

Old Dauphin Way Newsletter

March 2026

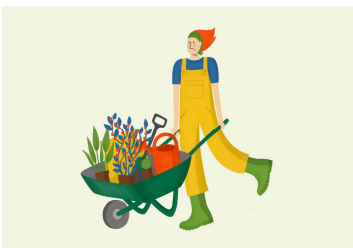
Historic Graffiti Uncovered on Monterey Place Pillars

When ODWA volunteers scrubbed down the Monterey Place pillars during a recent clean-up project, they discovered the name Ernest Gatti inscribed on the brick, along with the year 1943.

Research revealed that Ernest Alan Gatti was a 14-year-old who lived at 1559 Blair Avenue, just around the corner from the entrance to Monterey Place. His parents were Anthony and Rita Kohler Gatti and he had five sisters. Ernest would go on to enlist in World War II and later in the Korean War. He was married to Margie Ward and in later life they lived in Irvington. He died in 2000.

ODWA Plant Swap

Come join your neighbors at ODWA's Plant Swap! It will be April 4, 10:00 – 12:00 at Central Presbyterian Church. Bring a plant, get a plant! Find new plants and old favorites to add to your garden. Please pot and label all your plants.



Meet Candidates for Mobile Sheriff at General Meeting April 23rd

The ODWA April 23 general meeting will feature an informal "Meet and Greet" with candidates running for Mobile County sheriff. Paul Burch, incumbent, and Paul Prine, challenger, will each have an opportunity to describe their platforms and answer questions from the audience. The meeting will also include District 2 council member Samantha Ingram, who will describe her projects and plans for the community. She too will be available to answer questions. Join us for this important meeting on Thursday, April 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church.

Get Involved with your Neighborhood! Join an ODWA Committee!

ODWA has recently reorganized the Association's standing committees and is looking for interested individuals to serve on these committees. You do not have to be a board member to serve! Anyone interested who is a member of ODWA can be on a committee. The committees include: **The Beautification Committee**, which identifies areas of the neighborhood needing "sprucing up" and helps coordinate litter clean-up efforts, specific beautification projects, etc.; **The Governmental Affairs Committee**, which identifies issues coming up for review by City officials (such as the Architectural Review Board, the Board of Zoning Adjustment, etc.) and alerts membership of potential problem cases and then encourages/coordinates members to attend City meetings, etc.; **The Membership and Hospitality Committee**, which promotes/coordinates membership drives, welcomes new residents/businesses to the district, and helps provide refreshments at general meetings; and **The Publicity and Marketing Committee**, which coordinates our social media presence and arranges publicity for events. If you want more information about these committees, or if you are willing to sign up to serve on one, please contact us at susanthomas1744@comcast.net.

ODWA Activities



- The pillars at the entrance of Monterey Place cleaned and painted by ODWA volunteers looked particularly nice at Christmas time with their wreaths.
- The ODWA Holiday Party at the Kate Shepard House was well-attended despite a heavy downpour! Special thanks to Kelly McKean, owner, for opening up the home for our get-together.
- ODWA's annual business meeting was held January 22 and featured a presentation by Capt. Angela Prine, 3rd Precinct Commander with the Mobile Police Department. Michelle Rogers gave an overview of ODWA activities in 2025 and discussed possible projects for 2026. ODWA board members for 2026 were elected. Please see the Old Dauphin Way website for a complete listing of board members and officers.
- The historic Duffie Oak on Caroline Avenue, thought to be over three hundred years old, was recognized by the Mobile Tree Commission in a ceremony in January during which new signage was installed commemorating the tree.

Looking Ahead....

- ODWA is making plans to sponsor another antiques appraisal fund-raiser in late Spring/early Summer. A date is currently being negotiated with our volunteer appraisers.
- ODWA hopes to begin a beautification project involving the concrete wall on Etheridge Street near Government in the near future. We are currently working with City officials to determine whether or not the wall is on City property. Stay tuned for more details!
- As our nation prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, ODWA wants to encourage all residents and businesses to fly the American flag, especially during the months of June, July, and August, to show support of this milestone.
- ODWA Board member Theresa Davidson will have her garden featured in the Mobile County Master Gardeners 2026 garden tour, May 15-17. See attached brochure for more information.

Old Dauphin Way Association
P.O. Box 41045
Mobile, AL 36640
Please send any news, comments, etc., to
susanthomas1744@comcast.net



Mobile County Master Gardeners

are excited to invite you to the

2026 Tour of Gardens!

Dates (Rain or shine...):

May 15, 9am-4pm

May 16, 9am-4pm

May 17, noon-4pm

Tickets \$20 per person

**Online ticket sales
begin March 1**

Tickets may also be purchased at any garden during the event.

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As most gardens are at private homes, we cannot guarantee that all locations are handicapped accessible. Pets, strollers and smoking will not be allowed.

Explore one or all of our 8 outstanding gardens, clustered in three areas:



- Downtown/Midtown
- Springhill/West Mobile
- South Mobile County

