bird friendly shrubs and trees, I had several 50 pound bags of alfalfa pellets and other organic fertilizers spread over the area to be tilled. I now routinely use alfalfa pellets for all of my plants—as a surface fertilizer for old plants or mixed with the soil used for new plants. I also recommend its use when a lawn is aerated.

We in Collierville are very fortunate. Many natural fertilizers are available though local farm and garden centers—notably Russells Farm Supply and Hall's Feed and Seed where 50 pound bags of alfalfa pellets and other organic fertilizers/additives are available at reasonable prices. Morgreen Nursery and Landscape also stocks several organic mixtures—all of which are good for your soil and whatever you are trying to grow.

## Bunko Players Needed

Rene Platten

We are looking for three additional regular players for Bunko. We usually play the first Thursday of the month during the school year. No previous experience necessary. This is a lot of fun and a great way to meet your neighbors of all ages. If your interested or have additional questions please give me a call at 861-4183.



Barbara Parkhurst



## T.G.I.F

The weather on "The Farm" is starting to cool, so what better time to get out and meet your neighbors? Exactly. So mark your calendars, get a babysitter, whatever it takes—just come to T.G.I.F. this Friday night, October 12th at the home of **Bill and Rene Platten**, 1852 Hartwell Manor N, at 7:00 p.m. Bring an appetizer or dessert and your beverage of choice. What an exceptional neighborhood in which we live! Neighbors opening their homes so that we can all meet new friends and reacquaint with old ones!!

While you have your calendars out, mark the next T.G.I.F on November 9th at our home, 1911 Almadale Farms Pkwy. We hope to have a great turnout, so make your plans now to attend.

Barbara Parkhurst  
861-5054 Home  
218-1952 Cell



**Garage Sale—October 12th & 13th**



# Almadale Farms Pet Registry

MJ Doran

I set up the Pet Registry two years ago 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. Or email your information and a picture of your pet. 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 and also send out a email alert to many of our neighbors in Almadale Farms and Haley Plantation. It could save you a great deal of worry!

Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dog \_\_\_\_\_ Cat \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

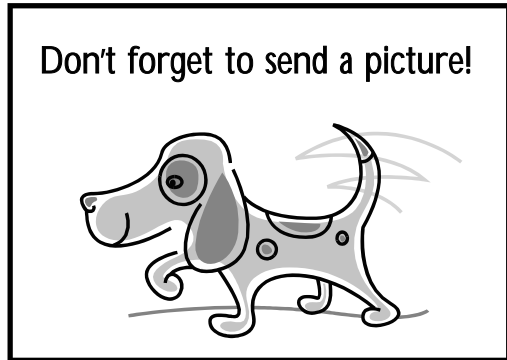
Owners: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your email address will be included on the **Pet Alert List** when animals have been lost or found in our neighborhood.



Jazz



Cody



Nick



Clair

Bailey



For Registering!



## Replacing Your Roof?—Submit ARC Change First

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](http://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.

**Garage Sale—October 12th & 13th**



# Fourth Annual Neighborhood Watch National Night Out Against Crime

MJ Doran

Tuesday, August 7th, Almadale Farms held their Fourth Annual **National Night Out (NNO)** at the Clubhouse. It turned out to be another great success! NNO is a celebration of safe neighborhoods and police-community partnerships. Our Neighborhood Watch program in Almadale Farms consists of 31 block captains and 3 chairpersons. Fortunately we haven't had to activate the Watch often, but it's great to know it's there.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, cookies & ice cream were on hand along with a Giant Pizza donated by **Gourmet Pizza**. Balloon art by **Mister Mike** & Face Painting by his assistant **Lea Wiinfield** entertained the little ones while the bigger and braver enjoyed a giant water slide.

Later, **McGruff the Crime Dog** along with several **Collierville Police Officers** all came to visit our party to thank us for supporting the National Night Out Program. Donations of pinwheels, chalk, and bracelets were provided by our local Target. And **Ricky Walker of Collierville Crime Stoppers** handed out information on safety tips.

We'd like to thank all the volunteers who so graciously helped out to make this a fun and well run event for our neighborhood. And thanks especially to everyone who came and to all those who donated to the **Big Brothers Big Sisters Program** with Back to School Supplies. That's what really made this event so special. And thanks to **Rene and Bill Platten** who always support BBBS program and delivered all the supplies to the kids. We will definitely do this next year. Send us your ideas!



