



# HAWTHORNE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter      Fall / October 2004

Distribution: 1400+

**Hawthorne Civic Assn**  
2677 Flair Knoll Drive  
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**Sandy McKittrick**  
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*Traffic Safety*

**Debbie Rupp**.... 7/496-1540

**Next board meeting: Nov 3**

**Board Meeting dates:**

1st Wednesdays, 7:30 pm,  
odd-numbered months.

Call the president to  
attend/observe or to  
propose agenda items.

**2004 Dues:** \$20/address

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Tuesday, October 19, 7-9 p

Shallowford Presbyterian Church, Heritage Hall

**Please note the new location !**

7-8p: **BUSINESS MEETING:** Reports from this year's board. Election of 2004-05 board. Discussion & vote on bylaws changes. Look inside this newsletter for information on proposed bylaws changes and those currently standing for election to the board.

8-9p: **DISCUSSION: HAWTHORNE IN 2015. What do we want our neighborhood to be like and how do we get there?**

We plan this to be more of a neighborhood discussion than a formal presentation, but are expecting

- **Kathie Gannon**, county planning commission member and superdistrict 6 commissioner-elect;
- **Barton McMillan**, developer and past HCA board member;
- **John Stock**, past president of Northlake Community Alliance;
- **Ken Bettin**, local owner/operator of ChocoLaté Coffee;
- Maybe one or two others, TBA

to join us and provide some varied perspectives on current conditions and on making positive changes.



The goal is to articulate a shared vision of the ideal Hawthorne neighborhood of 2015, enabling the civic association to take positive steps toward that vision while dealing with the obstacles.

Attendees should be prepared to fill-in the blanks in a survey:

- 1) When another Atlanta-area resident asks me where I live, I say <location>.
- 2) For business, shopping, church, entertainment, I go to <these locations> <daily/weekly/monthly>.

## MARY & SCOTT GREENSPACE

*Beth Nathan*

Mary & Scott is the park name that was negotiated in the sale of what we've been calling the Armstrong greenspace on Briarcliff.

A public charrette (design discussion) was held on August 14 as anticipated in HCA's summer newsletter. Many thanks to Shallowford Presbyterian for hosting the meeting. The charrette included a design process overview, a site tour, neighbors "voting" for desired uses and groups of neighbors sketching & presenting potential park designs. A new usage idea came from some young men who want a public Frisbee-golf course. Much "active" recreation, suitable for typical parks, is incompatible with the goals of the greenspace program and with the restrictions of its funding. As expected, the issues of park access proved the most contentious, especially the question of entrance off the two ends of Overlook Drive. If public entrances are located there, can they be designed so that they attract only local



pedestrians?

An official summary and comment form, along with a map of the site and the site analysis, are posted (in PDF format) on the DeKalb Parks website under "News":

<http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/parks/news.htm>

Go to the pull-down menu and select "Armstrong Property - Mary and Scott Park."

The meeting closed with a call for further comments to be directly submitted and the announcement that the next public meeting would present an initial design for comment, probably in late September.

Recently the parks department was waiting for county traffic engineering to determine whether extensive road work along Briarcliff and driveway relocation (read: expensive and causing a major design impact) might be required. That does NOT now appear to be the case, but getting traffic recommendations has delayed the scheduling of the **next public meeting**, which is now likely to be held **between mid-October and mid-November**. Watch for announcements via e-mail (see subscription info on page 4) and signs in the neighborhood.

### **NEXT GREENSPACE WORKDAY: Sat., October 30, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Join Connie Gray and a group of neighborhood volunteers to work on English ivy control or just to get a better sense of the site. Bring hand tools suitable for cutting small to 2" stems. Meet at the site's Briarcliff driveway gate, just north of and across from Briarcliff Methodist church. Dress appropriately for the work & the hazards (rough terrain, poison ivy, mosquitoes, etc).

### **CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS**

I have a great deal of information about hand and chemical control of exotic invasive plants (English ivy, golden bamboo, kudzu, etc) from a September 25 daylong workshop. I'd be happy to share with those who are interested.

