



HAWTHORNE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Spring / April 2005

Distribution: 1400+

Hawthorne Civic Assn
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Atlanta, GA 30345

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PDK Airport

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Zoning; Dues

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Ralph Carl..... 7/723-1024
Schools

Michael Gross . 4/636-7887
Neighborhood Watch

Gary Powell 4/633-0189

Rodney Zell 7/934-1824
Future Visioning

Off-Board:

Linda Dahlke *membership list*
Debra Staton *interchange garden*

Next board meeting: May 4

Board Meeting dates:

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

Call Beth to attend/observe
or to propose agenda items.

2005 Dues: \$20/address

“Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is most important that you do it.” -- Gandhi

Probably sometime during our lives most of us have tried to do something big and learned that it wasn't so easy. We learned to do what we can. Often it doesn't seem like much, but every little thing put together is a big thing. Each individual's actions and attitudes make a difference to the greater whole, whether the project is a nationwide, county, neighborhood or personal change.

In spring my thoughts turn to gardening. Seeing a house landscaped with curb appeal, I smile, then think about what improvements I could be making. One person's yardwork could start a chain reaction.

Other types of spring cleaning may generate a pile of things for disposal. Most of us know that The Salvation Army, Goodwill, and the Kidney Foundation accept donations of goods. Some other non-profits accepting donations of goods include:

- Metro Atlanta Furniture Bank accepts beds, furniture, linens, cookware & household items for needy families, 404/355-8530.
- Atlanta Community ToolBank accepts tools and its Home Repair Program (helping the elderly & poor) construction-oriented surplus materials. 404/880-0054.
- The City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs 'Materials for the Arts' Program (404/853-3272) accepts things that artists can use.

A garage sale or a consignment shop could help eliminate accumulated excess. You might donate items to a local charitable garage sale (see page 6) or donate excess plants to the interchange beautification project (see page 7).

DeKalb County will begin an annual voluntary fee-based recycling program later this year with Wednesday pickups. Look for info this summer. You can find information about other ways to recycle at www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/recycling/options.html. Call Beth Nathan if you've got a stack of plant pots, flats or mini-blinds that the Georgia Native Plant Society can use in its annual plant sale in the spring. Are there other neighbors who collect common throw-aways?

There are a lot of alternatives to stacking it up in your carport, garage or basement. Think creatively!

And think neighborly ... take a break from your yardwork and say hi to your neighbors as we all enjoy these beautiful spring days.

Beth Nathan

KaBOOM!



A big thanks to everyone who helped make the new Hawthorne playground and general spruce-up a reality! Build Day was a great day in every way. The weather was beautiful, the volunteers were enthusiastic, and the work was rewarding--with a big pay-off at the end of the day. If you missed it, or if you weren't there for the afternoon celebration, be sure to take a walk around the school some time soon and notice

- the newly repainted blacktop (almost done)
- the new wooden planter benches and shade arbors near each playground (also almost done)
- the two outdoor classrooms (one new and one completely refurbished)
- the information stands for students' use along the nature trail
- the bulletin board at the back entrance to the nature trail
- the landscaping all around the campus
- the hopscotch and ABC stepping stones (not yet placed, but trenches have been dug)
- the "Bloom Where You're Planted" mural painted by the children
- the hornets on the front sidewalk (also a children's project)
- the outdoor trash cans spruced up with new paint
- the 6 child-sized picnic tables in the courtyard
- AND the brand new, amazing, really cool playground in back of the school!

The children are really enjoying the facilities.

Special thanks to all the neighbors who contributed financially and in so many other ways. It's amazing at the way so many people have stepped up to the plate and done what was needed to make this collective "home run" possible! A total of \$18,000 was collected. Some of the additional money was used for KaBOOM-related projects such as landscaping around the campus, purchasing additional materials used on Build Day and on-going follow-up. Some money is being held in reserve for long-term playground maintenance, purchase of a playground sign, and constructing a wheelchair ramp connecting the play structure to the existing sidewalk if the district is unable to do that. For more info, visit KaBOOM's web site at www.kaboom.org; click on "visit the gallery" for story and more pictures of Hawthorne's build (listed as Hawthorne Academy). Also watch for news about our build on CNN's *Storyline*, scheduled to air some time in May.

