



GROVE HILL HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION • AUBURN, ALABAMA

## Last One!

In an effort to save the association money, **The Grove Hill Gazette** will no longer be produced on paper and mailed to residents. Beginning in 2009, the newsletter will be emailed to those residents that we have emails for and placed on the Grove Hill website for viewing and downloading - *this will be the only two methods of delivery for the newsletter.* Please note that the association will not share your email information with outside vendors or retailers. To continue receiving the Gazette, please send your email address to [barbara@grovehillhoa.com](mailto:barbara@grovehillhoa.com), so that you can stay informed about what is happening in your neighborhood.

## The Law on Golf Carts

Alabama Law defines a motor vehicle as "any vehicle that is self propelled" and does not exclude golf carts.

Alabama Law also requires that anyone operating a motor vehicle be sixteen years of age. It further adds, that no owner of a vehicle shall allow a person under sixteen to operate a motor vehicle.

For any vehicle to operate on a roadway it must be equipped with necessary equipment (headlights, brake lights, and reflective lighting) and must be able to reach a minimum speed of 25 mph.

By the rules listed above Golf carts are not "roadworthy" and cannot be operated on a street. Even if they could persons under sixteen should not operate them.

**To Reiterate: (1) Golf carts are not to be operated on the streets and sidewalks. (2) Persons under sixteen should not operate them. –**

*Captain Paul Register, Auburn Police*

## Don't Forget: 2009 Homeowners' Dues payment on January 1st

After careful consideration, the Board of Directors of the Grove Hill Homeowners' Association has voted to keep the dues the same amount for the last three years at \$315 annually.

Payment is due on January 1, 2009. You can mail your payment to P.O. Box 2658, Auburn, AL 36831-2658 or drop it off at the offices of Cleveland Brothers Construction at 1747 Ogletree Road. If payment is not received by January 31, 2009, you will be assessed a \$50 late payment penalty in addition to interest at 8% calculated from January 1, 2009 until the date that payment is received.

Dues collected from homeowners are put directly back into the neighborhood. The Board continues to be diligent in providing for quality maintenance and improvement of our neighborhood. The use of the funds collected are determined and implemented by the Board of Directors. All expenses are reflected in the budget that every home owner receives yearly.



## Golf Cart Controversy

You might want to reconsider if you are planning on purchasing a cart for traveling around the neighborhood. After the Board received several reports from residents about unsafe operation of carts by children in Grove Hill, the Auburn Police Department was contacted and asked to give the official ruling on carts (*see the story to the left*). Being able to let the kids jump on the cart and go to the pool or a friends house is a fun way for them to travel, however it is illegal and dangerous. One resident said she had a near miss with a cart operated by two children no older than 9. The cart crossed the street, running a stop sign, nearly ending in tragedy when an oncoming vehicle narrowly avoided running over the children.

The Auburn Police Department also stated that carts are not legal on the walking trail and that fines have been given in our neighborhood on several occasions.

We often take the safety of our children for granted because we live in such a wonderful neighborhood, hopefully it does not take a tragedy for us to keep a watchful eye on our children. The police will respond if you see an any activity that is illegal or unsafe, the number is 501-3100.



## Out My Window by Caroline Gebhard

Backyard bird watching is one new joy I've discovered since moving to Grove Hill in 2005. Ever since I was a little girl, I'd always wanted to see an Indigo bunting, and this past spring, I finally did: he was at my feeder, his plumage the most iridescent blue you've ever seen, and I was thrilled. Grove Hill offers many advantages for "birding" as one of the fastest growing pastimes in America has come to be called.

We're fortunate in our neighborhood because the trees and wetland areas here provide crucial habitat for many birds whose numbers are declining sharply, in part because of the loss of those habitats. Since the 1960s dozens of species have suffered significant losses, among them the Barn swallow, the Common yellowthroat, the Eastern Kingbird, and the Indigo bunting, all found in Alabama. Humans, however, can help make up such losses: because people have put up bluebird houses to



*Photo by Bill White*

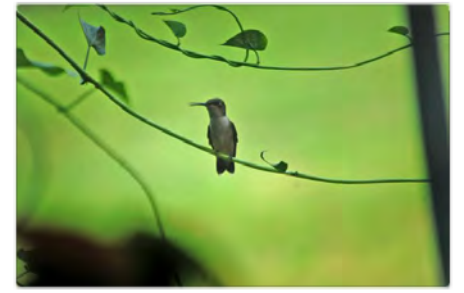
now through mid-October is the Ruby-throated hummingbird, fattening up for its winter migration to Central America and southern Mexico. If you mix up sugar water (one part white sugar to 4 parts water) in an inexpensive feeder, you'll attract these remarkable birds, only found in the Western Hemisphere, and the only bird that can fly like a helicopter--up, down, and even backwards. Never use honey or artificial sweeteners since they can harm the birds.

