



NORTH BRIARCLIFF Civic Association

(formerly Hawthorne Civic Association)

Spring 2006 Newsletter

Distribution: 1400+

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Billie Sherrod *interchange*

Renée Scalzini..... *graphics*

Next board meeting: May 3

Board Meeting dates:
1st Wednesdays, 7:30 pm.

2006 Dues: \$25/address

SpringFest 2006

A New Tradition

North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) announces its first annual SpringFest ... Saturday, **April 29**, at Hawthorne Elementary School. This year's theme is **meet N eat!** Bring your favorite dish to share with neighbors. Gather at 5 pm for eating to begin by 5:30 pm. Soft drinks, paper plates and eating utensils will be provided.

Visit with old friends and make new ones. Participate in volleyball or board games and/or enjoy the music, weather permitting. For the kids, the playground's the thing.

Bring: A covered dish and your lawn chairs.

RSVP: We need a rough count of how many plates & utensils to provide. Please e-mail your family's count to DAVEMARKUS@aol.com by April 23.

Join in the fun....get to know your community!



Fourth of July Parade

A Family Tradition

Please make plans now to participate in the annual Fourth of July Parade from the school to the pool. There will be prizes and cool treats for all! Last year, more than 500 people took part in the parade. Decorate bikes, scooters, & strollers or make your own float! There will be a Pre-Parade Party starting at 10:30 AM. Come dressed in your favorite costume. Bring Fido & Rover along for the walk. Parade participants meet at Hawthorne Elementary at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, July 4. Parade watchers gather along Caladium Drive between Hawthorne School and Briarmoor Manor Pool. Many volunteers have contributed to make this a wonderful community event. If you would like to help this year or need further information, contact John Leonard at 678-406-9675 or john-leonard@comcast.net.

2005 PDK Open Records Lawsuit Win & Why It Is Important Today

As a result of the community's August 2005 victory in the Open Records Lawsuit, DeKalb County finally released computerized data showing that oversized jets are routinely using PDK Airport. Those jets are generating significant and unaccounted for air pollution across the metro Atlanta area. Larger jets carry and burn more jet fuel than do smaller aircraft. Those oversized jets are prohibited from using PDK, under the provisions of a contract between the County and the FAA entered into in 1987, when the FAA paid to extend PDK's principal runway. The runway extension was to enhance the safety margin for the small jets then using the Airport.

DeKalb County has slowly been producing the requested computerized operational data about PDK and the 37 standard computerized reports that the Judge ordered disclosed under the Open Records Act. Most of the data and 4 of the reports have been produced to date. Many of the remaining 33 reports have been made available in part. County representatives indicate that they intend to try to produce the remaining reports within the next thirty (30) days.

The information produced by the County also reveals that 25-40% of the aircraft operations at PDK are unidentified. They show up only as "unknown" aircraft. This raises serious homeland security and safety issues. To learn more, see the Channel 2 News report on this issue at www.opendekalbinc.org/media-files/PDK-story.wmv.

Mickey Feltus and other concerned citizens have contacted the FAA and elected US Congressional personnel to obtain FAA enforcement of the contractually-mandated weight/size limit on aircraft using PDK. Enforcement of that aircraft weight limitation is critical to protect the public, schools, churches and businesses from unacceptable additional air pollution in the Metro area and the safety risks that accompany planes requiring a minimum runway of 5995 feet now using PDK's 6000 foot runway. The largest jets that should be using PDK can safely operate on shorter runways and are safer for the public, given the extended runway at PDK. Although the FAA and DeKalb County have refused to do so thus far, they must abide by the contractual commitment, made for the public's protection, to limit the size of aircraft that may use PDK.

Also using the data produced by the County since August 2005, concerned citizens have raised very serious questions about the accuracy of the County's description of the number and types of aircraft that use the Airport, the "fleet mix." The fleet mix is relied on by the FAA and the County to make funding decisions about the Airport and to ensure that it is operated safely and according to applicable laws. But the most recent fleet mix created by the County, developed in April 2004, is inaccurate and ignores the weight/size limit completely. Using the data won in August 2005, the community has demonstrated that the County's fleet mix grossly understates the routine use of PDK by oversized jets and the number and types of night-time flights in and out of PDK. It also assumes that it is OK for oversized jets to use PDK as often as they wish to do so.

Unfortunately, the County is ignoring community protests about the fleet mix and is using it to obtain FAA approval for revised jet departure paths and--most importantly--to decide the future of PDK! The County has commenced developing a "Master Plan" for PDK that will guide operations at the Airport for the next 20 years and it is using the inaccurate, flawed 2004 fleet mix estimates as the basis for all of its planning for PDK!