Hawthorne Elementary held a **Realtors' Open House** on March 23rd. Ms. Jennifer Pittman, the new principal, gave a presentation on test scores, student diversity and programs being offered. Joyce Ray of Century 21, ChocoLaté Coffee, and Publix at Shallowford Exchange for provided food and beverages. Participating realtors included: From Century 21: Conner Allred; Mickey Carlton. From Keller Williams: Amanda Fraser; Annette Lichtenstein; Janet Saxon. From NewMax: Leah Chew. From Re/MAX: Glenda Alexander; Jan Arias; Jon Carr; Ron Coshatt; Sean Dammann; Barbara Dillon; Clark Dubin; Penny Halkos; Jana Hutchinson; Gretchen Jennings; Dee McMahan; Jane Meeks; Jeanne Mills; Deborah Millson; Costa Panos' wife, Vickie; Marcy Shugarman; Chuck Smith; Woody Miller; Doris Winecoff

OPEN DEKALB, INC., TO SUPPORT PDK AIRPORT LAWSUIT *Larry Foster*

More than 150 citizens, press representatives, and political leaders attended the community meeting on March 3 about PDK Airport and Open Records concerns. The meeting began by reporting on the recent successes of the PDK Open Records Lawsuit. Phase 1 of that suit, filed in May 2004, seeks to require DeKalb County and PDK Airport, which is owned and operated by the County, to release the records it holds about the numbers of different types of planes using PDK Airport to the public.

Before initiating the suit, more than 100 formal requests had been made in vain by citizens, under the Georgia Open Records Act, for public access to those records. Similar records are routinely made available to the public at many other airports nationwide (even on-line). Once released, the records are expected to show that more than 1,000 oversized, disruptive jets each year illegally violate DeKalb County's 66,000 lb. weight limit on aircraft using PDK Airport.

In addition, the suit argues that millions of dollars per year in fees that are required to be paid to the County for planes based at PDK Airport remain uncollected each year. Those millions of dollars in fees would go into the County's general fund, helping to provide tax relief for DeKalb County's already over-taxed citizens.

Based on the progress of the PDK Open Records Lawsuit thus far, the legal team expects to win Phase 1 of the Open Records Lawsuit by early summer 2005. Then comes Phase 2- the most critical and expensive part of the suit--which is essential if we are to secure permanent relief from PDK noise and pollution.

Using the evidence of County malfeasance gained in first phase of the suit, Phase 2 will seek to secure binding legal action REQUIRING DeKalb County and PDK Airport to ENFORCE the binding commitment that they made to the FAA, the 11th Circuit Court, and the public in 1987. The County then promised--in order to avoid having to do a federally mandated Environmental Impact Study before extending the main PDK Airport runway 1,000 feet--that there would be no negative environmental impact due to the runway extension because it would require that aircraft using PDK Airport in the future to be limited to a maximum 66,000 lb. take-off weight! This commitment is now routinely and flagrantly being violated daily at PDK Airport.

Without your SUBSTANTIAL, ongoing financial support, the vital PDK Open Records Lawsuit to protect our home values, quality of life, and tax equity cannot be sustained and won. Unless the suit is sustained, the number of oversized, noisy

jets will greatly increase in the future, and PDK Airport is destined to become, in fact if not in name, "HARTSFIELD NORTH," a mere two miles from most of our homes.

How much is your home worth to you? How much are your neighbors' homes worth to them? What would it mean to have three times the level of noise and disruption you may be currently experiencing if PDK Airport continues to encourage ever-increasing numbers of oversized jets to use its facilities?

In order to provide the long-term funding that is essential to win this suit, citizen volunteers are working to develop new and more effective on-going fund-raising procedures like those used in the multi-decade Presidential Parkway fight. Toward this end, a new non-profit organization, Open DeKalb, Inc., was legally incorporated on February 18. It has now replaced F.O.R. [For Our Rights in] DeKalb, Inc., as the fundraising arm of the PDK Open Records lawsuit.

