

BLAZING TRAILS

Sponsored by the Smoke Rise Homeowner's Association
Post Office Box 471
Warrior, Alabama 35180

JULY 2019 ISSUE

fb (2): "Smoke Rise Residents and HOA" & "Smoke Rise Neighborhood Watch"

email: smokerise@smokerisehoa.org

webpage: smokerisehoa.org

GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, July 25, 7:00 PM
Smoke Rise United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall
corner of Scenic Trail and Grandview Trail
Everyone is welcome!

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**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND**  
**OPEN TO ALL SMOKE RISE RESIDENTS**

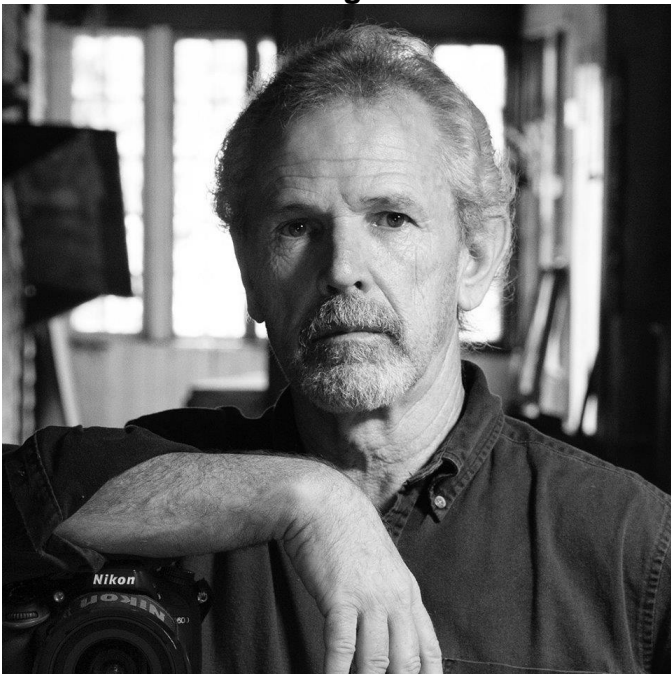
## *Forgotten Alabama Bicentennial Tour 2019*

Come meet author and photographer **Glenn Wills**, for a discussion and PowerPoint presentation of his work and books, ***Forgotten Alabama***, ***More Forgotten Alabama***, and now his third book. ***200 Years of Forgotten Alabama*** as he takes us on a journey across Alabama and as he documents the remnants of Alabama's past. Sponsor for our program will be **Chris McClendon** from **Porky's Pride Smoke House**. Join us for an evening of beautiful pictures, great Alabama history, and wonderful food and fellowship.

### HOA Meeting Location

**ALL meetings and special events of the Smoke Rise HOA will now take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Smoke Rise United Methodist Church.**

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200 Years of Forgotten Alabama



Author and Photographer, Glenn Wills, returns to Smoke Rise to share the pictorial presentation of his travels discovering abandoned and "forgotten" structures, vehicles, planes and places from all 67 counties in Alabama making it his mission to capture thousands of beautiful images of neglected places in Alabama before they disappear. Alabama is celebrating her 200th birthday in 2019, so he has updated his presentation to 200 Years of Forgotten Alabama to celebrate our state's Bicentennial.

He is a lifelong resident of Alabama, having grown up in Huntsville, and presently resides in Alabaster in Shelby County. He graduated from Butler High School and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. After a few stops along the way, he eventually found his niche in television news. Starting with an internship at WAAY-TV, Glenn then made his way to WHNT-TV as

a full-time news photographer. His path would eventually lead him to WVTM-TV in Birmingham, first as a photographer, then as an assignment editor and ending up as a satellite truck engineer. Operating the satellite truck kept him on the road a great deal. In eight and a half years, he managed to log close to a quarter million miles. It was during this time he began to notice the things we built, used and eventually left behind. After leaving WVTM, and more than 30 years in the news industry, Glenn decided it was time to make his vision a reality. He mapped out the entire state of Alabama in the summer of 2013 and began an odyssey to document those physical reminders of the past.

Over the course of the last 6 years Glenn has traveled the entire state, logging over 50,000 miles, been to all 67 counties, including Blount, multiple times documenting and taking over 40,000 photographs of as many of Alabama's forgotten and abandoned structures as he can find. This effort culminated in 3 books: ***"Forgotten Alabama," More Forgotten Alabama,*** and now his favorite and most anticipated, ***"200 Years of Forgotten Alabama."***



This picture is the Urquhart House in Madison County in north Alabama, built in 1813, 6 years before Alabama became a state, and is the cover photo of Glenn's third book. In this book is a picture of the oldest room in the third oldest house in the state, which just happened to be the exact room Glenn, when he was a teenager, and some of his friends met in many years ago. Included in the book besides the beautiful pictures are bits of history about Alabama's rich past.

