

The Point

VOLUME 7 - ISSUE 3

JULY 2006

A Communication of the Five Points Historic District Association ~ Huntsville, Alabama

The President's Column

I drove through our neighborhood this afternoon as I came home from work and could not help noticing the number of our Five Points neighbors out for an afternoon walk. One of the pleasant things I noticed is the diversity throughout our community. I noted a young couple walking with their two young children (one in a stroller) and then one of our senior neighbors with a small dog out for their stroll. In the mornings there are the usual runners I see each day and there are the walkers who "religiously" hustle on their rounds through Five Points.

I've spent a little time in the newest addition to our Five Points Historic District and I see much the same diversity there. Children, families and others making their day a bit richer, as they enjoy their neighbors along our streets and sidewalks.

Although our North Alabama summers are hot and humid (I call it "air you can wear") isn't it good to get outside for a walk and a chance to visit with those who live nearby. I hope to get over to the latest Five Points addition soon and meet some of the folks that are new to our Association. I hope we all help them to feel welcome.

Neighbors... the best part of the Five Points experience.

Barry Johnson
President, Five Points Historic District Association

FPHDA OFFICERS

Barry Johnson - President
(256) 534-6051
barryjohnsonhsv@hotmail.com

Eric Benzenhafer -
Vice President
(256) 539-8830
ericandcrissy@yahoo.com

Janet Robbins -
Recording Secretary
(256) 533-4236
jrobbins@kw.com

Gwen Walker -
Correspondence Secretary
(256) 551-9872
grwalker@hiwaay.net

Clarke Moore - Treasurer
(256) 519-6378
clamoore@knology.net

Please contact any officer if you have questions or comments!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JULY 27, 2006: Join your friends and neighbors for a fun night "on the town".

The next Sidewalk Arts Stroll will be Thursday, July 27th--with more artists, more art, and more fun! Down town on the Square and beyond, 5PM - 9PM. The Trolley will be running!

OCTOBER 2006: The next meeting of the Five Points Historic District Association will be in October. Details will be in the October issue of our Newsletter! Please plan on coming!

FPHDA CALENDAR UPDATE: Cristina Benzenhafer will be walking around the neighborhood asking Five Points residents for permission to take photos of yards for the FPHDA calendar - so don't be surprised or alarmed if she asks to take photos of your yard! The photos will be strictly of the yard/garden area and they will be shown to the homeowners as the photos are taken, for the homeowner's approval. For further information or would like to assist on this project, contact call Cristina at (539-8830)

NEWSLETTERS SUBMISSIONS/ADVERTISING:

If you have an article, story, photograph, or information that would interest or affect the neighborhood, please contact: Judy Perszyk - Phone: 551-2957; e-mail: micasa@knology.net. If you own a business and would like to sponsor or advertise in the FPHDA Newsletter, please contact: Pam DeLozier - Phone: 508-3858; e-mail: fivepointshsv@knology.net

The deadline for submitting information or advertisements to be included in the next newsletter is SEPTEMBER 15, 2006.

Subscription Information

The Point is a publication of the Five Points Historic District Association (FPHDA) and is published quarterly: January, April, July, and October. Subscriptions are free to residents living in the district. For those outside of the district, you are welcome to join the FPHDA, which entitles you to a year of free Newsletters.

If you would like to join the FPHDA, please return the enclosed membership form!

FIVE POINTS HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANDS!

WELCOME NEIGHBORS!

A little more than 2 years ago, Todd Sims contacted the City inquiring about extending the boundaries of the Five Points Historic District. He found he needed the consent and support of at least 60% of the property owners in a given area. Petitions in hand he canvassed the neighborhood, walking door to door, phoning and tracking down property owners, and found he had plenty of neighbors' (more than the 60% required) who wanted to preserve and protect their neighborhood. On June 8th, 2006 the City Council voted unanimously to approve the expansion of the Five Points Historic District, preserving an additional 146 properties. One person can make a difference. By our count we now have 473 properties in the Five Points Historic District. WAY TO GO TODD!