As a non-profit corporation, Open DeKalb, Inc., is now applying to the IRS for tax-exempt status, which should enable donors to deduct contributions to Open DeKalb, Inc., as they would to any other tax-exempt organization. Whether or not this status has been approved will be known before the end of the 2005. All contributors to Open DeKalb, Inc., will be informed when and if tax-exempt status has been achieved.

Contributions to support of the PDK Open Records Lawsuit should therefore be directed now and in the future to **Open DeKalb, Inc., P.O. Box 190895, Atlanta, GA 31119**. A secure, on-line donation can also be made at www.opendekalb.org. Open DeKalb, Inc., can be contacted via opendekalb@bellsouth.net or 404-290-5120. Please give as generously as you can, whether it be \$100, \$500, \$1000, or more to protect your home investment and your quality of life in this community. Also let us know if you are aware of people who might be able to make an even more substantial contribution to this cause and who we might be able to approach.

Please also join us in volunteering your time and skills: To find out how you can help, contact Nikki Vandergrinten, Open DeKalb Volunteer Coordinator, at 404-633 3952 or by email at NikNokvdg@joimail.com, or Norma Herd, PDK Watch Coordinator at 404-633 5824 or by e-mail at npherd1@hotmail.com. I will also be happy to answer any questions I can or direct you to those who can provide you with answers, if you call me at work at 404 894-6845 or e-mail me at larry.foster@hts.gatech.edu.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL – ZONING WATCHDOGS

Betty Phillips

In each zoning cycle, Community Council members are the first group to review all the types of zoning changes that may impact our neighborhood, receiving a list of accepted applications and proposed amendments from the DeKalb Planning Department which conducts the Community Council meetings.

Recommendations made by Community Council are then included in the information packet of each application as it proceeds on to the Planning Commission and finally to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners. Items on the Community Council agenda may include amendments to the official zoning maps, text amendments to ordinances of the Code of DeKalb County, changes in the comprehensive land use maps and the special land use permits (S.L.U.P.) within the existing zoning classifications.

There are 5 separate Community Councils for Commission districts 1 through 5, with superdistricts 6 and 7 overlaying more than one Council. Council members are volunteers who have requested and received a Community Council appointment from their district or superdistrict commissioner to provide a “neighborhood voice” about proposed zoning changes within their particular district. Each member is expected to become knowledgeable about the DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance, to visit the sites indicated on applications and to vote (approve, deny, abstain, defer for a full cycle) on the merits of each application. Council members may recommend conditions to be added and can propose changes.

Recommendations, vote counts and comments are recorded by the Planning Department and included in the application’s information packet.

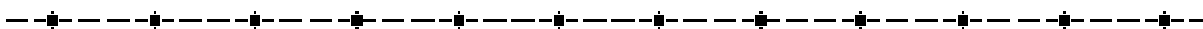
Community Council members are “watchdogs” for the community. After receiving advance notification of zoning change requests, members can inform and alert those persons who may in

some way be affected and afford them an opportunity to take action, whether that be supporting an application, adding conditions to the requested zoning to insure against harm to the neighborhood, working with the developer to revise site plans, deferring an application until the developer and affected property owners can discuss it, or mounting a campaign to obtain a denial.

We are opposing a SLUP application from Light International Ministries which would allow for a transitional housing facility for children of various ages to be located in the Tara Trail Apartments (RM-75 district) on the I-85 access road. Four or five quad apartment buildings would house approximately 100 children who have problems and adults who would monitor them. **This item is on the Board of Commissioners Zoning Meeting agenda for April 28 (Maloof Auditorium, 6:30 pm). BE THERE!**

Each Community Council meets monthly for approximately 2 hours at a nearby location. These are not “public meetings” but interested persons can attend and council members can allow their input if it is deemed helpful. This is often the place where neighbors and the applicant can begin a relationship. Council members also frequently attend meetings of the Planning Commission, Board of Commissioners, and other county meetings. Betty Phillips and Jim Holmes currently represent our neighborhood on the District 2 Community Council.

