

# ON THE FRONT PORCH



*Neighborly News and Views from Uptown • May 2007*

## A Celebration of All Things Uptown!

The months of March and April were very busy for Uptown. They were filled with exciting community events as residents came together with local community members to celebrate the re-birth of our unique neighborhood.

On Saturday, March 17th, Fellowship Memphis and Shades Mountain sponsored the *2007 Uptown Spring Cleaning and Celebration*. Over 500 people flocked to Uptown to provide area youth with the opportunity to help others and provide assistance to a neighborhood community that is filled with diversity and pride. During this very successful event a clean-up took place that resulted in over 140 bags of trash, 17 tires, and 4 toilets being picked-up off of the streets of Uptown. Rev. Freddie Moore and Holy Community Church also opened their doors to volunteers who re-organized the food pantry at the congregation.



After a long day of hard work, over 500 hamburgers and 300 hotdogs were served and gobbled up by volunteers and Uptown residents. Area children were

able to play with three inflatable moon bounces, engage in colorful face painting as well as enjoy delicious cotton candy and popcorn. Rap Icon and Reach Records artist **Lacrae** also gave a free concert for the community.



John & Ashleigh Carroll who live in Uptown acted as event coordinators. John Carroll was pleased with the results of the day and said the following about the progress of the community "Uptown has the momentum to be a very unique and special community, the next growth phase will be for the residents new and old to begin real friendships."

Then on Thursday, April 12th the Uptown Community Association and Uptown Partnership held a "Meet and Greet" in the park. Many residents and area realtors attended this evening barbeque. Residents came out in droves and quickly the park was filled with adults, children and Uptown's finest canines!

Uptown resident, Dr. Robert Levine remarked that "It is great that this community is able to have these events like this. It brings a small town feel to a metropolis." He went on to say, "I have lived all over the country and have never been privileged to live in a community that can come together like this."

With wonderfully organized events like these, residents are sure to take Uptown to the next level.

*Article by Becky Gould*

### **For more information:**

Fellowship Memphis - [www.fellowshipmemphis.org](http://www.fellowshipmemphis.org)

Shades Mountain - [www.shades.org](http://www.shades.org)

Lacrae - [www.lacrae.com](http://www.lacrae.com)





# THUMBS UPTOWN



**Thumbs Up to Humes Middle School sixth graders** for cleaning up Uptown during their First Neighborhood **Clean-Up!** The next is scheduled for May 19th at 9:00 a.m. which will be followed by a festival at the Neighborhood Christian Center!



**Thumbs Up to Uptown resident Eddie Blackmon** for her participation in the WKNO community forum on the state of the community with relation to race and civil rights. We appreciate your dedication to the neighborhood and your work with Uptown Alliance!

*If you would like to contribute to Thumbs Uptown, please email your submission to [OnTheFrontPorch@gmail.com](mailto:OnTheFrontPorch@gmail.com). Of course, we reserve the right to edit any submissions for either content or length.*



**Thumbs Up to all of those Uptown pet owners** who clean up after walking their dogs on our streets and parks! We all strive for Uptown to be people *and* pet friendly! As the weather warms up and more of our children are playing outside, this is even more important!



**Thumbs Up to The Uptown Partnership** for sponsoring the food, drinks and music at the April 12th **Uptown Meet and Greet!** Everyone had a great time and we all look forward to the next event!



**Thumbs Down to people who honk their horns** outside of our homes and apartments in the **wee hours of the morning!** Please have the courtesy to get out of your car and knock on the door - not everyone needs to be woken up before dawn!



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On The Front Porch has a monthly distribution of over 1,200 copies throughout the Uptown area. If you are interested in advertising, please email us at [OnTheFrontPorch@gmail.com](mailto:OnTheFrontPorch@gmail.com).

**Advertising Rates and Sizes:**

1/8 page (3.75" x 2")	\$20	1/4 page (3.75" x 5")	\$30
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# UPTOWN COMMUNITY

*Community Building Projects and Program in Uptown*



Thanks to our friends at the Service Over Self (S.O.S.) organization, who did such great work in Uptown this past Spring, the neighborhood is set to see another non-profit organization making a difference in your community this June!

Memphis Workcamp is an annual service project sponsored by Memphis are Churches of Christ that brings teenagers, college students and adults together to repair, scrape and paint homes for people in need. Workers pay a fee to participate which covers the cost of supplies and enables the group to paint each house for free. Memphis Workcamp was begun in 1989 when Germantown youth minister Mark McVey brought the idea from Oklahoma City. The first year say 125 workers paint a total of 25 houses. Since then, Memphis Workcamp have painted over 500 homes throughout the city!