Concerned citizens have brought this major problem/offense to the FAA and the County's attention. The County has ignored it and the FAA has not made a final decision yet, but appears to be planning to ignore the weight limit. The PDK Master Plan process is moving forward with federal, state and local tax dollars, but the central issue of the accuracy of the fleet mix and its avoidance of the weight/size limit has not been addressed, let alone resolved.

US Senator Johnny Isakson's office has been asked to assist in obtaining FAA enforcement of the weight/size limit. US Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, in whose district PDK is located, has also been asked to help.

At a well-attended meeting Wednesday, April 29, in the St. Pius X school cafeteria, some 100 people brought forth a range of important concerns and suggestions in an often intense meeting.

Larry Foster, for Open DeKalb Inc.

Neighborhood Watch

From November into March, we've been talking about residential and commercial burglaries occurring during the daytime somewhere in Center Precinct, one within NBCA's boundaries. We've heard descriptions of incidents and suspects from the nearby neighborhoods, distributed the information via e-mail and phone police about several suspicious people and vehicles in our area. Good job gearing up and being watchful !! Maybe we prevented some local burglaries.

Meeting with the Police, March 29 at Greek Orthodox Church:

The police don't think things were as bad in this area within Center Precinct as we were hearing. Of 416 burglaries in Center Precinct (a 37.4 sq mi area) between November and February, about 20% of them were in the LaVista and Briarcliff corridor neighborhoods that had been invited to the meeting. Of 3754 calls from alarm systems in Center Precinct Nov-Feb, only 1% were valid alarms, which usually meant a burglary. There were 7 arrests related to residential burglaries in December, 2 more in February, but police were still looking for a 40-50 yr old white man with shoulder-length brown hair. They DON'T believe he is homeless but they do believe that his vehicle changes from day to day. 7 of those 9 arrests were of juveniles; the county says it is going to get tough on parents who don't ensure that their kids are in school. They asked the public to call 911 about obvious truants (younger than 17) that we see wandering our streets. Their answer to a question about whether the recent spate of wrong-number phone calls might be burglars canvassing was to emphasize the probability that burglars will knock on doors to determine if someone is home. They asked us all to be better recordkeepers of the serial numbers on our big-ticket items, and to keep that record somewhere other than the computer (which may get stolen). They asked us to think about the security of our homes and to do something about it, such as cutting back overgrown bushes that can provide a hide entry points. They said that burglaries generate a police

visit to the site but that automobile-enterings may generate only a phone call.

Beware: There are reports that in Atlanta, Duluth and north Fulton, a man posing as a tax assessor has been appearing at doors and trying to gain access to homes.

There is a homeless encampment near the Shallowford/I-85 interchange. It's been determined that it's NOT on the Waffle House property. It is difficult to tell which of the neighboring business properties it may be on, but the Civic Association is working to figure that out and talk with that business owner.

DECA's TABASCO group met March 27 to hear Maria Garcia's (Founder and Executive Director of Hispanic Community Support Inc of Duluth) perspective on the life of an immigrant and to hear how she implemented a Ready-2-Work program in Duluth. The presentation provoked some good energy and discussion.

Idea: DeKalb County School System is sponsoring a **DropOut RoundUp** on Saturday, April 22, 9 am to 4 pm, at Clarkston High School, 618 N. Indian Creek Dr, Clarkston 30021. The event will explore pathways to **completing your high school education**. Door prizes, child card and counseling provided. More info: Mrs. Katherine LeDuke, 678-676-1135.

Idea: ICE your cell phone NOW!

Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. Make their job much easier with a simple idea called ICE (In Case of Emergency). Add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf. It only takes a few moments of your time to do. Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately. ICE was the brainchild of British paramedic Bob Brotchie, who recommends that you confirm with your ICE person that they are willing and that they are able to confirm your date of birth, your name, your address, and hopefully, things such as allergies, blood type, any previous medical history that may be relevant.

Upcoming Primary Elections

On July 18 (or during Early Voting or Absentee Voting preceding that date), the North Briarcliff Civic Assn area will be voting in party primary elections for:

U.S.: House of Representatives (district 4)

Georgia: Governor, Lt Governor, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Agriculture, Attorney General, Commissioner of Insurance / Fire Safety, Commissioner of Labor, State School Superintendent, State Senators (districts 40 or 41), State Representative (district 82)

DeKalb: Solicitor, Commission District 2 or SuperDistrict 7

The deadline for voter registration is June 19. Look for forms at SpringFest.

Look for NBCA sponsorship of multi-neighborhood candidate events in June or July.