There is a real feeling of personal satisfaction when your effort produces a better zoning outcome and you know you have made a lasting difference. Calling the potential “watchdogs” of our neighborhood: **Step forward and get involved with Community Council.** Contact Betty Phillips, at 404-634-6498.

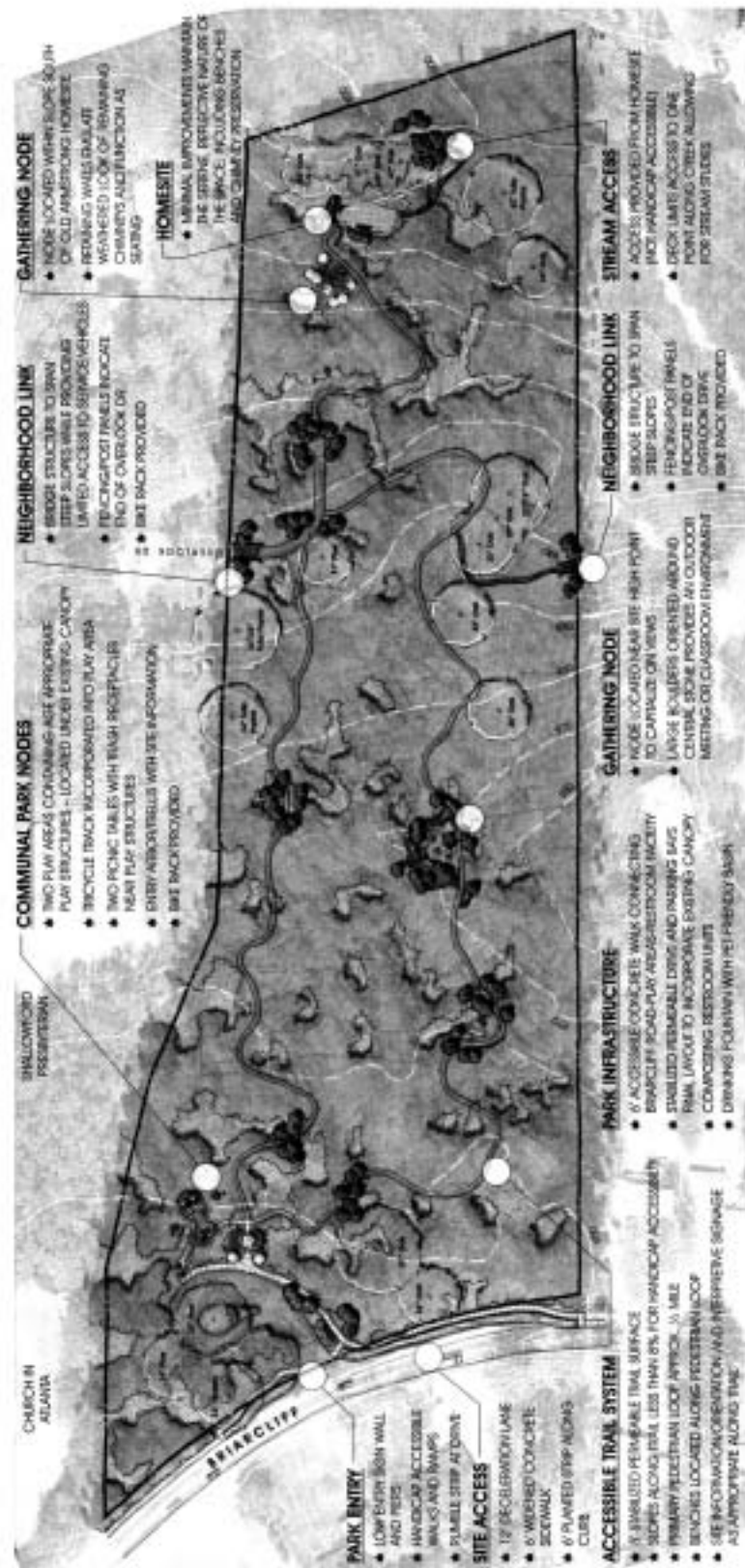


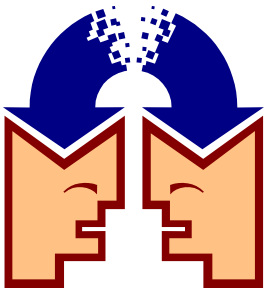
HOUSE FOR SALE?