Due to be working in the neighborhood the first week of June (June 4-8), Jim Hinkle, Youth Minister at Sycamore View Church of Christ, says that they have already signed up a few homeowners in the Uptown neighborhood. Memphis Workcamp paints woodframe homes only; of which there are many throughout the Uptown neighborhood.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in either applying to have your home painted, or volunteering your time during June, please visit the Memphis Workcamp website at [www.memphisworkcamp.com](http://www.memphisworkcamp.com).

## Energy for Life Natural Food and Herb!

Disease starts in the colon! You may have noticed this bold statement on the side of a building if you were riding down Jackson Ave. Lardell & Lisa Sims have been performing colonics for clients for 14 years. They both studied and became certified therapists in 1994, under the direction of Jesse Brown at the Detroit Wholistic Center.

Lardell & Lisa have been in the south (Arkansas, Mississippi, & Tennessee) for the past nine years, helping people to heal and take responsibility for their own well-being. They have healed themselves of chronic illness and so-called incurable disease, and feel fortunate to have learned at a young age the true meaning of health.

The next time you are in need of vitamins, minerals, or herbs, pay our health-conscious neighbors a visit!

**1344 Jackson Avenue, Memphis, TN 38107 Phone: 901-272-0950**

## Protect Your Pet!

The Animal Protection Association, APA would like to announce a new program for pet owners 55 years and older to have their pet spayed or neutered for only \$10.00! The pet owner must be on government assistance of any type, including social security and unemployment compensation. This program is sponsored by a grant from the H.W. Durham Foundation. The APA is also accepting donations and recruiting volunteers for the East Memphis clinic. Please visit [www.spaymemphis.com](http://www.spaymemphis.com) or call 901.324.3202 for more information on how you can help control the pet population.



*Uptown resident Margaret Brown is pictured with her former stray cat, "Kitty Girl".*



# INSIDE UPTOWN

Come join us for some

## 'Wine and Cheese'

Thursday, May 10th, 2007

4:00pm - 7:00pm

See the latest renovation by Larry Bonds and the custom-built beauty on Greenlaw Place.



**661 Sixth Street \$129,900**  
*Completely renovated 3bedroom, 2 bath home with knock-out Master Suite and covered deck*



**595 Greenlaw Place \$195,900**  
*3 bedroom, 3 bath + bonus room with 2 car garage and too many upgrades to mention*



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## Professional Dance and Cheerleading Coaching!

Syreeta Dodson has been dancing for 16 years and has specialized in teaching competitive dance since 1995. To date, Syreeta has been the success behind the nationally ranked Whitehaven High Pom Pom Squad, Southwind Middle and Ridgeway Middle Dance Teams just to name a few. Syreeta presently coaches the Central High, Cordova High and Wooddale High School cheerleaders in addition to teaching dance at various mid-south schools. Syreeta is the co-founder of FaceSouth Choreography. Syreeta's performance credits range from competition, television, and opening acts for special events. She has danced with The University of Memphis Pom Squad, the Memphis Redbirds, and the Memphis Grizzlies, where she assisted in choreography.

Syreeta can offer girls (aged 4 and up) in Uptown the opportunity to explore the different genres of dance. There are so many levels of dance that many are not aware of and to give the children that opportunity would be a great experience. It will also enhance their ability to perform and use it as a form of expression. There are scholarships and opportunities in this field. It just doesn't stop at the street, club, or at home.

Her next schedule of events is as follows:

Starting May 19- June 30, 2007, every Saturday at Central High will be a dance clinic from 8 a.m. - 3p.m. The cost will be \$75.00.

The next camp will be on June 18-22 and July 9-13, 2007 from 9am-3pm at St. Luke Methodist Church. The Cost is \$100.00.

Also a dance camp at Cordova High on June 11-13, 2007. The cost is \$60.00 the other camp sites are Kirby High (date and time TBA).

Syreeta teaches dance to ages 4 and up. Adults are even welcomed.

**For more information please call Syreeta at 901-355-1627.**

*Interviewed by Tanja Mitchell*

## Citizens Police Academy!

Please make a note on your calendars for the 2007 Citizens Police Academy which is due to start in June. This nine-week course will give you an inside look into just what it takes to patrol the streets of Memphis with the Police Department. The Citizen's Police Academy, which is held twice a week for two and a half hours, is led by officer/instructors from different bureaus within the Department. Topics covered include: Gang Awareness, Communications, Vehicle Theft, Crisis Intervention, Sex Crimes/Juvenile Abuse, Patrol Procedures, and Crime Prevention.

As Academy participants become more familiar with the operations of the Memphis Police Department they gain a better understanding of the problems and policies facing Memphis law enforcement officers.