NBCA Adopts Position on PDK

PDK Airport should be maintained as a CII general aviation airport and operated so as to provide minimal disruption to the residents of nearby communities, by such means as routing air traffic over highways, requiring quick ascent after take-off, limiting individual aircraft pollution (noise, physical, chemical, etc), disallowing regularly scheduled passenger or freight services, restricting night traffic (except emergency and angel flights), designating land purchased for noise abatement or runway protection zones as permanent greenspace, retaining the 1992 PDK Master Plan airport boundaries, limiting aircraft to those with certified maximum takeoff weight of 66,000 lbs or less, and implementing appropriate security measures. – adopted 4/5/06

Greenspace & Beautification

I-85 Interchange – We need You!

Have you noticed the corners at I-85 and Shallowford Road? Spring is finally here and color has reappeared. The plants and flowers are not only beautiful but an asset to our community. Maintaining the corners helps to increase our property values and serves as a deterrent to criminals by showing that we are a community that cares!

NBCA is responsible for maintaining the southwest corner at the interchange (our sign is posted). Some planting and mulching will be done this year but mainly we need regular weeding and picking up litter. If you are able to commit one or two hours a month (any day of the week) to weed and/or pick up litter at our corner, please contact Billie Sherrod at 404.633.9773 or by email at billie_sherrod@bellsouth.net. If you can't make a regular commitment, please feel free to stop by the corner any time to weed and/or pick up litter. We all benefit from the work of each of us.

Thanks for helping to make our neighborhood a great place to live!

Mary Scott Nature Preserve (10.6 acre wooded tract, at 4150 Briarcliff Road, acquired 2003, with funds from DeKalb County Bond Program, Georgia Greenspace Program, & Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation).

Expect a volunteer workday during May or June, to be announced via the Greenspace e-mail list. The March 11 workday saw yet more cleanup plus the planting of a few plants. Labels for those new plants and for existing identified valuable plants are anticipated soon. Some new native wildflower plants have been seen this spring, probably released from dormancy by the decreasing density of invasive plants. A great many native plants have been accumulated by the Georgia Native Plant Society for MSNP and await the appropriate planting season and/or completion of construction equipment work. The parking lot and trails construction schedule has slipped from winter to summer 2006. A shortage of project leaders within the Parks Department is slowing work schedules significantly.

Zoning

Residential Infill Housing Ordinances: As a result of discussions about infill housing issues, the DeKalb Board of Commissioners modified chapter 27 of the Code of DeKalb County, Sections 27.31, and Sections 27-722.1 through 27-722.12. Some of these changes allow for groups of homeowners to petition for an "infill overlay district" which would avail neighborhoods of an opportunity to ensure that new and remodeled single-family dwellings are compatible with the height, size and level of forestation of existing dwelling and lots and to encourage property owners to improve and renovate existing stock rather than demolishing and replacing. North Briarcliff Civic Assn is assembling information from other neighborhoods who are actively pursuing infill overlay district designation. The civic association does not anticipate initiating a civic-association-wide action, but will share available information with smaller groups (original subdivisions?) that choose to move forward. Please inform NBCA if your area begins to move forward with the overlay process; we may be of assistance in publicity (e-mail, newsletter) or with information. The infill overlay ordinance which specifies the procedures is posted on Commissioner Gannon's website, http://www.kathiegannon.com/helpfulLinks_files/Infill_Ordinance.doc

In the few neighborhoods that created overlay districts prior to the now current ordinance, enforcement is already becoming an issue. There are reputedly at least two cases in which builders have violated the overlay regulations; it appears that the inspectors in those areas had not been brought up to speed.

Locally, the first teardown in Briarwood Manor has been noted on Briarwood Road. Residents of Echo Hills got flyers on their mailboxes April 4, advertising cash for homes. That area is beginning to talk about an overlay district. If adjoining streets would like to discuss being part of that district, let the civic association know (NBCA@gazebosoftware.com or 404-315-7440) and we'll put you in contact with the working group.

Private Streets: As of April 9, the proposed private streets ordinance had not yet been voted. Provisions would allow streets that don't necessarily comply with county standards concerning width and setbacks. A group of civic associations, including NBCA, continues to oppose passage of the ordinance in its present form.

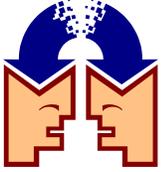
Parking – Do The Right Thing

From a neighbor: "I am not sure why I have been struck by the increasing number of residents who park cars on the street in front of their homes when there is clearly space in the driveway. ... One resident on Caladium Drive who has tried to courteously keep the street clear has nevertheless parked astride the sidewalk, with the result that walkers or families with strollers must exit the sidewalk into the street or onto an inclining yard."

DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance, Section 27-671 (g), says that any unregistered motor vehicle must be garaged and any motor vehicle must be parked on a *prepared* surface, that is, *not* on grass, dirt or even gravel. Zoning ordinances benefit everyone!

School News

In January, Hawthorne Elementary won a \$2500 teacher award from Best Buy to enhance the school's technology program. The award goes to schools that creatively integrate interactive technology into their curricula.