Is anyone interested in working together on a **neighborhood-wide kudzu control project?**

## PDK REPORT -- IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AT PDK AIRPORT

*Larry Foster*

The past several months have seen both good news and bad news for citizens who are concerned about controlling PDK Airport expansion and noise. On the positive side, during just four days prior to the special called meeting of the DeKalb County Commissioners on August 3, 2004, more than 500 individuals wrote asking the Commissioners to vote to limit plans for a major taxiway reconstruction project so that fewer oversized jets would be able to use the airport each year.

In addition, Commissioner Judy Yates, who strongly supported these citizen efforts to limit the taxiway reconstruction plans, also arranged for two representatives from Williams Aviation consultants in California (who had developed alternative flight path proposals to try to help alleviate PDK noise over the community), to spend the better part of two days meeting with the Commissioners, Airport administrators and engineers, and concerned citizens about these issues prior to August 3.

The results of these efforts, regrettably, were mixed. The Commissioners voted on August 3 to approve the more expansive taxiway engineering plans, essentially as originally proposed, after the Williams consultants indicated that those proposed plans did technically meet the outer limits of the 75,000 lb. weight limit design that the Commission had mandated a year earlier on August 26, 2003 (although the alternative proposal that Commissioner Yates's had worked out with airport engineers was designed to cut by about two-thirds the number of 75,000 lb. planes that could use the airport each year without prematurely degrading the pavement).

The Williams consultants also indicated that due to FAA policy changes announced within the preceding several months, the construction design to which an airport has been built can no longer be used to restrict the use of its facilities by much larger planes. Instead, the only way that an airport can now restrict its use by much larger aircraft (unless the FAA once again changes its mind) is by establishing clear policies for use of the airport, with clear sanctions for violations--such as setting up a landing fee structure based on weight. Since DeKalb County, which owns and operates PDK Airport, has never adopted such overall County policies for the airport's use, and since PDK Airport currently has no landing fees at all, such an achievement will require substantial and continuing political pressure by the public.

**Why is all this important?** Although DeKalb County and PDK Airport have adamantly refused to release to the public the most basic information about the numbers of different types of aircraft using PDK Airport each year (information to which the public is entitled under the Georgia Open Records Act and which is routinely made available by other airports, even on-line), partial records available to aircraft consultants indicate an approximately ten-fold increase in the number of jets using PDK each year during the past decade. With the on-going infrastructure improvements that are also now in progress, the prospects are greatly increased that PDK Airport could be transformed into a major commercial airport ("Hartsfield North") right in the midst of heavily settled residential areas, and with all the noise disruption, pollution, and loss of residential property values which that would cause for all of us.

The best opportunity to avoid such a disastrous outcome now rests with the critically important Georgia Open Records Lawsuit that was filed on May 14, 2004. That lawsuit, spearheaded by the able attorney Brandon Horsnby, expects the PDK flight records, when released, "to show that DeKalb County and its employees are engaged in ongoing misconduct designed to conceal the unlawful introduction of oversized aircraft into [PDK], circumvent federal environmental laws, and evade ad valorem taxation of aircraft based at [PDK]." (For the complete text of the Lawsuit filing, as well as other articles and information about the Open Records Lawsuit, please see: [www.pdkwatch.org](http://www.pdkwatch.org))

Once that lawsuit is successful, DeKalb County citizens will be able to take the further steps necessary to require that the County enforce the assurances that it made to the FAA and to the public in 1987 that it would not allow aircraft weighing more than 66,000 pounds to use PDK Airport in the future. DeKalb County and the FAA made those assurances in order to avoid the federal requirement that it conduct a stringent Environmental Impact Study before making a 1,000-foot runway extension.

Fortunately, the Open Records Lawsuit is going very well. Extremely revealing depositions have already been given by PDK Airport Director Lee Rimmel and other county employees. Judge Castellani has ruled strongly in favor of the plaintiffs's contention that the case must be heard in full and against the absurd claim of Vernon Jones's lawyers that he should not have to testify because he knew nothing about what has been going on at PDK Airport during his watch as DeKalb Chief Executive Officer.

