

## A Brief History of Valentine's Day



Each year, thousands of people rush to buy candy and flowers for loved ones in celebration of St. Valentine's Day.

But few of us know the history of this patron saint. One legend recounts that St. Valentine was a priest in third century Rome. The emperor at the time, Claudius II, decided that single men made more dedi-

cated soldiers than married ones and subsequently outlawed marriage. Valentine, however, continued to perform marriages in secret, earning the romantic holiday that was named for him.

Another legend holds that St. Valentine, while in prison for performing these illegal marriages, fell in love with a woman who visited him in prison. Allegedly,

before his death he wrote her a letter and signed it, "From your Valentine," a phrase that is still popular today.

Whatever the real story behind the legend, St. Valentine has given us a popular holiday that has endured for centuries.

(Source: <http://www.history.com/minuties/valentine/>)

## Classifieds Coming Soon!

Got something to buy or sell? We plan to run classifieds in our next newsletter.

Please bear in mind that newsletters come out quarterly, but if this fits your time frame, send your ad to [valitalynn@hotmail.com](mailto:valitalynn@hotmail.com) with *classified* in the subject line.



## 2007 Association Dues

Your dues ensure landscaping, lighting, safety, holiday lights—and ultimately enhance your property value!

You can pay your 2007 dues at any association meeting or mail them to: Rowan Springs Homeowner's Association, Tary Anderson, Treasurer, 1253 Rowan Springs Drive, Leeds, AL 35094

As a reminder, dues are \$100 per household if paid in bulk for the year, or you can pay \$10 per month for

12 months. Please be sure that your correct address is listed on your check. (If you should decide to sell your home, please make sure your realtor has a copy of our neighborhood Covenant and Restrictions.)



Association dues help cover landscaping and the look of our community.

## Leeds Trivia

The first Leeds Post Office opened in 1884. (Source: [http://www.leedsalabama.com/historical\\_society.htm](http://www.leedsalabama.com/historical_society.htm))

Leeds was named after Leeds in England (just as Birmingham was named after Birmingham, England). (Source: [http://www.leedsalabama.com/historical\\_society.htm](http://www.leedsalabama.com/historical_society.htm))

The median age for Leeds residents is 37.6. (Source: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Leeds-Alabama.html>)

Women slightly outnumber men in our city: Males are 47.9 percent of the population, while females are 52.1 percent. (Source: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Leeds-Alabama.html>)

Famous Leeds natives include Charles Barkley, basketball player, and Caitlin R. Kieman, author and paleontologist. (Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leeds,\\_Alabama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leeds,_Alabama))

The total area of Leeds is 22.5 miles. (Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leeds,\\_Alabama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leeds,_Alabama))

**Signs of the Times**

You will notice . . .

- A new speed limit sign at the front entrance.
- A stop sign at the front exit.
- Blue reflectors on the street, marking fire hydrant locations.

## This Quarter's Covenant Highlight

Each quarter, we'll focus on one part of our neighborhood covenant.

Item 21 states:

*"No fence of any kind will be allowed in the front of any residence. Fences are allowed beginning at the rear of a*

*dwelling, running parallel to the street, and continuing toward the rear the property line. Allowable construction materials are wood, brick, or stone within 125 feet of the street in front of the dwelling. Beyond 125 feet from the street, green chain link material may also*

*be utilized as fencing material."*

In essence, fences must be in your backyard, and if they are visible from the road, they must be wood, brick, or stone material.



## Fenced In

A fenced-in yard is a great way to keep pets, plants, and even children safe. But before you fence in your backyard, here a few things to keep in mind:

• Before you start digging, verify with Alabama and our

local water and sewer companies that it's safe.

• Be one hundred percent certain of your property lines—you don't want to fence in your neighbor's yard! If you're unsure, hire a local surveyor.

• Wood fences require periodic mending or repainting. Be sure fencing your yard is something you're ready to commit to.

(Tips excerpted from "First Rate Fences" by Robert Martin at [SouthernLiving.com](http://SouthernLiving.com).)



Are you ready to build a fence?