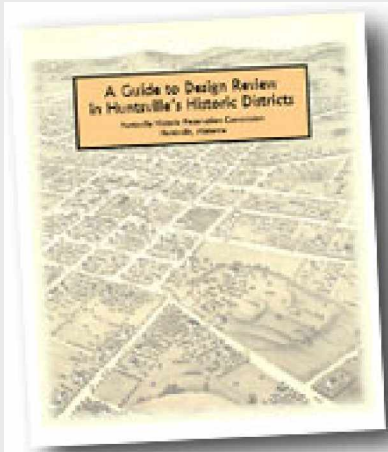
Todd Sims, in front of his home on McCullough Street

Photo Courtesy Bob Gathany/Huntsville Times

As we approach our 7th anniversary this October, we hope our new neighbors will join us at our annual covered dish dinner in October to celebrate, details will be announced in our Fall Newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Huntsville's Building Inspection Department has the publication "A Guide to Design Review in Huntsville's Historic Districts" available on the web?



www.hsvcity.com/inspection



CRITTER SITTERS

Pet Sitting in Your Home

Ann Barnes
(256) 536-7582
crittersitters@bellsouth.net

Fully Insured
Certified in Pet First Aid
Member of Pet Sitters Int'l
Free Consultation Visit



Pamela C. DeLozier
REALTOR®, MBA

 
110 South Side Square
Huntsville, Ala. 35801
Direct: (256) 508-3858
Office: (256) 533-6767
Email: pamdelozier@knology.net
www.pamdelozier.com

Photos around the District



Plant Swap Sale 2006

*The First Annual Plant Swap was a great success!
Look around your yard now and see what plants you can
swap or what you need to purchase next April!*



Recipe from Betty Crocker

“Sip this classic from a frosty glass while sitting on your porch swing.”

Olde-Fashioned Lemonade

- 6 cups cold water
- 2 cups lemon juice
(Squeezed from 8-10 lemons)
- 1 cup sugar
- Ice cubes
- Lemon slices
- Maraschino cherry with stems

Mix water, lemon juice and sugar in large pitcher until sugar is dissolved. Refrigerate about 3 hours or until chilled as desired. Serve lemonade over ice; garnish each serving with a slice of lemon and a cherry.

ENJOY!

Historic Marker Order

Our next order will be placed October 16th. If you would like to purchase a Historic Marker for your historic home it's not too early to start thinking about, sometimes the research required to verify the name and date is time consuming.

Please contact Judy Perszyk 551-2957 if you are interested and would like more information. We need at least two Markers per order or a set up fee will be added.



The ideal of happiness has always taken material form in the house, whether cottage or castle. It stands for permanence and separation from the world.

- Simone de Beauvoir

FPHDA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

HISTORY
HISTORIC MARKERS
MEDIA
NEIGHBORHOOD
CONCERN

Gwen Walker
Judy Perszyk
Pam DeLozier
Richard Perszyk

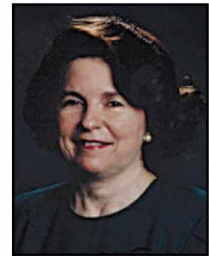
551-9872
551-2957
508-3858
551-2957

grwalker@hiwaay.net
micasa@knology.net
fivepointshsv@knology.net
micasa@knology.net

Please contact any committee chair if you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee!



Richard Van Valkenburgh
 ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI
Historic & Fine Homes
 539-0505 or 651-4593



Nancy Wilkinson
 Van Valkenburgh
 CRB, CRS, GRI
 539-0505 or 656-9145

539-0505

www.vvwrealtor.com

204 Gates Ave., Huntsville, AL 35801

Charter Member of the Historic Real Estate Program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Sarah W. Hereford, CPA
 Vice-President of Finance
 539-0505 or 651-6488



Sarah Lauren V. Kattos
 CRS, GRI
 539-0505 or 348-2311



Julie V. Lockwood
 GRI, Relo Director
 539-0505 or 797-4028



Gail Fay
 CRS, GRI
 539-0505 or 656-1431



Fred & Judy
 McLaurine, CRS
 539-0505 or 797-3223



Libby Smith
 REALTOR®
 539-0505 or 509-0469



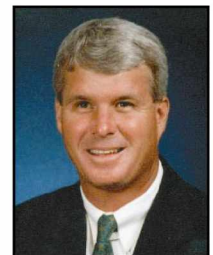
Barbra Hubler
 REALTOR®
 539-0505 or 604-8799



Sibyl M. Wilkinson
 Office Manager
 539-0505



Stacy Summers Hedden
 REALTOR®
 539-0505 or 509-6127



Dan Maxwell
 GRI
 539-0505 or 759-1707

*From your first home to your finest estate, call us.
 We appreciate your business!*

Visit us on the web at www.vvwrealtor.com
 or at our office at 204 Gates Avenue
 in the heart of the Twickenham District.



