

Historic Decatur Association



Letter from Your President *April 15, 2021*

Greetings Historic District Neighbors,

It is a great honor to have been elected president of the Historic Decatur Association for the 2021 year. As we leave behind the year that we will never forget, I know we are excited about the new year and all the hope it brings!

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year and what better way to enjoy the season than simply taking in all that our neighborhoods have to offer. With flowers blooming, grass greening, and trees budding, Albany and Old Decatur are especially beautiful as new beginnings are taking place. I encourage each of you to take the time to leisurely stroll through both districts, enjoy its beauty and get to know your neighbors, still at a socially acceptable distance of course.

Due to the fact that we must continue to be vigilant concerning COVID-19, the Board has voted to cancel the Garden Tour again this year. I know many of us are disappointed, but it is important to err on the side of caution. Hopefully, we will be able to come back bigger and better for the 2022 Garden Tour.

At this time, the Board has yet to make a decision concerning the 2021 Christmas Tour. At the February meeting, we discussed, at length, the possibility of proceeding with the tour, however, we thought it prudent to wait and see just how the vaccine and possible herd immunity were progressing before making a final decision. Another major consideration for a successful tour is the generosity of our sponsors. Many are left reeling from last year and hopefully within the coming months, with our support, will rebound. As the Christmas Tour takes many months of planning, a decision will have to be made soon.

One project that the Board would like to revive is the "Welcome Wagon" outreach. It would be a great way to welcome new residents to our neighborhoods and let them know about the HDA. However, the success of the WW depends on each of us. Due to privacy laws, it is difficult to ascertain information about new residents, thus we need you to let someone on the Board know when we have new Historic District homeowners.

It is once again time for Historic Decatur Association dues. I would like to encourage each household to pay the \$25.00, as it goes to fund projects within Albany and Old Decatur. For example, last year, the wayfinding signage that took many years to see completion was realized. It was well worth the wait. They are distinctive and add an element of sophistication to our neighborhoods.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me by email at coachTgirl@gmail.com.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

—Helen Keller

Kindest regards,
Canitha Thomas
HDA President 2021

Welcome New Neighbors!

We would like to take a moment to **welcome new residents** to our historic neighborhoods. If you are a new resident, we would love to hear from you! We invite you to join the HDA. Keep up to date on any events via our website at historicdecatur.org, our Facebook group, *Historic Decatur Association*, and on Nextdoor. If you have not yet joined or would like more information on the HDA, please contact a member of the HDA board or email me at coachtgirl@gmail.com for help. We would love to get to know you and your family. A membership form is here for your convenience.

It's time to pay 2021 dues! **HDA Membership/Change Form**

Print clearly & complete in full.

Drop off or mail to:

Canitha Thomas
649 Jackson St. SE.
Decatur, AL 35601

Annual dues:

\$25.00 per household
Make checks payable to:
Historic Decatur Association

Adults (will be alphabetized by last name in Directory)

Last Name	1. First Name	2. First Name
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(Names will be listed in above order.)

Others in household (include other adults and/or children)

First & Last Name	First & Last Name
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First & Last Name	First & Last Name
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Address

House or Apartment Number	Street
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Home Phone	Work Phone
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First Name: _____ **Cell:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Second Name: _____ **Cell:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Additional Contribution: \$ _____
(All contributions above dues payment are tax deductible.)

If you are completing this form as a change in your personal information only, please circle the following:
This is a change of personal information only.

Note: The information on this form may be used for publication of a new HDA directory. Please highlight any information you wish to be excluded from the directory.

Historic Decatur Association 2021 Officers / Board Members

Canitha Thomas, President	Email: coachtgirl@gmail.com	Telephone: 256-654-9898
Kelly Hutchings, Vice Pres	Email: kellylhutchings@gmail.com	Telephone: 256-612-4541
Mike Meely, Treasurer	Email: mmeely@aol.com	Telephone: 334-477-3978
Cindy Upton, Secretary	Email: cindyupton@bellsouth.net	Telephone: 256-566-3344
Brenda Henson	Email: bhenson4@wm.com	Telephone: 251-233-7003
Astrid McIntosh	Email: armcinto645@yahoo.com	Telephone: 256-466-6523
Harriette Mathews	Email: harriettepmathews@gmail.com	Telephone: 334-379-5350
Nancy Greenleaf	Email: nancyteacher25@gmail.com	Telephone: 334-750-6571
Marsha Pope	Email: ercegovic@juno.com	Telephone: 504-606-4253
Darcy Hopkins	Email: darcycnaylor@gmail.com	Telephone: 850-258-6584
Judge David Breland	Email: dbreland@decatur-al.gov	Telephone: 256-565-3788
Carol Chenault	Email: cdchenault1@gmail.com	Telephone: 256-227-8394
Kevin Malcolm	Email: dive4dlr@aol.com	Telephone: 256-566-4604

Tree-Pruning Tips

In response to questions from several neighbors on the proper pruning of trees, we asked Cory Brown from the Catbird Seat Garden Center to give instruction. If you received a tree in the last two years from the HDA, that tree was provided by the Catbird Seat. While cutting large branches should be done by professionals, there are basic pruning cuts on young or small trees that we can do ourselves to assure our trees stay beautiful and healthy. Cory views pruning as a goal-oriented activity. "Decide the results you want, short- and long-term, before you start. This time of year, when it is easy to see the structure of deciduous trees. It's a good time to prune for form and to prevent future problems," he said.

