



NORTH BRIARCLIFF Civic Association

(formerly Hawthorne Civic Association)

Summer 2006 Newsletter

Distribution: 1400+

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Atlanta, GA 30345

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Board Meeting dates:

1st Wednesdays, 7:30 pm.

2006 Dues: \$25/address

Spring / Summer Events

SpringFest

Chilly day,
warm company,
good food.



NBCA SpringFest
4/29/06

Civic Association Network's
Candidates Fair, 6/29/06



Candidates Fair

200-plus voters
meet
40 campaigns.

*Event to repeat before
November election.*

4th of July Parade

Fire truck,
decorated trucks, cars,
wagons,
balloons,
painted faces,
an altogether festive
occasion.



Briarcliff Manor Recreation Club's
Fourth of July Parade, 2006

2006/ 7/ 4

EDITORIAL / PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – PUBLIC SERVICE

Elections ... our democratic process for hiring the best people to manage our shared public resources, or at least hiring the best of those people willing to put themselves forward for such service. If you don't vote, if you don't get/stay involved in public policy issues, you have no right to complain about what happens. Democracy is not a spectator sport.

We need to pay attention not only to those issues that impact us directly in the near term but also those that will come back to bite us and our descendents. A familiar "poem" says "*When the Nazis came for the <group>, I remained silent, I was not a <group member>. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.*" The impact of our actions (or inactions) is not always immediate. Most of our religions ask us to think about the final judgment of our actions. Today's choices shape the future of all who follow.

Help shape the future by your vote and by your actions on public issues. Volunteer yourself for public service (non-profits or government) in whatever way you can. Appreciate those who unselfishly put themselves forward for low-paying and volunteer jobs in public service, taking complaints about things they often have no control over. Help those in public service to do their jobs better by providing them with useful information and ideas. Say thank-you when they do something you appreciate.

If you want to travel fast, go alone. If you want to travel far, go together.

Googled references say this is an African proverb.

--Beth Nathan

NEXT YEAR'S BOARD.

Every year NBCA needs the services of association members to serve on its board. If you have fire-in-your-belly about a neighborhood issue, legal or political skills or contacts, administrative experience, experience from another neighborhood, interpersonal/mediation abilities, or just a heartfelt desire to better the neighborhood, you could be a good board member. The ideal board would also exhibit all the forms of diversity present in our community (geographic, gender, age, race, politics, etc). **Nominate yourself or a neighbor** for the NBCA board by contacting a current board member. Next years board will be elected at the **NBCA ANNUAL MEETING in late October or early November.** We plan to publish a list of candidates in the early October newsletter. An NBCA board member's term of volunteer service is a year, though there are no term limits. Board officers are elected by the board.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY & APPEARANCE

TABASCO (Transform and Beautify Shallowford Corridor) is a committee of the Dresden East Civic Association (DECA) with the participation of the North Briarcliff Civic Association. Ongoing issues include: Clearing up labor pools and loitering problems, clearing homeless encampments in the area, fighting litter, improving street appeal, and eliminating prostitution, drug dealing, and other crime in the area.

Recent successes include: Commitments from the Shell station on the west side of I-85, the Circle K, and the owners of Chicken Plaza to keep loiterers and labor pools off their properties. Commitments from Waffle House and the Briarlake Apartments to clear and monitor a homeless encampment in the woods behind the old Waffle House property. Improved litter control across Shallowford from the Publix shopping center. The DeKalb Police Department has been very responsive and hopefully you have seen their presence increase as a result of cooperation between TABASCO and these business owners.

DO YOUR PART! Spend your money at these businesses! The managers and owners need to know that we appreciate their efforts to clean up our neighborhood. If the gas stations are clear of loiterers, buy your gas there and let them know you are doing it because of their efforts. Grab a pizza at Anthony's or some wings from Chicken Plaza. Keep supporting the businesses in Shallowford Plaza. Your actions can make our area a better place to live!

After a year and a half of neighborhood efforts, progress has been made at Shallowford Lodge. The Code Enforcement team, led by Officer Zellars, did a thorough investigation of the whole property, resulting in issuance of 8 citations and 49 warnings. Bringing the property up to code likely cost big bucks. In addition, July 12 in Recorders Court, Judge Withers handed down hefty fines to both the owner and the manager of the property.

Safety Idea: Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside or someone trying to get in your house, just press the car's panic button to set off its alarm.

Continuing Concern: Small pets may not be safe outside at night due to coyotes in the area.

NATURAL RESOURCES / NATURAL BEAUTY

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).

Parking area construction and trail system installation are falling further behind schedule due to incomplete design plans, threatening this fall's re-planting plans. The invasive plant control company will re-treat problem areas.

Outdoor Water Usage. What's legal at any given time is available at 770-621-7200 or www.dekalbwatersewer.com. At writing, DeKalb had emerged from a total ban on outdoor watering into a time of limited watering (midnight to 10 am Mondays and Thursdays only). Note: we haven't been on the state's odd/even system for quite a while.

