

the

Berkeley Park Bulletin

www.berkeleypark.org



BERKELEY PARK

APRIL 2003

**Next Meeting
Monday**

May 19, 2003

7:00 pm

Location - Senior

Citizen Center

NPU-D Meetings

**Fourth Tuesday of
every month**

Meetings start at 7:30

**Agape Center
on Bolton Road**

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Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association Vision Statement

To create an area of intown living that is safe, clean and has the direction and determination to take on tasks that are beneficial to the neighborhood and its residents.

Meeting location - time 7:00 pm

Senior Citizen Services Center on Commerce Drive.

Plenty of seating and parking available. Enter through the front door on Commerce Drive, someone will be in the lobby to direct you to the meeting room.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dwight Glover

404-351-0640

dwight_glover@hotmail.com

Not only do we give you free ice cream but we also reduce your taxes. Does the BPNA deliver or what? I recently learned that we can begin to take advantage of the tax benefits from being listed in the National Register of Historic Places even before the process is actually completed (wish I'd known this a long time ago). To give you an update on that process, our application has been approved for listing at the state level (this occurred last October) and we have been waiting for final approval from the national organization. I have been told that the final step is largely a formality as once the state board has approved an application, the national organization almost never declines an application. We expect this approval to occur in May or June of this year.

Meanwhile, if you have done renovations on your house, you are eligible for an eight year freeze on your local property taxes from the date of your application for these benefits. When the work was done is not a factor in the decision. There are certain guidelines for the work that must be

met, but the key one is that the property should maintain its original historic character. Income producing properties are also eligible for Federal income tax credits on 20% of any rehab work done. To get all the details of the program you can go to www.gashpo.org (look under "forms & publications, forms, tax incentives) or call Casey Cloud at 404-651-5567 at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division.

On a less inspiring note, I also wanted to make everyone aware of a change in the city of Atlanta's policy for large bulk trash pickup (this is large items such as furniture, boards, etc.). Going forward if you have bulk items you will need to call in and make a pickup appointment (the phone # is 404-330-6333). Otherwise the items will not be picked up. Trash on the street has a major impact on the perception of the neighborhood and thus property values so please call them in as soon as you can if you have bulk trash.

Dwight Glover

V.P. LETTER

Mike Cosky

404-355-8050

mcosky@mindspring.com

Unfortunately (for us) Mike has been extremely busy and was unable to write an article for this month's newsletter.

Hopefully he will be able to inspire us all next month.

TREASURER REPORT

Elaine Evans

404-355-2672

No report this month.

MEMBERSHIP

David Soofian

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No report this month.

SECRETARY

Kendra Huckabee

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I would like to thank everyone that helped clean up the neighborhood Saturday morning, especially Mari for organizing it.

I think it made a huge difference and only took an hour!

SENIORS

Tawn Chi

404-351-8288
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We have two birthdays in April. Happy Birthday to Gwen Langston of 810 Berkeley Avenue who was born on April 18th and Ed McGill of 741 Antone Street born on April 22nd.

NEWSLETTER

Sharon Arnold

404-352-6135
keycon1@mindspring.com

Last month I wrote that we will be hand delivering the newsletter to every household in the neighborhood at least once a year, I am looking for volunteers to help deliver the May issue. It will be ready for delivery before the weekend of May 17th. If you would be available sometime that weekend to help deliver please let me know.

BEAUTIFICATION

Mari Jorgensen

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mjorgen@mindspring.com

The Clean-up Day on Saturday April 12 went well. We had at least a dozen neighbors show up and each one filled at least 2 garbage bags with trash and debris. Everyone was back home or on their way to do their weekend errands by 10 o'clock. Thanks to everyone who participated.

NPU-D

Bob Fehskens

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fehskens@bellsouth.net

By now, most of you have either seen or heard about things stirring up again around the old Castlegate property and the old envelope factory. Right when the dust seems to settle... here we go again.

Probably the first thing you noticed was the new project rendering sign that went up on Northside Dr. on CORO's 5-acre site. At first glance, it appears that CORO may be using the original Taylor-Mathis plan that BPNA viewed as a favorable mixed use project??? We are re-investigating CORO's intentions and will report the facts as soon as available.

The latest Castlegate story (uncovered by Richard Arnold) has the potential to be a re-run of the Home Depot escapade. Here's another situation that we are carefully investigating to uncover the facts of what is being planned. Selig Enterprises (sound familiar?) has the property under contract and plans to call a BPNA meeting sometime in the next couple of weeks to discuss their ideas and plans for the property. Stay tuned....

CRIME WATCH

Corey Greika

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We've had an interesting month to say the least when it comes to deterring crime in Berkeley Park. As most everyone knows, a gentleman who does yardwork for some of our neighbors was reported to the police and was subsequently arrested when he provided the police officer some contradictory information. Many neighbors have taken sides on this issue, and my position is that anyone seen in the neighborhood who is doing suspicious things should be approached and/or reported to the police. It is then up to that person to defend themselves appropriately. About 6 months ago my air conditioner repair man made a house call when no one was home on a Saturday night or so. He was responding to a request I made, but he did not give me a time when he would be by the house. Well, my neighbor Brett saw the white van in front of the house with none of our cars there and approached him. Even though he knew our names, Brett requested that he come back at another time or else he was going to call the police. My repairman left and rescheduled, making sure I would be home the next time he came by. The only comment he had on the incident was "You have really great neighbors who really look out for you!"