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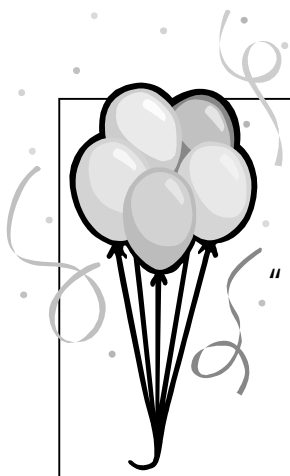
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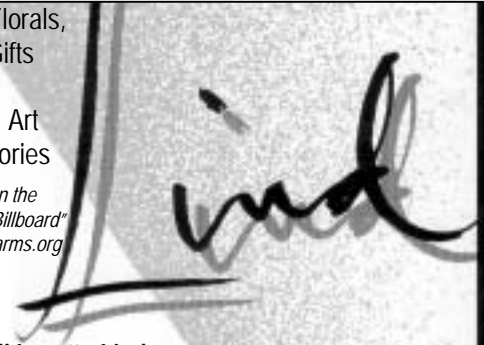
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## Collierville Kids Capture First Place at Delta Fair



Brain Shaffrey, left, of Almadale Farms and Chandler Booth of Collierville, were grand-prize winners at the Delta Fair High School Musical contest. For winning the top prize, they were given the opportunity to meet and greet Disney "High School Musical" actor Corbin Bleu (center).

Brain & Chandler performed "Bop to the Top," a song from the Disney's TV movie, "High School Musical". Brian, the son of Lauren and George Shaffrey, is a fourth-grader at Bailey Station.

## Welcome New Neighbors

**Brian & Cheri Brittian**  
1832 Swynford Lane

**Don & Cheryl Johnson**  
1843 Hartwell Manor West

**Ramsay & Karen Clark**  
2004 Lonhill Cove

**Kevin & Amy Johnson**  
1996 Klug Cove

## Tree & Shrub Replacement

If you have trees & shrubs that have died, the fall months are the best time to replace them. We require 2 deciduous trees in each front yard. Deciduous trees are the hard-wood varieties and include oaks, maples and pear trees. Multi-trunk or ornamental trees, such as crape myrtles, sweet bay magnolias or redbuds are not deciduous. Shrubs that have died should be replaced with like kind plants.

## Almadale Ladies Ornament Exchange

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, December 6th**. This event is open to all ladies of Almadale and food will be provided by the Bunko Group. We play the rob from your neighbor game. So start shopping now for that ornament or Christmas decoration in the \$15.00 range. Location to be announced.

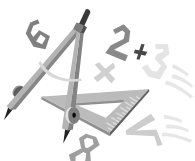


## Big Brothers-Big Sisters Christmas

For the last six years the Almadale Farms Community has adopted a family in need for Christmas. Many years we have even taken on an additional family and provided funds for the ice skating party they put on every year for all their participants. More information will come in November about the family they assign to us. This is an amazing program and we have been able to actually deliver the gifts to the family and we have had teens from our neighborhood help at the Ice Skating Party too. Thank you for your consideration. Rene Platten 861-4183



## Math Tutoring



Is math causing you stress and anxiety? Math Tutoring could help! Almadale Farms neighbor, **Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, M.S. Ed.** is a licensed Math Teacher and Guidance Counselor with 8 years high school and college teaching experience. Please call for an appointment. 861-3793

Hi, I'm Michaela Johnke.  
I'm an 8th grader at Houston Middle and live in Almadale Farms. I've taken two American Red Cross babysitting classes and am certified. I have also had many babysitting jobs. I enjoy it and love being around kids. Please call me if you need a babysitter at 861-4045 or 832-1851

## House-Sitting

Going out of town? Need someone to water your plants and bring in the mail? Or maybe Fido needs to be taken care of and boarding is too expensive? It's the holiday season and many people need someone to take care of the house while they are visiting Grandma. Let me be that someone. I'm a 24 year old USC grad and returned Peace Corps Volunteer and a new Almadale Farms resident. Call Sky at 850-8245 if you need a house-sitter.