To maintain shape in small, young trees, Cory recommends focusing on three pruning problems. First, co-dominant leaders (twins) often appear in trees. This is where two twigs try to be the central leader or main trunk in a tree. To address this, remove one where the two fork away from each other. This keeps the tree from splitting later. This tends to happen a few years after the twin leaders form as two trunks. As they grow, they start to push or leverage each other apart. As the trunks get 4"-6" thick, there is great pressure on the trunks—pushing each other sideways. The result is a potentially destroyed tree top and often a tree that will need replacement as it is about to contribute to the beautiful tree canopy.

One quick snip at an early age can prevent this. A second problem occurs when tree branches are cut with too long of a stub left on the trunk. Long stubs are unsightly and are potentially harmful since dead, diseased branch ends and/or sprouts of weakly-attached growth can result. At the position where each branch originates from the trunk is a "collar," a slight swelling that contains vascular tissues. Make your pruning cut outside the collar on the branch side without leaving a stub.

The last problem is branches that come away from the trunk at too narrow an angle. Structurally sound branches emerge from the trunk at a 45-90° angle. Branches that emerge at a narrower angle, closer to 30° from the central trunk, develop bark in the crotches between the trunk and the branch as the branch grows. Eventually a rotten pocket develops, or the branch is leveraged away from the trunk as both the trunk and the branch grow. In a windstorm or ice event, the branch may pop under stress. This leaves a tree with a damaged main trunk and a big wound. Snipping or sawing the narrow branches off while young will prevent many problems later.

Cory Brown is available to answer questions at The Catbird Seat, 8027 Madison Blvd, Madison, AL. Check out this informative website with photos at <https://bestlife52.com/home/prune-trees/>.

Opportunities to Connect with Your Neighbors

Many hands make light work. With this in mind, the HDA needs your help. The HDA is looking for street majors and captains to help hand out the newsletter and make 2-4 Christmas swags for street signs at Christmas. If interested, please contact Kelly Hutchings at 256.612.4541.

ALBANY

GORDON STREET MAJOR:

1000 block Captain (7 homes):
800 block Captain (8 homes):
600 block Captain (6 homes):
400 block Captain (5 homes):

JACKSON STREET MAJOR:

1000 block Captain (16 homes):
800 block Captain (14 homes):
600 block Captain (12 homes):
400 block Captain (20 homes):

GRANT STREET MAJOR:

1000 block Captain (19 homes):
800 block Captain (24 homes):
600 block Captain (16 homes):

FERRY STREET MAJOR-

500 BLOCK Captain (7 homes):
600 block Captain (7 homes):
700 block Captain (6 homes):
800 block Captain (5 homes):
900 block Captain (8 homes):

OAK STREET MAJOR-

200 block Captain (1 house):
300 block Captain (9 homes):
400 block Captain (8 homes):
500 block Captain (8 homes):
600 block Captain (9 homes):
700 block Captain (6 homes):

CHERRY STREET CAPTAIN –

100 & 200 block Captain (5 homes):

VINE STREET CAPTAIN

100 & 200 block Captain (8 homes):

LAFAYETTE STREET MAJOR: Brenda Henson

100 block Captain (3 homes):
200 block Captain (6 homes):
300 block Captain (7 homes):
400 block Captain (7 homes, 12 apartments):

SHERMAN STREET MAJOR: Harriette Mathews

1000 block Captain (18 homes):
800 block Captain (15 homes):
600 block Captain (19 homes):
400 block Captain (22 homes):

JOHNSTON STREET MAJOR:

1000 block Captain (20 homes):
800 block Captain (22 homes):
600 block Captain (20 homes):

MOULTON STREET CAPTAIN:

600 block (22 homes): Astrid McIntosh

10th AVE CAPTAIN (3 homes):

8th AVE CAPTAIN (6 homes):

4th AVE CAPTAIN (3 homes):

OLD DECATUR

LINE STREET MAJOR -

400 block Captain (4 homes):
500 block Captain (4 homes):
600 block Captain (6 homes):
700 block Captain (5 homes):
800 block Captain (3 homes):
900 block Captain (7 homes):

CANAL STREET MAJOR-

200 block Captain (5 homes):
300 block Captain (10 homes):
400 block Captain (6 homes):
500 block Captain (7 homes):
600 block Captain (8 homes):
700 block Captain (4 homes):

CAIN STREET MAJOR -

100 block Captain (8 homes):
200 block Captain (6 homes):

WALNUT STREET CAPTAIN

100 block Captain (4 homes):
200 block Captain (2 homes):
300 block Captain (2 homes):
400 block Captain (7 homes):
500 block Captain (7 homes):

CHURCH STREET MAJOR

200 block Captain (10 homes):
300 block Captain (8 homes):
400 block Captain (7 homes)