



HISTORIC VINEVILLE

Neighborhood Association

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

VINEVILLE HOME PLACED ON HISTORIC MACON FOUNDATION FADING FIVE LIST

The Neel Reid designed Coddington House on 2510 Vineville Ave. is a new addition to the Historic Macon Foundation's Fading Five.

Reid is arguably Macon's most famous architect, and his design aesthetic is visible every day in cities all across Georgia. In the Vineville neighborhood alone, there are eight Reid homes - 4 of which are located on Vineville Ave.

in between Pierce and Buckingham place. The Coddington House, pictured right, is stable, but does have issues that arise from being unoccupied. Over the past few months, it had been listed in bankruptcy and for sale, but now lies in limbo.



With the help of Historic Macon, the Coddington House will be brought back to life. The goal of Historic Macon's Fading Five is to raise awareness of significant properties that are threatened by neglect or possible demolition. Since the launch of Macon's Fading Five in 2015, Historic Macon Foundation has put 15 properties on the list. By creating a strategic preservation plan for each of the listed properties, nine of them have been saved and protected. A property remains on the list until it is no longer under threat or the Historic Macon Preservation Committee determines that it has been appropriately preserved.

The Vineville Neighborhood Association and Historic Macon Foundation will work hand in hand to keep the Coddington House from being lost to commercialization or neglect. We are grateful to Historic Macon to helping preserve the gorgeous architecture in our neighborhood. Learn more at www.historicmacon.org/macons-fading-five -
Contributed by Ellen Finkelstein

PANDEMIC LEADS TO URBAN FLIGHT

Over the past five years there has been a lot of talk around the town about Macon attracting new residents from Atlanta and beyond. As Macon has grown and revitalized its downtown we've seen an uptick of new residents, which is another exciting thing to point to when counting all of the improvements around town. What is the attraction for the new residents? We have great locally-owned restaurants, acclaimed higher education organizations, and a wonderful arts scene, but are those reasons alone why we've seen this growth? The answer is a partially yes. The other part is our proximity to Atlanta.



I recently came across an article on The Atlantic's website called Superstar Cities Are in Trouble by Derek Thompson. The article points to a shift in behavior patterns in this pandemic year that provides additional evidence for why people are moving to Macon.

According to the article, humans live where we work. More than 90 percent of Americans drive to work with an average 27 minute commute. Further it states that the tether between home and office is the basis of urban economics. But remote work weakens it; in many cases, it severs the link entirely, replacing partial proximity with cloud-base connectivity.

The premise of the article is that remote work could do to American residential geography in the 2020's what the highway did in the 50's & 60's: spread it out. Derek goes on to write, "as home values decline in the superstar cities, they're rising in major Sun Belt metros...they're rising in midwestern cities...And they're going gangbusters in the Southeast, which accounts for 13 of the top 25 cities with the fastest growth in U-Haul migration in 2020." This is taking place he says because in the pandemic year we have all become smarter on how to use video conferencing and it's now socially acceptable to meet via video conference. This allows the population to move where homes are less expensive, daily driving commutes are smaller, towns are less crowded, and the opportunity for out door recreation abound. Derek predicts, "Meetings, business lunches, work trips—all these things will still happen in the after [pandemic] world. But nobody will forget the lesson we were all just forced to learn: ...remote work just works." Finally he says "...the logic of fewer-but-longer commutes should lead to small towns and suburbs experiencing the fastest price growth. And, lo and behold, that's exactly the story..." And that's just what we've seen in the real estate market. - *Contributed By Douglas Barnes, Realtor*

HAPPENINGS AT OAK HAVEN PARK

Anyone passing by Oak Haven Park in the past month has noticed that the Macon Water Authority is continuing its work at the old mill site located immediately to the south of the park. MWA is constructing a huge water tower on that site and there is no denying that the water tower will have a negative impact on the aesthetics of the Park. VNA has a committee (Ellen Finkelstein, Shannon Fickling, and Lars Anderson) working to make some chicken salad out of MWA's unilateral decision to drop this monstrosity into our neighborhood. After an initial meeting, MWA decided to retain the services of Wimberly Treadwell to assist with the landscape design of the project, with an eye towards incorporating elements of VNA's wish list into the final project. The construction of the water tower is funded primarily with two grants, and it is with the monies from the second grant that VNA hopes to get some value for the neighborhood, both on the mill site and along the south side of the Park.



The aesthetics of the Park were recently improved as two trees were planted, in memoriam, in the first week of February. An October Glory Maple was planted in memory of Whitney McArthur just a short distance south of the Oak Haven Park sign. And, Evelyn Shimek's book club had an Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry planted in memory of Thomas Shimek just to the west of the climbing structure.