204 Gates, Circa 1883



FIVE POINTS

Where Is Five Points?

By Judy Perszyk

I live in Five Points, so do plenty of other people, not only in Huntsville but in other cities across the nation. Scores of these junctions where five roads come together are found in older neighborhoods, history radiates from them and they are also known as Five Points.

I was standing in line at Star Market one day when the woman behind me complimented the Five Points baseball cap I was wearing and proudly told me she lived in Five Points also. I asked where, and she told me she lived on Oakwood Avenue. Hmm, I thought to myself "Is that really considered Five Points?", but just smiled and said "It's a great neighborhood", and went on with my day...sort of. I could not stop thinking, exactly "Where *is* Five Points?" Was I being a Five Points snob? Did she know something I didn't? Wait a minute, how did I really know if she was right or wrong?

Where is Five Points? If you are talking about where the Five Points Historic District is, the answer is easy. That area has distinct boundaries, yet it is recognized that those boundaries do not encompass all of the area known as Five Points. The Historic District represents an area where the majority of the homeowners petitioned the city and asked them to protect the historic character and integrity of their homes and neighborhood.

The 1892 plat of the East Huntsville Addition is a large area, and was Huntsville's first subdivision. It includes neighborhoods that are known as Dallas Mill, Five Points, parts of what are now known as the Old Town Historic District and even a part of the Twickenham Historic District. There is no disputing the boundaries of that map, but it also does not answer the question "Where is Five Points?"

If you are talking about the actual intersection just about everyone in Huntsville knows where that is, it's where Pratt, Holmes and Andrew Jackson Way intersect. But ask him or her to define the boundaries of the neighborhood, and the answers vary.

I began to recall conversations with friends, neighbors, life long, long time, past & current residents on the subject of "Where is Five Points?" Some made passionate affirmations while, others casually opined, "...we always thought, or, it's always been ..." However there was no clear answer, the replies were as varied as the people.

I read an article once that declared "Five Points is a state of mind", wow, very 60's ish and cool, don't you think? Many feel it is a small and cozy area. However, a quick scan of homes for sale makes it seem the area is much larger. Properties are described as "in Five Points, near Five Points, Five Points area, Historic Five Points, close to Five Points, and in the heart of Five Points". It seems if you can't live *in* Five Points you should at least be as close to it as possible. But "Where is Five Points?"

Obviously this is a desirable neighborhood. Yet beyond being a neighborhood, it is a community, one that many have a deep affection for, an emotional attachment to, and countless fond memories of. How does one draw lines around that?

So, where is Five Points? Is Five Points a perception or a reality? Does it really matter? Perhaps it is just a state of mind, and the "Great Debate" will continue. And that's okay.