I-85 Interchange – Contact Billie Sherrod (see pg 1) to help. Or stop by the corner any time to weed and/or pick up litter.

ReDuce: Minimize trash thru wise purchasing.

ReUse: Make "trash" do more, e.g. use AJC or grocery bags as doggie pickup bags. Beth Nathan still collects/re-uses plastic plant pots.

ReCycle: DeKalb offers **residential curbside recycling** for an application and the cost of supplies (bin, bags). A July report says over 9,056 participating households have diverted more than 1500 tons of recyclable material from the Landfill. Select "Residential Curbside Recycling" on www.co.dekalb.ga.us.

The trash pickup guys told me one morning they wished everybody bundled their yard trimmings at the curb like I do.

PUBLIC MEETING ON PDK AIRPORT CONCERNS – JUNE 22, 2006

After brief introductions and a tribute to Mickey Feltus for his many years of dedicated community work on PDK Airport issues, the meeting at the Clairmont Baptist Church on June 22, 2006, focused on the following topics:

PDK Watch Incorporates: PDK Watch is now incorporated as PDK Watch, Inc. The new structure will help in continuing and improving the effectiveness of PDK Watch in tracking the latest developments at PDK Airport and in working to protect our residential neighborhoods. Ron Dennis is the new President of PDK Watch, Inc., with Norma Herd as Executive Director. A Board of Directors is being formed, and more information will be announced as the board appointments are completed.

Report from the Open Records Legal Team: Susan Gouinlock, one of the two lead attorneys on the Open Records legal team and a board member of Open DeKalb, Inc., reported on the Open Records victory, what the records show, how they can help us in the future, how citizens can now obtain information about disruptive aircraft, and, most important, plans for the next legal steps if PDK Airport, DeKalb County, and the FAA continue to allow approximately 200 oversized aircraft per month to use the airport in violation of the County's contractually binding 66,000 lb. PDK weight limit. For more details, go to www.pdkwatch.org

Public Participation in the PDK Master Plan: PDK Watch, Inc., Communications Director Larry Foster reported on the importance of the preparation of a new PDK Master Plan to guide the development of PDK for the next several decades. He also discussed recent problems insuring that there will be genuine, on-going, and substantive public participation in creating the plan. He presented a list of major recommendations that PDK Watch, Inc., believes must be given serious consideration throughout the planning process if homeowner interests are to be protected. For these recommendations and supporting documentation, go to www.pdkwatch.org

Aircraft Emissions and Pollution: A document was presented showing the substantial negative impact that jet fuel emissions have on air quality and health. For the report, go to www.pdkwatch.org under "News Affecting You" and click on the article dated June 21, 2006. For additional information about aircraft pollution, go to www.pdkwatch.org, and click on "National" and on "Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare."

PDK Watch, Inc. Bumper Stickers: Bumper Stickers for PDK Watch, Inc., are now available so you can show your support! Contact: Nikki Van Der Grinten, PDK Watch, Inc. Community Coordinator, at 404-633-3959 or niknokvdg@joimail.com

PDK Watch, Inc., is very grateful to the winning legal team of attorneys Brandon Hornsby and Susan Gouinlock. Their successful Open Records litigation now provides the community with reliable information regarding air traffic at PDK, including numbers and types of aircraft, the altitude at which they are flying, their noise impacts, and who own the aircraft. We shall keep you posted regarding the future legal steps that will be taken to protect our neighborhoods as the legal team prepares to move into Phase 2 of the Lawsuit.

Your ongoing support of PDK Watch, Inc., is appreciated! Checks should be directed to PDK Watch, Inc., P.O. Box 4932, Atlanta, GA 30359. Among other things, your contributions cover the cost of printed materials produced by PDK Watch, Inc., and maintenance of the PDK Watch, Inc., website.

--Larry Foster

DO THE NEIGHORLY THING ... OR ELSE

North Briarcliff Civic Association has been receiving increasing numbers of calls and e-mails regarding residents' annoyance with situations that violate standards set forth in County Code [code section indicated].

- Vehicles parked on a regular basis on the street or on the grass [27-766],
- Driver visibility problems because of overgrown trees and shrubs at street corners, in front of traffic signs, and at driveway corners,
- Fences erected in the right-of-way (typically extends back 15' from the curb) or over 4 feet high [27-787],
- Improperly placed accessory uses and buildings [27-144, 27-731]
- Excessive tree cutting [tree ordinance],
- Satellite dishes installed in plain sight in the yard near the street [27-773]
- Exterior lights erected that create a nuisance [27-754],
- Water runoff directed into neighbors yards,
- Off-leash pets (canine and feline) and pets not picked up after,
- Inappropriate yard signs [sign ordinance],
- Grass and weeds over 12" high,
- Street littering (fast food detritus, liquor containers, etc).