You don't have to be a birder to enjoy birds or to make your yard more "bird friendly." Provide water and shade, grow plants that offer shelter and food, and limit the use of pesticides. Native plants are generally a good choice because they tend to be drought-resistant and more hardy, too. Flowering Dogwood, Carolina Jasmine, and Bee balm are just a few of many native trees, vines, and flowers that attract not only birds, but butterflies and bees as well. Also, black oil or striped sunflower seeds work much better in feeders than do cheaper seed mixes; mixes containing milo, wheat, oats, and other seeds attract nuisance birds such as starlings and also tend to add weeds to your yard. Alabama's Cooperative Extension System ([www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)) is a great source of information for homeowners interested in plants

compensate for the scarcity of natural nesting sites, these beautiful birds' numbers have rebounded in many places in recent years.

A frequent backyard visitor

and backyard birds; call Chuck Browne, our local County extension agent, with specific questions at 749-3353. For more information about hummingbirds, visit



*Photo by Bill White*

the Hummer Bird Study Group at [www.hummingbirdsplus.org](http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org). And for a book by a renowned ornithologist but written in a down-to-earth and personal style about the life cycle of songbirds and why so many species are threatened, check out Bridget Stutchbury's *Silence of the Songbirds* (2007) available at the Auburn Public Library.

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### Join the Grove Hill Group Travel Club for fantastic excursion opportunities in '09, to include...

- **April 2-8, 2009** Washington, D.C. & Colonial Williamsburg featuring the Cherry Blossom Festival. Highlights include the Smithsonian Institution's Air & Space Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Capitol, the Cherry Blossom Parade, the National Cathedral, Williamsburg, the National WWII Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Mount Vernon, Alexandria and much more!
  - **July 22-28, 2009** MONTANA! Highlights include Helena, Gates of the Mountains Waterway, Seely/Swan Valley, Flathead Valley, Big Mountain, Kalispell/Conrad Manion, Soft River Rafting, and magnificent Glacier National Park!
  - **September 5-13, 2009** Cruising the Inside Passage of Alaska! Aboard the brand new Norwegian Cruise Line "The Norwegian Pearl". Highlights include the world famous Glacier Bay, the Inside Passage, Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay and Victoria, British Columbia!
- Don't miss out! Life is too short! Contact Terry Calcote at [terrycalcote@hotmail.com](mailto:terrycalcote@hotmail.com) or at 826-7829 for a full-color brochure on any or all of these trips.

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THE GROVE HILL GAZETTE

FALL 2008



**Neighborhood Covenants Review** – The Board of Directors would like to personally thank all the residents that have complied with our recent neighborhood review and individual covenant violation notifications. The major covenant violations found during this review were satellite dishes installed improperly and visible from the street, fences not being landscaped and trash cans not being stored out of view from the front and side streets. Again, thank you all for complying with the neighborhood's covenants and for helping to make Grove Hill the very best neighborhood in Auburn!

## **We Want You – on the Grove Hill Board**

The Grove Hill Homeowners' Association Board of Directors is made up of twelve elected residents who volunteer their time to oversee the business and maintenance of the neighborhood. Each member serves a three year term and there are typically four vacancies each year. This year there are **four** 3-year term positions. Every resident has an opportunity to be nominated and elected to a board position during the Annual Homeowners' Meeting held at the clubhouse on January 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Residents can also serve on or even chair a committee, such as the Landscape, Covenants, Architectural Review committees and more. Please join the GHHA Board of Directors and make a difference in your neighborhood!



**Annual Neighborhood Meeting • January 13, 2009 • 7:00 p.m. • Grove Hill Clubhouse**

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