EVENTS

<p>FREE TROLLEY TOUR IN HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE</p>	<p>Enjoy a Trolley ride by some of Alabama's most beautiful antebellum mansions. Guides share stories about the homes' owners as well as recognizing each site's distinctive style. This week's guides are Jacque Gray, Rev. Wayne Snodgrass, Nancy Rohr & Bruce Taylor. Seating is limited to 60 people. Start Date: July 1 Hours: 10 AM Admission: No admission charged Sponsored by the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau Directions: Depart from Alabama Constitution Village, 109 Gates Street Contact: (256) 533-5723 Huntsville, AL 35801</p>
<p>CONCERTS IN THE PARK</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>Bring your lawn chair or blanket & picnic basket & enjoy various artists every Monday night in the park! Start Date: Every Monday evening through September 11, 2006 Hours: 6:30-8 PM Admission: No admission charged Sponsored by Huntsville Recreation Services & The Arts Council Directions: Big Spring Park Contact: (256) 519-2787 Huntsville, AL 35801</p>
<p>MUSEUM OF ART FIRST FREE FRIDAY</p>	<p>The Huntsville Museum of Art will be free to all on the first Friday of every month. Dates: July 7, August 4, September 1 Hours: 9 AM-5 PM Admission: No admission charged Directions: Huntsville Museum of Art, 300 Church Street Contact: (256) 535-4350 Huntsville, AL 35801</p>
<p>THURSDAY EVENING CONCERTS AT THE LIBRARY</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>This concert series explores our city's musical past. Join us Thursday evenings to listen to the music that formed an important part of our cultural heritage Start Date: July 13, 27; August 10, 24; September 7 Hours: 6 PM Admission: No admission charged Directions: Huntsville Public Library, 915 Monroe Street Contact: (256) 532-5975 Huntsville, AL 35801</p>
<p>CITY LIGHTS CONCERT SERIES</p>	<p>Audience members are encouraged to dress casually, bring a blanket or lawn chair, picnic supper & enjoy a spectacular night-time view of the city. Start Date: July 14 - Classical Blues Cabaret" with Phil Weaver & Microwave Dave Gallaher July 28 - Ted Howe Trio August 18 - Mambo Gris-Gris Hours: 7:30 PM Admission: Admission charged Directions: Burritt on the Mountain, 3101 Burritt Drive Contact: (256) 536-2882 Huntsville, AL 35801</p>
<p>CLASSIC SUMMER MOVIES IN THE PARK</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>Everyone is encouraged to bring their blankets or chairs, favorite snack & favorite friends to Big Spring Park to watch "Citizen Kane." Start Date: July 14 - Citizen Kane July 28 - Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf August 11- Sabrina August 25 - A Street Car Named Desire Hours: Approx. 8 PM Admission: No admission charged Directions: Huntsville Museum of Art, back west wall, 300 Church Street Contact: (256) 535-4350 Huntsville, AL 35801</p>
<p>OLD FASHION TRADE DAY ON THE SQUARE</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>Just like the old days Huntsvillians will gather at to trade, barter sell, eat, have fun & share fellowship. Music & dancing will be part of the festivities. Start Date: September 9 Hours: 8 AM-5 PM Admission: No admission charged Directions: Courthouse Square Contact: (256) 539-0097 Huntsville, AL 35801</p>
<p>MONTE SANO ART SHOW</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>This show, held on a scenic bluff, is in a relaxed atmosphere filled with good music, good food & good fellowship along with great art is fast becoming the premier outdoor venue for regional artists. Start Date: September 16 Hours: 10 AM-5 PM Admission: No admission charged Directions: Monte Sano State Park, Picnic Area Contact: (256) 539-2211 Huntsville, AL 35801</p>

Additional Huntsville/Madison County Events can be found at the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau's Calendar of Events: <http://www.huntsville.org/calendar.php>

*I was born and raised right here in Five Points,
So it gives me great pleasure to now be selling my neighborhood!
Call me for a free Market Analysis of your Five Points Home.*

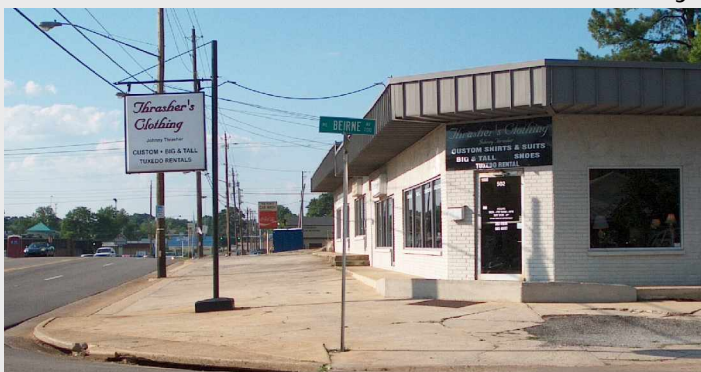
Janet Robbins

Your Neighborhood Realtor

Keller Williams Realty 256-797-4236
2410 L&N Drive jrobbins@kw.com
Huntsville AL 35801 janetmasonrobbins.com

SPOTLIGHT on business . . .

by Clarke and Tori Moore



- WHO:** Johnny Thrasher, Owner
WHAT: Thrasher's Clothing
WHERE: 502 Andrew Jackson Way
WHEN: Monday - Friday 10AM-6PM, Saturday 9AM-2PM or by appointment
WHY: "Five Points is a great area!" And Johnny Thrasher should know; he has been serving Huntsville's menswear and accessory needs for over 40 years.
WHAT ELSE: Custom tailored clothing, tuxedo rentals and sales, big and tall sizes, fine brands including Allen Edmonds shoes, Corbin suits, Berle trousers, Gitman shirts and much, much more!

A BIG THANK YOU!!