Community Info Exchange

April 22: Keep America Beautiful's Great American CleanUp = DeKalb's Operation Fresh Start (www.co.dekalb.ga.us/beautiful). Dresden East Civic Assn (DECA) is sponsoring a **workday in Dresden Park** from 9AM to 1PM, with a severe weather reschedule date of April 29. The county has done a terrific job in renovating Dresden park. It is beautiful and well used, but the area outside of the trail needs attention. There is a lot of old trash to be picked up. The workday will also remove invasive plant material (kudzu, privet, bamboo) from along the creek under the expert guidance of Connie Gray from the Parks Dept.

In order to have sufficient supplies, a headcount of volunteers is needed. There will be sign-up sheets at the apartments and schools. Or contact Nikki VanDerGrinten at 404-633-3952 or niknokvdg@joimail.com. The county will supply trash bags & rubber gloves. Plan to wear work gloves if you have them. Though pruning tools will be available, you may wish to bring your own.

Brookdale Park entrance on Briarcliff. I can't remember if the gas light at the entrance to the Brookdale Subdivision off Briarcliff Road was working when my wife and I and our two kids moved to Overlook Drive in 1989. I think it was - but I wouldn't have noticed probably between having the kids in school at Hawthorne and then Lakeside and the two of us trying to make a living. I guess when I got the time a couple of years ago to lift my head to street level and think about such things, I noticed that the subdivision entrance was a little "dated" - after all it was probably built in the late 50s. Despite the selfless acts of gardening and non-compensated landscaping and mowing, and washing the wall - it looks a little askew. Are there others thinking that it's time to update the Brookdale Park entrance wall, lamp and lettering? Let's get started.
John Caudle, johncaudle@comcast.net

May 6: Hoe and Grow Garden Club Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm at 2396 Sherbrooke Drive. All proceeds from the sale are used to beautify entrances to the neighborhood, support a homeless shelter and provide mailbox decorations for the holidays.

Your 'trash' may be another's 'treasure'! 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, etc. Donated items may be delivered Friday, April 28 – Friday, May 5. A pick-up service will be available if needed. 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!

Questions about the Hoe and Grow Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale? Call Kate Anderson at 404.327.9669 or Chris Triplett at 404.822.3804.

Editorial

NBCA applauds subdivision groups banding together to improve the appearance of their specific entrances. To identify the entire NBCA area as an entity working together, we are considering street toppers, with a logo and the words North Briarcliff. In the winter newsletter, we asked for suggestions on images that would appropriately represent our community. An idea to use a hummingbird was presented at the April board meeting. The board is now trying to develop that idea into a specific image. Your comments on the hummingbird idea are welcome at nbca@gazebosoftware.com or to any board member personally. *Beth Nathan*

**If your mailing label doesn't indicate that you're paid member , please join NOW !!
Your support for this newsletter and neighborhood projects makes a difference.
Membership dues are currently being collected for calendar year 2006.**

North Briarcliff Civic Association membership. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ covering
2006 annual dues for my household (\$25) 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 North Briarcliff 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.

County Meetings about Home Buyouts

From press release dated 3/28/06 on www.co.dekalb.ga.us

DeKalb County Public Works Department will continue its Home buyout Program that will help homeowners who experience flooding. The county will hold three public open house meetings (6:30-7:30 pm) to provide information and to identify homeowners and businesses that are interested in the program. The program will allow those who own homes an opportunity to participate in a program where the federal government purchases the individual's property with a medium of exchange.

Tuesday, May 9, Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore Street

Wednesday, May 10, Chamblee Library, 4115 Clairmont Road

Thursday, May 16, Wesley Chapel – William C Brown Library, 2861 Wesley Chapel Road

Joys And Concerns

We will all miss Penny McHenry, "The Hydrangea Lady," as she was affectionately known. She brought laughter and beauty to our neighborhood for many years. She will be missed but leaves the beauty she shared so generously.

We also offer our deepest sympathy to the Cox family on Nancy Lane, whose young daughter, Catherine, was killed in an automobile accident on March 31st.

Congratulations to Jimmy and Jessica Sykes on the March 13 arrival of Gunnar Michael!

If you wish to share your joys or concerns with your North Briarcliff area neighbors, please send an email note to NBCA board member, Edward Frost, at eagle37@comcast.net.

NORTH BRIARCLIFF CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Atlanta, GA 30345

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Signed articles in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the North Briarcliff Civic Association.

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Community Calendar



April 22	DECA workday in Dresden Park
April 29	NBCA Springfest at Hawthorne Elementary
May 6	Hoe and Grow Garden Club Neighborhood Garage Sale, 2396 Sherbrooke Drive
May ??	Workday at Mary Scott Nature Preserve
June 19	Voter registration deadline
July 4	School to Pool Parade

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