To be carried through to eventual success, however, this vital PDK Open Records Lawsuit must have our

strong financial backing. Viewing the success of the case as an investment in preserving my own property values and quality of life in this neighborhood, I have already given an unprecedented \$1,000 to support the lawsuit this year. The Board of the Hawthorne Civic Association, similarly recognizing the critical importance of this case, has also made an unprecedented, one-time-only donation of \$1,000 this year.

The status and importance of the PDK Open Records Lawsuit will be discussed at the Hawthorne Civic Association's annual meeting on October 19. In the meantime, those who can are strongly encouraged to contribute \$100--or more if you can--as an investment in your property values and quality of life in this community. Contributions (which are not tax deductible, in order to preserve the confidentiality of your contributions) should be made out to: F.O.R. DeKalb, Inc., P.O. Box 29604, Atlanta, GA 30359-0604. For more information, please contact Evelyn Brethour with F.O.R. DeKalb, Inc., at fordekalb@aol.com or 404-728-0772.

## **Attention Parents of children ages 0 – 5 years: Positively Hawthorne invites you to participate in our annual Membership Drive!**

Positively Hawthorne is a PTA sponsored group whose aim is to increase communication between families in our school district and to inform parents of young children about Hawthorne Elementary School.



Join Positively Hawthorne (PH) to learn about the benefits and activities of our Communication and Technology Theme School. Receive select information regarding special school events of interest to our neighborhood families. Attend some of the yearly PH activities such as:

Winter: Parent Information Meeting

Spring: Kindergarten Round-Up

Summer: Start to School Party

To join Positively Hawthorne or for more information, please contact either  
Angela Maki at 404/248-0224 or Leslie Stigaard at [lstigaard@comcast.net](mailto:lstigaard@comcast.net)

*From Angela Maki*

## **OPT-IN E-COMMUNICATION**

In the HCA Winter and Spring newsletters 2004, a membership form asked whether the respondent would like to be included on e-mail lists for one or more of several topics. Those e-lists plus another are operational, though the Action list has been relatively quiet. If you aren't already a subscriber and would like to be included, please e-mail your subscription request to [HCA@gazebosoftware.com](mailto:HCA@gazebosoftware.com) specifying which e-list(s) you're interested in.

- Neighborhood Watch crime alerts
- Calls for Action, e.g. zoning hearings, letter-writing to commissioners, etc.
- General Neighborhood News, e.g. meetings scheduled, commission actions, etc.
- Mary & Scott greenspace (what we've been calling Armstrong greenspace)
- Other: Specific issue discussion about \_\_\_\_\_

We hope to have a basic HCA website operational by the time of Annual Meeting.

**Please join HCA if you aren't currently a paid member; 2004 dues are \$20. The 2005 dues rate will be set at the first board meeting following annual meeting.**

## ANNUAL MEETING: PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Strike-throughs indicate existing wording to be deleted. Underlines indicate new wording to be added. Rationale, in italics, provides the thoughts on why this change is desirable.

**Item 1** Throughout the bylaws, change “Dekalb” to “DeKalb” and make other non-substantive grammatical corrections, e.g. it’s to its, therefor to therefore, as appropriate.

*Rationale: General clean-up*

**Item 2** Article II, Section 2: Certificates as to membership in the corporation are not required, but a roll of members shall be maintained by the Secretary and/or Treasurer or a board designee and approved by the Board of Directors.

*Rationale: Another board member or an off-board person may have more time and skills to do this job. This will vary board to board.*

**Item 3** Article VI: Fiscal Year The fiscal year of the corporation shall be ~~determined by the Board of Directors~~ the calendar year.

*Rationale: There has been a question of whether to report finances annual meeting to annual meeting or on a calendar basis. Article VII, Section 1 says “Membership dues for the following calendar year shall be determined by the Board of Directors at their first meeting immediately after the annual meeting in September.”, implying that the calendar year is the dues year. Therefore, it makes sense to make the calendar year the fiscal year.*

**Item 4** Article VII: Membership

Membership in the Hawthorne Civic Association, Inc. may include all residents and owners of property ~~currently residing~~ within the Hawthorne Elementary School district ~~as of July 1989 and such other residents on bordering streets as may request inclusion.~~ Membership shall be subject to the following provisions:

*Rationale: Allows non-resident owners to be members.*

*Rationale: Allows for the inclusion of occasional nearby residents who ask to become members, e.g. the far side of Cravey Drive, which is not in the Hawthorne school district.*

**Item 5** Articles IX: ~~Permanent Committees.~~ The Board of Directors shall appoint annually, at its its first meeting, ~~person's~~ persons to chair ~~each of the following committees: Neighborhood Watch, Airport, Zoning and Newsletter~~ such committees as are necessary for the upcoming year. Each committee chair may seek other members to serve with him or her and shall be required to report at each meeting of the Board of Directors, on the activities of the committee. Any and all action taken by any committee member in the name of the Hawthorne Civic Association shall be taken only with approval of the President and the Board of Directors.

*Rationale: Drop the requirement that certain standing committees be created. The Neighborhood Watch chair has been difficult to fill and Newsletter publication can be taken on by someone on or off board without carrying that title.*

**Item 6** Article X: ~~Other Committees—~~

~~The Board of Directors may establish committees to work on special problems of neighborhood interest when members have expressed such interest. Traffic lights and Thriftown Shopping Center are examples of two such interests. The Directors may appoint such other committees as may be determined by them to be desirable, such as an Audit Committee, and a Membership Committee, all such committees to report to and be responsible to the Board of Directors.~~

*Rationale: At a minimum, it needs updating by elimination of the examples, which reflect major issues at the time the bylaws were written. If the proposed Article IX is accepted, then this Article becomes unnecessary. All subsequent articles would be renumbered.*

**Item 7** Article IV, Section 6. ~~The majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.~~ At board meetings, quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of the directors present, provided that at least 3 directors are present and that adequate prior notice of the meeting was provided. In no event shall expenditures of greater than \$500 be authorized without the presence of a simple majority of the board.

*Rationale: The board regularly meets only six times a year, so being able to transact business at every meeting is important. Some decisions cannot realistically be postponed until a later meeting and special meetings are hard to schedule. The bylaws call for the board to be between 3 and 12 people, so 3 is a logical minimum for the transaction of business. Having quorum was only a problem once in recent memory.*

## ANNUAL MEETING: Candidates for Election to the HCA Board

Name	Residence	Issues of particular interest	Life experience (brief, applicable)
June Buechner	Briarmoor Manor for 32 years	(generalist)	Hawthorne precinct poll manager for many years. Grandmother of 16. Master gardener since 1979.
Ralph Carl	Canna Ridge	Schools/Kids	Hawthorne Elem. School Advisory Council since 2001. Hawthorne PTA Rep. to the Emory LaVista Parent Council - third year. Past board member and chair of Shallowford Presbyterian Preschool.
Larry Foster	Echo Lake area since 1986	PDK	American historian at Georgia Tech. Three children who attended Hawthorne. President of HCA 1994-2003.
Michael Gross	Flair Forest since 1999	(generalist)	Neighborhood native. Property management professional.
David Markus	Briarmoor Manor since 1992	Social programming. Liaison to Northlake Community Alliance.	Attorney specializing in domestic relations and criminal law. Certified mediator, domestic mediator, arbitrator, and neutral case evaluator.
Beth Nathan	Flair Forest since 1999	Systems: political, information, administrative, and eco-systems.	Past president & past executive director of the League of Women Voters of Georgia. Database programmer, website designer, small business owner.
Betty Phillips	Flair Forest since 1969	Neighborhood integrity & value; zoning.	HCA founding member. Retired Certified Public Accountant. Community Council member.
Gary Powell	Sherbrooke Forest since 1992	(generalist)	Recovering attorney. Publisher of business-to-business periodicals for the visual communication industry.
Rodney Zell	Evergreen Hills for 5 years	(generalist)	Neighborhood native. Attorney specializing in appeals and habeas corpus. Recent candidate for judge.

# GENERAL & RUNOFF ELECTIONS, fall 2004

*Beth Nathan*

The Hawthorne Civic Association area includes voters in 5 precincts. From the maps, it appears that each precinct's state and/or county district assignments differ slightly from all the others. Your registration card is a good place to confirm your specific districts. Or you can look up your districts on the DeKalb County Elections & Registration website at <https://dklbweb.dekalbga.org/voter/> under "poll locator".

