

THE *Cobbham Courier*  
G A Z E T T E

*Containing the freshest Advices*

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*Occasional Newsletter for the Historic Cobbham District*

*December 2003*

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## **Fa-la-la . Ho-Ho-Ho . Cheers!**

The annual Cobbham *Potluck Holiday Party* will be held this year on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, from 3 to 6 p.m. in the home of John English, Karen Smith and Evan and Gemma at 846 Hill St. Phone 353-1832 for details.

**Luminaires:** Distribution will begin at 10 a.m. Sunday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Old Jail aka The Phinzy Spalding Building. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Trucks are needed to put bags in place. Let Mimi (543-3199) know if you can help.

Proposed schematic this year: Hill Street, from the Hillcrest triangle to Pope St, Church Street from Meigs to Cobb to link up with Boulevard District via Grady Ave. and Meigs Street from Milledge to Pope Street. Call Mimi to offer comments or suggestions.

## ***T.R.R. Cobb House Update***

From Jane Cassady, Project Manager, ACHF/TRR Cobb House:

Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation is working with the Georgia Trust, Stone Mountain Memorial Association and the Watson Brown Foundation to return the Cobb House to Athens. As you've probably read in the news, Watson Brown Foundation purchased the vacant lot at 175 Hill Street for the relocation. Relisting the house on the National Register is critical for this project and many lots were studied for eligibility. The Hill Street site was determined to be the best available choice to make the relisting a reality. The context and setting are very close to the former Prince Avenue site and the lot is large enough to accommodate the house. That was the first step in securing the project. The next step is a series of legal documents that outline the partners, their roles and commitments. ACHF hopes that by December 12, all agreements are finalized and we can begin the dismantling to relocate the house to Athens.

We sincerely appreciate the concerns and patience of Cobbham for all these years ---especially now. Thank you.

*(Editor's note: Further discussion of this subject, including neighborhood reactions/concerns, will be featured in the next Courier.)*

## ***Waking Up the Neighborhood Events:***

- ***Waking Up the Neighborhood Presents A Preview Night at Town And Gown (now celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Season!)***

**The Show: BEDROOM FARCE by Alan Ayckbourn (4 couples, 3 beds, 1 stage)**

**Directed by our own Steve Elliott-Gower**

**Thursday January 29, 2004**

**7 PM pre-show drink, 8 PM performance**

**Town and Gown Theatre behind the Taylor Grady House**

**Cost \$10.00, more Info? Call Mimi @ 543.3199**

- ***Report on meeting about infill in historic neighborhoods:***  
**Distilled from the Athens Weekly News (Nov. 20):**

### ***What's up with that empty lot?***

**That question, and the myriad of possible answers to it, served as the impetus for Athens' first virtual "infill tour" held Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lyndon House. There's no reason to be "afraid" of infill, said Jennifer Lews of UGA's College of Environmental Design, as long as developers keep a few simple guidelines in mind to help new structures blend in with their surroundings. These include street orientation, compatible rooflines, placement of doors and windows, and exterior finish materials.**

**Athens-Clarke County has no official means to collect citizen input on proposed infill construction, said Amy Kissane, of the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation.**

**Though it serves in an advisory capacity to the government and community at large, the Historic Preservation Commission has the power to regulate renovations and new construction only in locally designated historic districts. Neighborhood planning units—which have been proposed for Athens by Mayor Heidi Davison and others—would allow the "ultimate" in citizen participation, including management of infill, said Bruce Lonnee, senior planner with the ACC Planning Dept.**

**(FYI: Waking Up the Neighborhood is the cooperative efforts of Cobbham, Boulevard , Pulaksi Heights and King Avenue Neighborhood Associations to present fun and timely events that we think would interest our intown neighbors. Events for 2003 included the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual June party at Chase Street Elementary School (be thinking of YOUR goofy golf hole for 2004!), Preview Night Town and Gown SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION, Infill Discussion at the Lyndon House (see**

accompanying article here and in Athens Weekly News) and, weather permitting, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Outdoor Movies at the Old Jail. Waking Up events have been generously and modestly supported by the Cobbham Neighborhood Association with money and volunteer support. When you see Waking Up the Neighborhood, you know the event will be relevant, well planned and fun. Join in!)

## ***Talk of the 'hood***

### ***The Cobbham Baby Boom...***

- Andrew Pearson and Anna Dondero brought August Winfield Pearson home from the hospital to their freshly painted Franklin St. residence. Their baby was born on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, tipping the scales at 7 lbs. 3 oz.
- Melony and David Wilson-Daniel had a 7 lb. 9 oz. daughter on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Her name is O'Connor.
- Virginia and Connell McCormick's celebrated the birth of their daughter on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Louise Ball McCormick weighed in at 7 lbs. 11 oz.
- Liz & Tony DeMarco welcomed Anna Virginia into their family on August 16<sup>th</sup>. AnnaV, as she's been dubbed, was 8 lbs. 5 oz. at birth. She joins sister BellaB in their Hill St. home.
- Katherine and Bertis Downs proudly announced the arrival of Elizabeth Slane Downs, who was born in Valencia, California, on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Eliza, as she's known, has settled into Cobb St. with Addie and her doting parents.

### ***Sudden Death of the community truck***

"Old Red," the 1971 Ford pickup that served Cobbham-ites for some 7 years, made its final run in mid-November. Co-owner Tim Johnson was on a mission in Comer, when the burly V-8 overheated and warped its head. Its death notice was pronounced at Master's Garage. The services of "Old Red" will be sorely missed. The Truck Co-owners plan to meet to settle its business and contemplate another venture. Condolences will be sent to Gary Bertsch, its former owner.

### ***Rental House Available***

Tom Clees' cottage on Hillcrest is available while he is a visiting prof in Ireland. Home is furnished. Rent is \$850. Call the Elliott-Gowers about details and site-visit, 543-3199.

***If your supply of Girl Scout cookies*** has long-ago run out, you will be able to replenish your stash next month. Sales begin January 9<sup>th</sup>, so expect to be visited by any of the Brownie/Girl Scouts in the neighborhood. S'mores!

### ***Cast changes at 555 N. Chase St.***

Jennifer Maldonado is moving out: "I've loved my little house at 555 N. Chase," she writes. "(It was Red and Rosena Hinesley's first home in Cobham.) My rascally mutt terrier, Ruby, and I moved in during summer 2001. I've been quite involved with my work at The University's New Media Institute and with Athens Institute for Contemporary Art (ATHICA) and the Contact Dance Company. Now after nine exciting and influential years in Athens, I'm leaving to marry a high school friend who lives and works in Los Angeles. We'll get married on New Year's Eve and move into an equally small and equally cute little place in Venice, California." Jennifer's new e-mail will be

Mary Whitehead, who currently lives on Hill Street, has bought 555 N. Chase and will move there in late December.

***Interior Renovation of 942 Hill St.*** and new occupants: After an imaginative re-design and superb renovation by Phin Spalding and Hano Leathers, this house has become home to Hano & Mary Ann.

***Residents of upper Hill Street*** have been informally discussing a number of ideas for traffic calming in their area. Those interested plan to form a subcommittee to talk to the city about options. Call John English if you want to participate. 353-1832.

***Thanks to David Lynn, Myra Moore, Julie McLeod and others,*** the Cobham listserv is now operative. If you do not have your current information to us asap, you will not be listed in the new directory. Don't be left out.