



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Downtown Tuscaloosa Neighbor,

In October we close another year of activity for the OCA. Our membership is at its highest level and we are financially stronger than we ever have been. The OCA has accomplished a great deal this year, and we continue our focus on broadening notice to affected parties as to zoning changes and activities in historic districts, as well as the enforcement of our density, front yard parking, garbage cart and similar regulations to maintain and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and our public schools.

It is vitally important that each neighborhood have a representative at our monthly board meetings, and more importantly, that each representative in turn report to their neighbors as to the activities of the OCA. There is greater strength in numbers and that is why we act as a unified board.

Please remember to join us at our Fall picnic in Pinehurst Park from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 26, and our ever popular OCA Walk-About leading to the hospitality house on Alaca Place on December 14, 2008. The Walk-About is sure to be an exciting time again with a visit from Santa, buggy rides, great food and spirits all in a festive holiday atmosphere.

We intend to commence a membership drive later this Fall to broaden our membership rolls. In my view, all of the residents of our historic neighborhoods benefit from the hard work of the OCA Board, and at \$25 a year, membership is quite a bargain. So, I encourage everyone to renew their memberships and seek out their neighbors to insure that they, too, become a member of this vital organization.

Sincerely yours,

Robert P. Reynolds

President, Original City Association

**ORIGINAL CITY ASSOCIATION
OF TUSCALOOSA**

<http://www.oca-tuscaloosa.org/>

The Annual Meeting of OCA's membership was held on Monday, October 6 at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion. If you were unable to attend, here are some highlights of what you missed.

Mayor Walt Maddox joined us and had some positive comments about OCA's active role in the downtown/campus area. Councilmen Lee Garrison and Bobby Howard also briefly addressed the group. New Police Chief Steve Anderson was introduced, and Mike Dodson from UA's Student Government Association shared some upcoming SGA activities. We appreciate the time that these individuals took to participate in this event.

Additionally, Jon McLelland presented the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of officers, which was approved by the membership:

- President - Robert Reynolds
- Vice President - LaDonnah Roberts
- Secretary - Linda Albritton
- Treasurer - John Sheffield

Reminders were also given about several upcoming Fall / Winter events:

- October 26 - Fall Picnic, Pinehurst Park
- November 3 - OCA Board Meeting (Location TBA)
- November 5 - Neighborhood Partnership Committee
- December 14 - Luminaries and Walk-About

The goal of this publication is to further communication about OCA's activities with our downtown neighbors. OCA is constantly involved with issues and events that impact our everyday lives as residents and property owners within this wonderful area of our city. If you have questions, comments, or concerns please contact us via e-mail at originalcityassociation@gmail.com.

If the mailing label on the reverse side contains the characters "\$\$" we show that your dues have been paid for 2008. If this notation is not included and you believe that this is incorrect please contact OCA Treasurer John Sheffield at sheffie1304@bellsouth.net. Otherwise, please join/renew today by mailing this completed form and your \$25. We will also have a membership table at the Fall Picnic on October 26 at Pinehurst Park.

Name _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

(Providing your e-mail address allows us to send you important OCA news alerts.)

Send this completed form and \$25 per household to

OCA Membership, P.O. Box 2253, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403-2253

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Remember to utilize 311 for all non-emergency calls to the city whether they are related to density ordinance violations, front yard parking, garbage carts in the front yard, etc. A "service request" number can be provided by the 311 operator upon request. That number will be used as a reference when following up on the status of the concern filed during the initial call. This is a wonderful communication service that our city has provided to its residents.

HO, HO, HO! WHO WOULDN'T GO...?

If you haven't heard about the fun times at past OCA Annual Walk-Abouts, here is a sneak peek at the plans for this year's December 14 event. Mark your calendar now!

- ◆ The neighborhood luminaries will be in place and lit by 5pm. Please contact your neighborhood representative to help.
- ◆ A special visit from a jolly man in a red suit is planned for that evening. Since his "list" won't yet be complete by the 14th he will need parents' help. Wrap a small, unbreakable gift with your child's name on the outside and deliver it to the Tuscaloosa North Pole Annex, 1609 Alaca Place (Garrisons' residence) between 2pm and 5pm that afternoon.
- ◆ Horse and buggy rides are returning due to their popularity at last year's event. The buggy will depart from the hospitality house (Reynolds' residence) between 5pm and 8pm.
- ◆ Chili, spirits, and drinks for the kids will be provided. Please bring a dessert or snack to share.

NEWS FROM UA'S HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

The following information was submitted by Julie Elmore. Julie is the Assistant Director of this UA department and has been invited to participate in the OCA monthly Board meetings.

The fall off-campus lighting tour is being scheduled for early November, after daylight savings time ends. Last year, the City Council approved all of our requests for improvements.

A survey was conducted the first week of May aimed at students living off-campus. Some of the comments we received from the survey indicated that students would be interested in a "Meet and Greet" with their neighbors and that food and giveaways would encourage them to attend. I think students would respond more favorably to a personal invitation from the permanent residents versus a mailed invitation. We will be conducting the survey again later this month or early November.

My office, Off-Campus Resources, will be holding programs in the residence halls the first week of November to provide information to students who are considering moving off campus next year. Information shared will include Landlord/Tenant rights, making sure you read your lease, information on City of Tuscaloosa ordinances and more.

Everyone is invited to attend the next meeting of the Neighborhood Partnership Committee on November 5th at 11:30am in the Tuscaloosa County Extension office. This is an opportunity to share what is going on in your neighborhood and find out what is going on around campus and the City that may affect your neighborhood. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Nancy Bohanan, in Dr. Samory Prewitt's office, at 348-8376.

FALL PICNIC
Sunday, Oct. 26 4pm-6pm
Pinehurst Park
Questions? 752-6672

