

Old Dauphin Way Newsletter

April 2025

Plans Underway For Mayoral Forum

ODWA, along with several other historic districts, will co-sponsor a forum for mayoral candidates on Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m., at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church. As of this time, six candidates have confirmed they will participate. Each will be given questions ahead of time compiled by historic district leaders. At the end of their presentations, candidates will have a chance to participate in an informal "meet and greet" session. Please plan to attend this important event, as we need our next mayor to be well aware of the issues confronting our neighborhoods.

Upcoming ODWA General Meeting Will Feature City Leaders

The next ODWA general meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, at 6:00 p.m. at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church. Speakers will include our district council representative, William Carroll, and our police precinct captain, Angela Prine. They will address issues in our community and give an update on city projects and initiatives.

Spotlight on Historic Houses: The Collier-Sheppard House

When Melissa and Wayne Sheppard became "empty nesters" in 2022, they decided to move from their home in the Atlanta suburbs to the Mobile area. Their desire to relocate to Mobile was partly prompted by Melissa's long-term interest in history and old houses. They found the house of their dreams at 1551 Dauphin Street.

Formerly owned by Bob and Martha Collier, long-time Old Dauphin Way residents, the house, built in 1919, had been for sale following Martha's death and Bob's need to relocate to a smaller setting. Melissa found the house to be "very livable and inviting." She was immediately drawn to the red tile roof and the backyard with its intimate feel. "I could envision a lovely courtyard respite," she said. Inside, "the two French crystal chandeliers just blew me away."

Moving in after Thanksgiving in 2022, Melissa and Wayne renovated the kitchen first. They then tackled the laundry room and the primary bath. Currently they are remodeling the apartment located above the carriage house in their back yard which will become home for an adult daughter.

"There is something comforting to me being surrounded by homes where people have loved and lived their lives for generations," Melissa said. She particularly enjoys hearing stories of the neighborhood. "My love for history and architecture draws me to learning about the houses and people who lived here and their connections." At a recent ODWA meeting, for example, she met someone who knew the history of her screen doors. "I found out that the screen doors on my house were purchased by the previous owners from another member of the ODWA several decades ago and that those doors came from that member's house. A little random piece of trivia but a nugget that ties our histories together."

Although their friends and family thought they were "crazy" to leave Atlanta for Mobile, the Sheppards have been happy with their new neighborhood and renovated home. In an interesting twist of events, Bob Collier now lives in the Atlanta area near where Melissa and her family lived. The two families have maintained contact over the past years.

Future ODWA Activities Scheduled

Mark your calendars for these future ODWA meetings and activities:

- June 7, Antiques Appraisal fund raiser, featuring local antique dealers (time TBA)
- July 17, 6:00 p.m., general meeting (speaker TBA)
- September 18, 6:00 p.m., general meeting featuring panel discussion on homeless issues
- December 4, 7:00 p.m., annual Holiday Party (location TBA)

MHD Reviewing Design Guidelines for Historic Districts

Recently the Mobile Historic Development Department sponsored a meeting to review possible changes to the city's design guidelines for buildings in the historic districts. Leaders from each historic district were present, along with City representatives and a consulting historic preservation specialist. Many ideas were discussed, including the need to make the guidelines more "user friendly" and easier to navigate. The consulting group, Chronicle Heritage, is currently working with the City to update and revise the guidelines. More on this as the process continues.

News Around the Neighborhood

. News Around the Neighborhood....

Residents in the Hunter/Hannon/Roberts/Davitt area enjoyed an outdoor Mardi Gras party on March 1 featuring live music and King Cakes.

The Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter, along with petcolove.org, sponsors vaccination clinics for dogs and cats every first Saturday of the month at Little Flower School on Government Street. Rabies vaccines are \$12, cash only. Donations accepted.

The Cindy Haber Center on Government at Etheridge Street is now open and providing case management services for persons with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Many ODWA residents participated in the recent grand opening of the ALDI grocery store on Government at Catherine Street.

We Want Your Input and Ideas!

ODWA wants to hear from you! Please give us input on projects or activities you would like us to pursue. We are in the process of re-starting our newsletter, so we welcome suggestions on what to include, format, etc. If your neighborhood has an event that would interest other district members, please let us know and we can publish it (e.g., yard sale, litter pick-up, etc.) We also want to acknowledge the accomplishments of our members. Please send any news, comments, etc., to susanthomas1744@comcast.net



**Old Dauphin Way
Association
P.O. Box 41045
Mobile, AL 36640**