Precinct (voting location)	State Senate	State House	Commission	Bd Education
Henderson Mill	40	82	1 & 7	1 & 8
Heritage	41	82	2 & 6	4 & 8
Hawthorne	40	82	2 & 6	1 & 8
Lakeside	41	82	2 & 7	4 & 8
Briarlake	41	82	2 & 7	4 & 8

**October 12 runoff for Commission SuperDistrict 7.** (replacing Lou Walker).

Runoff Candidates: Tom Bowen, Connie Stokes

## Upcoming General Election (offices & candidates listed in ballot order)

### VOTING:

ABSENTEE VOTING started September 20. Absentee ballot request form available at <https://dklbweb.dekalbga.org/voter/>

ADVANCE VOTING has proved so popular that it is being expanded to four locations: MAIN: 4380 Memorial Drive (VR&E office); NORTH: Brook Run, 4770 North Peachtree Rd in Dunwoody;

CENTRAL: Courthouse Annex, #B170, 556 N. McDonough St in Decatur; SOUTH: South DeKalb Police Precinct, 2853 Candler Road in Decatur. You can advance vote 7am-7pm, October 25-29.

REGULAR PRECINCTS will be open Tuesday, November 2, 7am-7pm.

### BALLOT:

U.S. President / Vice President: Bush / Cheney (R); Kerry / Edwards (D); Badnarik / Campagna (L)

U.S. Senate (Miller seat): Isakson (R); Majette (D); Buckley (L)

Public Service Commission, District 2 - Eastern: Baker (R); Barber (D); Hudnall (L)

U.S. Representative (Congress), District 4: Davis (R); McKinney (D)

State Senate, District 40: Weber (R); Garnitz (D)

State Senate, District 41: Burton (R); Henson (D)

State House, District 82: Jennings (R); Levitas (D)

District Attorney, Stone Mountain Circuit: Brickman (R); Keyes (D)

Clerk of Superior Court: Carter (D)

Sheriff: Brown (D)

Tax Commissioner: Scott (D)

Chief Magistrate: Bethel (D)

CEO (Chief Executive Officer): Jones (D)

County Commissioner, District 1: Boyer (R); Spralling (D)

County Commissioner, District 6: Gannon (D)

Judge, Court of Appeals: Bernes; Mead; Sheffield

Constitutional Amendment #1: To define marriage as the union of man and woman (Senate Resolution No. 595).

*Shall the Constitution be amended so as to provide that this state shall recognize as marriage only the union of man and woman?*

Constitutional Amendment #2: To provide the Supreme Court jurisdiction to answer questions of law from federal courts.

*Shall the Constitution be amended so as to provide that the Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction and authority to answer questions of law from any state appellate or federal district or appellate court?*



# HAWTHORNE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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### Inside this newsletter ....

Annual Meeting .....	1
Greenspace .....	2
PDK .....	3
Positively Hawthorne.....	4
E-Communications .....	4
Proposed Bylaws .....	5
HCA Board Candidates.....	6
Fall Elections.....	7
Reminders & Calendar.....	8

### Reminders

**DOGS** should be on a leash when they're not otherwise confined. We have a report of a neighbor and her dog being attacked twice by loose animals. Being on a leash protects everybody including the animal itself; a friendly loose dog approaching an aggressive leashed dog is not good either. Always pick up after your dog.

HOLIDAY SEASON is also a season to be **EXTRA WATCHFUL** for suspicious people in the neighborhood, "shopping" for extra funds for their holiday purchases. Call 911 if you see something suspicious. When you're out holiday shopping, put your packages out of sight in your vehicle and stay alert to your surroundings.

### FALL CALENDAR



Oct 12	Runoff election, Commission District 7
Oct 19	<b>HCA Annual Meeting</b> , 7-9 pm, new location.
Oct 30	Greenspace cleanup workday, 9:30 am -12:30 pm.
Oct	Interchange cleanup/plantings workday.
Oct / Nov	Public discussion, greenspace 1 <sup>st</sup> draft design.
Nov 2	General Election. (Runoff Nov 23, if needed).
Nov 3	First meeting of 2004-05 board .. <i>probable date.</i>