And finally, save the date of Saturday, April 24th, for the annual Blue and White Party which is the primary fundraiser for the park. As in prior years, tables of eight may be purchased for \$100.00, which includes one table, eight chairs, and a white tablecloth. One may purchase more than one table, and multiple tables may be joined, located adjacent to one another or separated by a significant distance (if, for example, your mother-in-law is attending). Guests are encouraged to decorate their tables and themselves in VNA's colors for the evening. There will be live entertainment, awards for the three best tables and great weather – guaranteed! Send your reservation requests to lars@rlarsanderson.com.
-Contributed by Lars Anderson

(** The Blue and White Party is a "Clean Event" Each table is responsible for taking home their own trash. No trace of the party is to be left in the park. **)

VINEVILLE CORRIDOR NAMED TO THE GEORGIA TRUST'S PLACES IN PERIL

The Vineville Avenue Corridor in Macon is the main thoroughfare anchoring the Vineville Historic District. The three blocks that make up the corridor are the most intact areas of the original Vineville suburb, which featured a significant collection of late 19th and early 20th century upper-middle class residential



architecture. Of the 16 residences in the corridor, four were designed by prominent Atlanta architect, J. Neel Reid. Architects W. Elliott Dunwoody, P.E. Dennis and C. E. Choate also contributed homes on the thoroughfare. Two historically commercial buildings and the Vineville Baptist Church complete the strip.

The Vineville Avenue Corridor constitutes the last three blocks of primarily residential homes that illustrate the character of the Vineville Historic District. Most of the homes along the corridor are unoccupied and deteriorating. Some homes are candidates for commercial or professional offices, while others could still be rehabilitated as private residences. And yet, increased traffic and commercial intrusion threaten to erase the historic residential fabric of the area, turning the area commercial and negatively affecting the surrounding district.

This Georgia Trust placement allows us to receive publicity locally, statewide & possibly on the national level. We will also be receiving technical assistance and staff time in achieving goals that will be outlined by the committee that has formed. The trust will educate the public about the advantages of preservation and its impact on the surrounding community. We will receive assistance with information on the programs, grants and fundraising opportunities to assist with the preservation or maintenance of the properties.

Learn more at www.georgiatrust.org/our-programs/places-in-peril/. If you would like to work on this project, contact Shannon Fickling at sfickling@historicmacon.org.
-Contributed by Ellen Finkelstein

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHERRY BLOSSOM NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP - SATURDAY MARCH 13TH

Grab your yard tools and gloves and join your neighbors for the monthly VNA Neighborhood Cleanup!

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH
9AM - 11AM
Meet at Macon Pediatric Dentistry
located at 1923 Hardeman Ave.
Rain or Shine

Our cleanup is normally only one hour on the first Saturday of the month, but we're changing things up a little this month in preparation for Cherry Blossom Festival! Come help clean the main entrance to our neighborhood, with help from some of our neighbors from Pleasant Hill, at the I-75 ramps at Forsyth Rd. and Hardeman Ave. All are welcome! Work from 9am - 11am



and then enjoy some of Barbara's Banana Bread! We look forward to seeing you!



PORCH PARTY AT THE PALMER'S!

Let's celebrate the beginning of spring with a neighborhood porch party!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH
5PM
THE PALMER'S HOUSE
195 HOLT AVE.**

Join your neighbors for a socially distanced porch and parlor party at The Palmer's Chanticleer Manor (former Red Cross Chapter House) at 195 Holt Avenue on March 13th! Members and prospective members are welcome (you can join at the party). We look forward to seeing you! Don't forget to come for the neighborhood cleanup earlier in the day from 9am-11am! [Click here](#) for more information.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Help better our neighborhood and get to know your neighbors by renewing your VNA Membership. [Click here to renew online.](#)

\$30 per Family
\$20 per Individual



SOCIAL CALENDAR



MARCH

- March 13: Chery Blossom Cleanup, I-75 ramps for Hardeman/Forsyth
- March 13: Porch Party at the Palmers' at 195 Holt Ave., 5PM

APRIL

- April 3: Cleanup with Pleasant Hill
- April 24: Blue and White Party at Oak Haven Park

MAY

- May 1: Neighborhood Cleanup
- Date TBA: Guys Night Out
- Date TBA: Ladies Night Out

JUNE

- June 5: Cleanup with Napier Heights

AUGUST

- August 7: Neighborhood Cleanup
- Date TBA: Back to School Social

SEPTEMBER

- September 4: Neighborhood Cleanup
- Date TBA: Member Porch Party

OCTOBER

- October 2: Neighborhood Cleanup
- Date TBA: Chili Cookoff at Oak Haven Park with Band

NOVEMBER

- November 6: Neighborhood Cleanup
- Date TBA: Ladies Night Out

DECEMBER

- Date TBA: VNA Christmas Party
- Date TBA: Oak Haven Park Tree Lighting

******ALL EVENTS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK BACK ON OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES.***