If you're selling your home in the Hawthorne area, please consider setting out copies of the HCA Newsletter for potential residents to take to learn about our neighborhood. Contact Beth Nathan or Betty Phillips.

On February 8, the public had a chance to see a nearly final draft of the master and generally liked it. It was then approved by DeKalb Parks & Recreation and by the County Commission, with a few modifications ... bike racks added, fitness stations deleted, and the name was changed to **Mary Scott Nature Preserve**. The public had suggested “nature preserve” might be more in keeping with the design plan than just “park”. The master plan locates the major features and clearly defines the intended character and general uses of the property; small changes may be made to the plan over time. Most of the nature preserve improvements, e.g. parking area, trails, signage, will occur within the next year and hopefully much of it by this fall. There's a volunteer workday tentatively scheduled for May 7; Connie Gray will be sending out more information as that time approaches. If you're not on her mailing list and wish to be, contact her at cpgray@co.dekalb.ga.us or 404-501-9452. When the plan gets detailed enough to include adding specific plants in specific locations, I hope to be able to lead some of you on a native plant rescue or two to provide some of the plant materials for the park at just the cost of our volunteer energy.

Beth Nathan





COMMUNITY INFO EXCHANGE

The Hoe and Grow Garden Club
(Sherbrooke Drive to Raintree Road)
Annual

Neighborhood Garage Sale

Saturday, May 14th

All proceeds from the sale are used to beautify neighborhood entrances), support a homeless shelter and provide mailbox decorations for the holidays.

Please **consider donating** items such as housewares, tools, gardening materials, toys, linens, books, jewelry, small appliances, sporting and exercise equipment, furniture, electronics (in working order), clothes, plants, etc. Also, large pricey items (major appliances, furniture, lawn mower, etc.) may be submitted on a 70/30 (consignor/club) consignment basis.

Questions? Call Billie Sherrod at 404-633-9773 or Kate Anderson at 404-327-9669.

Come browse through the treasures on sale day – you may find just what you have been looking for! Thank you for your support of this neighborhood activity!

Youth Swim Team

The **Briarmoor Manor Sharks** are "the most improved swim team that has the most fun!" The Sharks are accepting registration for new swimmers, ages 4-18. Practice begins May 9; first meet is May 31. **Come join us!!** Call Joell Rickman at 404-634-5822 for more information.

DeKalb Future Funding

The report of the Future Funding Commission will be posted at www.dekalbpolitics.org

July 4th Neighborhood Parade

Each year, the Briarmoor Manor Recreation Club sponsors a neighborhood Fourth of July parade. Please make plans to join us for this wonderful family tradition as we march "from the school to the pool!" Decorate bikes and scooters at home, then meet at Hawthorne Elementary at 11:00 on Monday, July 4th. Parade watchers gather along Caladium Drive, sip ice-cold lemonade with friends under the shade trees and watch all of the action. There will be a red, white and blue cool treat waiting for all when the parade arrives at the pool! Contact John Leonard – 678-406-9675.