"This book is the book I always wanted to do." Glenn said, **'200 Years of Forgotten Alabama'** is, by far the best, most comprehensive endeavor I've

our area & increased patrol.

- District Attorney Pamela Casey came to discuss the new vicious dog law in Alabama
- Forum for Candidates for sheriff's office and county commission
- Speaker Glenn Wills of Forgotten Alabama Facebook and book fame

4-Providing improvements to and maintenance of the area such as

- Decorative entrances
- Flag pole
- Street signs
- Fire hydrant markers and
- Other public safety features.

5-Provides a liaison to the Blount County Commission, who attends the Commission meetings to represent the interests of Smoke Rise residents.

6-Maintains a channel of communication with Blount County officials and state political leaders to represent the needs and concerns of Smoke Rise residents.

7-Maintains a web site and publishes a free electronic newsletter to inform and disseminate information to Smoke Rise homeowners about things affecting our area.

8-Smoke Rise Neighborhood Watch program (NW), a committee of the SRHA, is more than just neighbors watching out the windows. It is a dedicated liaison to the Blount County Sheriff's Office for coordination of information to and from them, communication between neighbors through the NW Facebook page, and active patrol by some members. Much of this is "behind the scenes". The SRHA, through the NW, provides Smoke Rise stickers to all residents for their cars so everyone will know which vehicles belong in Smoke Rise.

9-Smoke Rise is protected by restrictive covenants. The SRHA strives to protect those covenants and keep them viable. The SRHA is not a police force for the covenants of Smoke Rise, but they disseminate information regarding the covenants and can act as a moderator of disputes. The SRHA will investigate reported violations, and advise those in violation of the covenants. If necessary, they will legally defend a challenge to the covenants. Protecting the covenants protects everyone's property value.

10-The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) of the SRHA reviews proposed real estate development in Smoke Rise to verify it is in compliance with the covenants covering our community. The ACC is authorized to approve or disapprove construction within Smoke Rise. This also protects our property values.

While the SRHA does a lot for the community, we could do so much more with your help. The dues for voluntary membership in the SRHA are a modest \$40 per YEAR. Other HOAs charge as much as \$250 per month and, unlike SRHA, are draconian in their actions. Help us make our community the best it can be.

Blount County Commission to Fine Republic Waste Services

At their July business meeting, the County Commission voted to assess a fine of \$250, which is the maximum allowed, for each documented complaint of failing to respond in a timely fashion to meet a scheduled pickup date or to provide trash cans, as stipulated in the contract with the company. Also included will be a request to get pro-

rata refunds to other customers who said they had not received promised services from the company.

There are 31 documented complaints to the Commission office. People can still call John Bullard, County Administrator, to file complaints, at 205-625-6868.

A rough estimate of Republics income in Blount County is over \$3 million a year. There are approximately 8000 customers.

Republic Services received the bid for all residential garbage pickup in the county effective June 1st. The great majority of problems were reported in our area of the county, District 1, since this area saw the transition from the previous garbage vendor, Santek, to Republic when the new contracts were signed, plus Republic's call centers often provided conflicting information, which caused much confusion and frustration among customers, and that Republic had to establish a database of customers, since the previous vendor would not give their listing to the new vendor.

All of this information is being recorded for reference when contracts are renewed in 3 years.

SENIOR DAYS

Dinah Wilson, Hayden, and Sharon Jones, Smoke Rise, have reached an agreement with the Hayden Town Council for use of the Community Center for a trial period of 3 months, August, September and October, for two days a week, Tuesday and Friday, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, for the purpose of social, fun, gatherings for those 55 and older. Also, for the 2nd Saturday of each month from 6:00 to 10:00 PM there will be pickin' and potluck for those 18 and over.

The daytime gatherings will have games, puzzles, prizes, snacks, drinks, guest speakers, book swaps, demonstrations, and blood pressure checks, in addition to getting to know your neighbor and making new friends.

Thank you to the Town of Hayden for providing the use of the Community Center for these gatherings at no charge. Continuation after the 3 months will depend on participation and interest.



Hayden Community July 4th Celebration

Over 500 citizens enjoyed an evening of free games, fun, entertainment, fellowship, good food and fireworks on Hayden Green for the second year's tribute to the founding of our country. Thanks to the following sponsors for all their contributions of food, time, work and finances to make this possible: Hayden First Baptist Church, Hayden Church of God, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Town of Hayden, West Blount Chamber of Commerce, and West Blount Fire Department.