The course includes a ride-along on an actual police shift with an MPD Officer. **For more information, please contact Officer Love on her cell phone at 901-528-8039.**

# UPTOWN PROFILES

## *Uptown Residents - In Their Own Words*



The last thing Gladys Cole said to me as I finished up the interview was, "I love children." As simple as that. And that pretty much sums it up too. Gladys Cole is the site manager at Girls, Inc. which sits inconspicuously at Looney and 7<sup>th</sup>. I could tell you all about Girls, Inc. and that they have programs for girls between the ages of approximately one year to eighteen years old. I could tell you that the center takes walk ins, but they must have parent consent. I could tell you the center is open M-F from 2:30pm till 7:00pm though out the school year with earlier hours in the summer. And I could tell you that their fees run approximately \$75 per month (\$50 transportation and \$25 monthly fee). But that stuff you can find out simply by contacting the center at 523-0217 or 527-4475

or view their website at [www.girlsincmemphis.org](http://www.girlsincmemphis.org).

But *who* exactly is the woman that makes all this happen? Who exactly is the woman mentoring the girls lucky enough to be involved with Girls, Inc? I'll tell you who. Gladys Cole. And she loves children. She raised her own children, one boy (18), and one girl (17) and in addition assumed custody of her godson (7) and two nieces ( 1 and 2 ). In addition to *that*, she often has Girls, Inc. participants in her home for playdates with her own brood. Gladys Cole is a one woman show. I watched as she answered my interview questions, phones and anything else that was thrown at her in the short time I was with her. She's an amazing woman that simply "loves children." And it shows. It shows in her offsite duties as well, with public speeches not only to children but to parents. One such parent program is the Money Talks program teaching financial security to ensure the parents of the girls provide a financially stable home life for the whole family.

In the words of the Girls, Inc. executive director, Sandra Burke, "Girls, Inc. is honored to have the opportunity in the community to serve the girls in North Memphis with vision changing, life empowering programs, for girls, to make a better community." And this is done with programs like the summer program beginning June 4, 2007 and ending July 27, 2007. It is an eight week program. Some of the programs that will be implemented will be Dance, Spanish, Health, Theater, Cycling, Jump for Kids, Girls Encourage, and Operations Smart activities. This is just a few of them. If you are interested in participating please call (901) 523-0217 to find out fees, time and site locations.

They also have their ongoing programs. It just takes a call to involve your girl in one of six programs ranging from focus, to leadership and community action, careers and life planning, self reliance and life skills, cultural and heritage, sports and adventure and health and sexuality. Ask for Gladys. She loves children.

*Gladys Cole, Uptown since 1992*  
*Interviewed by Julie Ray*

# UPTOWN TOP TEN

## *Top 10 Things To Bring To the Uptown Picnic In The Park - May 12, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.*

10. Something to sit on (folding chairs, blankets, etc.)
9. Your pets and accessories to clean up after them!
8. A hat and sunscreen ... it's been very warm and sunny and no-one wants a sunburn on Friday morning!
7. Fried chicken (and not just the finger-lickin' good kind!)
6. Frisbees, Footballs, and other recreational devices starting with "F" (that qualify as Family Friendly!)
5. Your best neighborly attitude.
4. Chips and Dip, Salad, anything you want to eat for the MEAT and GREET!
3. Your best recipe to share (in print and in reality)
2. Drinks!
1. And last but not least, of course, **YOURSELF!!**

# UPTOWN CONNECTIONS

*What's On and What's Up in Uptown*

- Saturday, May 5** - **Uptown Neighborhood Watch Meeting**  
10:00 a.m. Uptown Square Apartments Leasing Office, 252 North Lauderdale.  
Come and Meet your neighborhood Memphis Police Department officers.
- Monday, May 7** - **Problem Properties Collaborative Meeting**  
5:30 p.m. Urban Child Institute. 600 Jefferson Avenue.  
Details about Blue Crush efforts, code enforcement issues and community matters.
- Thursday, May 10** - **Wine and Cheese Open House Events**  
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 661 North Sixth Street and 595 Greenlaw Place.  
See the best of the new and old in Uptown homes!
- Saturday, May 12** - **Uptown Meet and Greet / Neighborhood Picnic**  
2:00 p.m. start in the Park at The Metropolitan Apartments.  
Meet your neighbors, catch up with old friends, BYO.
- Saturday, May 19** - **Humes Middle / Neighborhood Christian Center Clean-Up Day**  
9:00 a.m. meet at North Parkway and Manassas (Friendship Church) for clean-up.  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Festival at Neighborhood Christian Center.
- Saturday, June 16** - **First Annual Uptown Pet Parade**  
11:00 a.m. start in the Park at The Metropolitan Apartments.  
Bring your pet in their finest! Prizes awarded in size and species categories!

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