I like that comment, and I hope the gentleman who does yardwork feels the same way, I'm sure he would appreciate a safe neighborhood as he does work for someone in any neighborhood. As always, be careful with your property as we all do yardwork and spring cleaning, and be on the lookout for anyone suspicious so we can keep our neighborhood as safe as possible. Thanks!

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

Brett Marsengill

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Hello neighbors. A couple of quick notes. 3MD development should be moving forward soon on the corner of Tallulah and Antone. The plans have been approved by the neighborhood, the NPU and the city. I understand there is concern as to losing a nice tree but rest assured the City of Atlanta will more than make the developer replace the caliper inches removed. An remember, it's a residential development as opposed to another quick copy or environmental emergency response type

of development. Get ready for the Castlegate ultimate death match II between the narrow visional developers and the ultimate in-town alliance! Stay tuned for more. Also keep an eye out in the next few weeks for initial Berkeley Park Master Plan study. This document will circulate around the neighborhood through your news letters and monthly meetings. The first phase is entitled "Tell me what you like about...." The purpose is to try and discover what issues need to be addressed in the master plan.

E. RIVERS ELEMENTARY

Liz Jacobs

404-350-9000
lizzyj@bigfoot.com

Spring has sprung at E. Rivers! After a restful week of Spring Break, the students and staff are back, and busy as bees!

Did you get a chance to pass by the school on April 4 and witness our annual Fun Run? The entire student body participated in this fun event, many of them wearing distinctive tie dyed blue and yellow Fun Run t-shirts. The mile long race-course took place on our track and school grounds, and ribbons were awarded to the winners in each grade level. We were pleased to have Publix and Harry Norman, Realtors as our race sponsors.

Do you have a child who will be entering E. Rivers' kindergarten for the 2003-2004 school year? Kindergarten Kaleidoscope, a special event for rising kindergartners, will take place on Thursday, April 24. We will make fun crafts, eat snacks, and meet the kindergarten teachers and new friends. The afternoon is designed to make our newest students feel more comfortable about coming to their new school in the fall. Please contact Liz Jacobs at 404-350-9000 to get more information and to receive a special invitation in the mail.

Upcoming Events in May

May 2 - Field Day

May 7 & 9 - Barnes and Noble Benefit Days - Come to the Barnes and Noble at The Peach Shopping Center and make a purchase to benefit your neighborhood school! Barnes and Noble is generously donating a portion of their profits to our school during these two days. All you have to do is look for our E. Rivers volunteers and get a special coupon to accompany your purchase - no cost to you and lots of benefits for the school!

May 15 - Family Night Picnic

May 23 - Last Day of School

Tours of the school are available upon request. Please contact Liz Jacobs for more information about E. Rivers at 404-350-9000 or lizzyj@bigfoot.com. Our website is also a great source of information: www.erivers-elem.org.

PIKE FAMILY NURSERIES

Cindy Underwood

(770) 921-1022 ext.131

cunderwood@pikenursery.com



April Gardening Tips from Pike Family Nurseries

Spring is here! The enjoyable season before the Atlanta summer heat strikes us. We hope for warm & sunny weekends so we can get out and play in the dirt. It's prime time in the garden with lots of different things to do. Here are a few basics to keep in mind:

- Daylight Savings Time begins April 6th...giving us longer days to enjoy the garden!

- Fertilize Bermuda, St. Augustine and Zoysia grasses with Atlanta Turf Special Lawn Fertilizer when the grass is at least 50% green. Last chance to fertilize Fescue for the season. Wait until September to fertilize again.

- Plant late-summer blooming bulbs in mid-April. Try Dahlia, Gladiolus, Dutch Iris, Canna or Elephant's Ear. Be sure to water your actively growing bulbs once a week unless you get one inch or more of rain.

- Remove faded flowers from Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinths - let the foliage die naturally.

- Repot houseplants that are too big for their containers. Now that the days are getting longer with more hours of sunshine, your houseplants need to be watered more frequently.

- The best time to divide perennials & ornamental grasses is in the Spring. Be sure each division has new shoots and roots before you replant it and space them to allow enough room for growth.

- Roses make great container plants for the patio. Use a 24-inch or larger pot, unless you choose miniature rose plants, and place them in the sunniest spot possible. Check soil moisture everyday.

- Plant shrubs such as Rhododendrons, Viburnums, Azaleas and Spiraea for late spring color.

- Established shrubs can be fertilized with a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 or 16-4-8. Follow label directions and remember too little is better than too much.

- Plant warm season vegetables such as Tomato, Eggplant, Pepper or Squash.

- Plant summer annuals now - try Wave Petunias, Geraniums and Marigolds for the sunny spots and Coleus, Impatiens and Begonias for the shady spots.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Play Day at Underwood Methodist Church Playground, Saturday, May 3, 2003 from 10:am to 12:pm. UMC is located on the corner of Holmes St & Howell Mill Rd. Come meet other mothers and children that live in Berkeley Park. Any questions, please call Tawn Chi @ 404-351-8288.

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For every home that I sell in Berkeley Park, as either a Listing or Buyer's Agent, I will donate \$250 to the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association.

In addition, when any Berkeley Park resident refers family, friends or co-workers to me for their real estate needs, I will donate \$250 after closing to the Neighborhood Association in the homeowner's name.



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