Safety In Mind

- ❖ *Mailbox flags invite thieves. When you raise the flag on your mailbox, you may also alert thieves that personal information and/or checks are there for the taking. It's happened in our neighborhood .. with thieves using chemicals to erase the ink on checks and write in what they please. Instead of raising the red flag, take your mail to a postal drop box location.*
- ❖ *Other invitations to thieves: yesterday's newspaper still in today's driveway; overgrown front bushes that hide the house; bicycles and lawnmowers left within view of the street.*
- ❖ *Broken glass at streetside is unsightly and a safety hazard for kids and dogs. Chicken bones discarded streetside by careless contractors can be a choking hazard for dogs.*
- ❖ *To repair burned-out street lights: Call Georgia Power (888-660-5890) and select the Outdoor Lighting option.*
- ❖ *Pot holes and other roads and drainage issues can be reported to DeKalb County at 404-297-3840.*

Pedestrians: Check out www.peds.org for information about the April "Metro Atlanta Walk There" challenge. They also have a new on-line tool that collects pedestrian hazard reports and delivers them to the appropriate authorities (www.peds.org/takeaction.htm). 404-873-5513

**If your mailing label indicates that you're NOT a 2005 member, please join NOW !!
Your support for this newsletter and neighborhood projects makes a difference.**

Hawthorne Civic Association membership. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ covering annual dues for my household (\$20) plus a donation of \$_____.

Include me in e-mail list(s):

- General Announcements
- Neighborhood Watch
- Advocacy
- Greenspace

I can help with:

- Layout/Creation: Newsletter/Website
- Newsletter labeling / sealing / mailing
- Fundraising Membership
- Work on: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-Mail(s): _____

Membership in the Hawthorne Civic Association, Inc. may include all residents and owners of property within the Hawthorne Elementary School district and such other residents on bordering streets as may request inclusion. Neither dues nor donations are tax deductible.



**“Islands in the Sun” WORKDAY (I-85 / Shallowford Road interchange)
Saturday April 23rd, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm**

Sponsored by Publix. Refreshments complements of Publix and ChocoLaté.

Agenda: BEAUTIFYING the entrance to our neighborhood by weeding, planting, mulching. Posting signs that identify the caretaker organization for each corner.

Volunteers: Meet at the Waffle House empty lot (across Shallowford from Publix). Bring handtools such as shovels, trowels, rakes, clippers, wheelbarrows; put your name on your tools. Remember sunscreen and wear a safety vest or some brightly colored clothing.

Plant donors: Drop off your extra sun-loving, drought-tolerant plants (seeds, potted plants, your bags of thinnings) behind the Waffle House fence Friday evening or early Saturday morning.

Corners planted & maintained by Dresden East Civic Assn (DECA), Hawthorne Civic Assn (HCA), Northlake Alliance of Gays/Lesbians & Straights (NAGS) & St. Pius X Alumni Assn (SPXAA).

>>> Also on April 23 8AM sharp until noon

4th Annual Northlake Community Clean Up and Beautification Day

Come on out and join your Northlake neighbors as we pick up trash, clean curbs and gutters, remove illegal signs and plant flowers/shrubs to beautify our Northlake commercial district. Projects will be along LaVista, Briarcliff and Henderson Mill Roads in the Northlake core. Kids 14 and up are welcome. Meet at the Fuddruckers parking lot near Starbuck's Coffee. RSVP to Linda Woods at 404 315-1535 or via email lwoods@mindspring.com. Even if you can only give an hour or two of your time please RSVP so we can count you in!

This clean up is sponsored by the Northlake Community Alliance in conjunction with the Great American Clean Up, Keep DeKalb Beautiful and the GA DOT Adopt-A-Highway program.

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2677 Flair Knoll Drive
Atlanta, GA 30345

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If your mailing label is incorrect, please notify HCA@gazebosoftware.com or Betty Phillips at 404-634-6498. The "or current resident" designation on the second address line is necessary to insure proper delivery of all newsletters.

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If there's a neighborhood issue that has you concerned, e.g. traffic, sidewalks, litter, etc, please contact the HCA board. Let's work together !

Community Calendar



April 23	Interchange Islands WORKDAY. Northlake Cleanup Day.
April 28	Board of Commissioners Zoning meeting.
May 4	HCA Board meeting.
May 7	Mary Scott Nature Preserve WORKDAY.
May 14	Hoe and Grow Garden Club GARAGE SALE. Northeast Neighborhoods Network meeting.
June 30	Summer HCA newsletter deadline.
July 4	Hawthorne neighborhood PARADE.