First Annual Five Points Plant Swap

Many thanks go to Crissy and Eric Benzenhafer for all their hard work creating this well attended and fun event. Joy McKee from Operation Green Team was a delightful partner (as always) adding to the success, thank you Joy!! Many new faces were seen, what a great way to meet your neighbors AND spruce up your garden. Everyone is looking forward to the 2nd Plant Swap next April, so mark your calendar and save your cuttings!!

Historic Tour of Homes



1912 MANNING – SMITH – BRUNO HOME



1898 TERRY – BALCH HOME

Thanks to our neighbors John Bruno and Brett Smith; Victor and Katrine Balch, for graciously opening their homes for this years' Huntsville Pilgrimage Association Historic Homes Tour, and the Cemetery Stroll was a success, as always. If you have not attended please treat yourself and plan to go next year.

Five Points Annual Yard Sale a Winner For All

We hope you had a chance to stroll through the neighborhood June 3rd during our annual neighborhood yard sale. Whether you were having your own yard sale, partnering with your neighbors, or hunting for your own treasures, a great time was had by all, and we thank all who came and those who participated. Remember that this is another annual event that our Five Points Historic District Association sponsors, the 1st Saturday each June. Start saving your items for next year!!

Pratt Avenue Medians Enjoyed By All

Most of us in the neighborhood drive down Pratt Avenue on a regular basis, and enjoy the lovely houses, old trees and the medians. These medians are maintained not by the City, but by a few "Guys" in the 'hood who enjoy making the neighborhood look better. They are modest, so we won't name them here, but a big thank you; it is appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

FPHDA MEMBERSHIP

The Five Points Historic District Association (FPHDA) has much to be proud of since its formation in 1999. Members initiated the preservation, beautification, and re-dedication of the Wellman Family Park. We supported the Auburn study for the improvement of the 5 Points Commercial core, hung banners at the 5 Points intersection, published an already sold-out cookbook, established a quarterly neighborhood newsletter, created our own web site, assisted with the placing of 62 historic markers throughout the neighborhood, and created a walking tour of the district sponsored by the Huntsville-Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau – which is held each October. The Huntsville Pilgrimage Association now includes a home from Five Points on its annual spring tour of historic homes, and members of our Association volunteer with the Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll. We sponsor a Neighborhood-wide Yard Sale each year, have dinner gatherings with a guest speaker, and notify our residents when things of importance to our community arise.



We enjoy our neighborhood and our neighbors.
Please support our organization with your membership!



MEMBERSHIP - Membership in the Five Points Historic District Association is open to anyone who shares our purpose - to preserve the historic and unique character of our neighborhood. Members who are not residents are entitled to attend all functions and receive a subscription to our quarterly newsletter. Members who are residents-property owners are also eligible to vote on all matters brought before the general membership and to be elected or appointed to hold office in the Association.

DUES - Membership is renewable in October of each year, and may be paid at our Annual October Gathering, or mailed to:

FPHDA
P. O. Box 10120
Huntsville, AL 35801

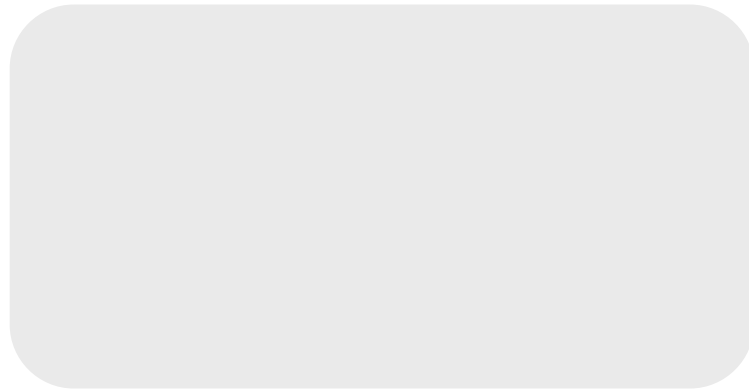


MEMBERSHIP TYPE	ANNUAL DUES
Resident—Property Owner	\$10.00
Friend of Five Points (Non-resident or Business)	\$15.00
NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	
STATE	ZIP
E-MAIL ADDRESS	



Historic District Association

Five Points Historic District Association
P.O. Box 10120
Huntsville, AL 35801



A Communication of the Five Points Historic District Association, Huntsville, Alabama



The Point

"...whatever you leave behind is your history,
and it better be good, because you're history longer than you're fact." - *Clyde Edgerton*