If everyone would occasionally imagine themselves in their neighbors' shoes, these problems would likely disappear. If you think your neighbor is causing an eyesore and/or a safety hazard, try telling them gently that it's bothering you. If it continues to be a problem, call Code Enforcement, within the DeKalb Police, about it: **404-417-1240**. Code chapter 27, the Zoning Ordinance, covers basic R-100 district requirements in Article II, Division 5. Article IV sets forth Supplemental Regulations with ordinances apply to many of these problem situations. Code violations reported to and verified by the county carry legal penalties if no correction is made.

NBCA is looking into the possibility of having a Code Enforcement speaker at an upcoming meeting.

Other useful numbers:

Animal Control	404-294-2996	Roads & Drainage	404-371-4778
Sanitation	404-294-2900	Vice (gambling/prostitution)	770-322-2500
Street Lights	770-492-5296	Transportation (street / parking signs)	770-492-5221

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS

Urban creeks tend to exceed federal Clean Water Act standards for fecal contaminants. And a clear creek isn't necessarily a clean creek. Children may be at particular risk of adverse health effects associated with sanitary sewer overflow (SSO's) due to their natural curiosity around creeks. The DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District, a state agency that educates citizens on the protection of natural resources, has introduced the webpage www.dekalbcountysso.com to educate citizens on sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) – warning signs, health impacts and reporting procedures. Citizens preferring a brochure of "Sanitary Sewer Overflows: Frequently Asked Questions" should make requests to the DeKalb District's regional office at DeKalb County S&WCD, 1500 Klondike Road, Suite A109, Conyers, GA 30094.

NORTHLAKE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

The Northlake Community Alliance annual meeting (6/1/06) elected new officers and board and then moved to reporting on area happenings.

The old BellSouth buildings in the Exchange West off Northlake Parkway will house DeKalb EMS, fire and police by the end of 2006. Public Works / Transportation department is located there already.

LaVista Corridor Project: There is now more than \$3 million available for project, so all three phases will be completed. The project has gotten concept, environmental and plan approval and moved into land acquisition for the right-of-way. Offers are being made for the next few months. The next step will be final plan approval, followed by construction beginning in early 2007. There will be continuous sidewalk from Northlake Mall to Hairobi (library) with other lighting, landscaping and hardscaping changes. Sidewalk is also planned from 285 to Northlake Parkway. To make the mall area even more pedestrian-friendly, the LaVista-Briarcliff split will be modified, so that there will be only one lane splitting off to Briarcliff. They believe this will be sufficient to handle traffic. Medians will be re-worked. There is no intent to 4-lane LaVista past Hairobi. The project should take 12 months to complete; there will be inconveniences but no lanes will be closed. A LaVista traffic light timing project is underway in conjunction with Georgia DOT; expect short-term fixes for mechanical problems and real signal synchronization over the next year.

DeKalb Transportation Dept is working on the Lawrenceville Hwy @ 285 interchange. A two-year update will start this summer that will also involve Montreal Road intersections with Lawrenceville and with Hudson. A railroad overpass is in design for Montreal Road, for completion around 2009.

The Blueprint LaVista project covers Hairobi to Clairmont; they're looking at land use and transportation, with special transportation emphasis on the intersections of LaVista with Frasier and with Oak Grove. The Alliance for a Liveable LaVista (ALL, a coalition of civic organizations) is actively involved in this project.

Simon Properties would like to receive feedback and ideas from area residents about Northlake Mall through the NorthlakeMall.com website, feedback to mall management section.

There is a traffic light synchronization project ongoing on Shallowford Road near the I-85 interchange. Traffic counts have already been done and a model and timing plan will be developed. If you have local transportation concerns that you would like to deliver to the Transportation Department (signals not working right, etc), 770-492-5200 is the number to call.

Extracts from ... PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE of July 3, 2006

Work on the Transportation Bond-funded sidewalks is continuing to meet the 2006 schedule. Locally, the Briarcliff Road, south side, from Briarlake Road to Lakeside High School project should be complete by August 4, 2006. Sidewalk contractors have been given notices to proceed for Dresden Drive, south side, from Thompson Road to Apple Valley Road; work should be completed by September 8, 2006. About 24 miles of new sidewalks will be constructed in 2006 in DeKalb.

Buford Highway sidewalks and safety improvements, from Shallowford Terrace in Chamblee to I-285 in Doraville, are 70% complete. The majority of work remaining includes the pedestrian medians/refuge islands.

**If your mailing label doesn't indicate that you're a 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.

SCHOOL NEWS

PRE-SCHOOL / ELEMENTARY: Positively Hawthorne invites you to learn more about your wonderful neighborhood elementary school, Hawthorne Elementary Theme School of Technology and Communication. To reserve space for tours being conducted this Fall and to receive important information about HES and its programs, contact Angela Maki at (404) 248-0224 or angela.maki@comcast.net.

HIGH SCHOOL: The May 8th issue of Newsweek Magazine features the "Top 1,000 High Schools in America for 2006." Lakeside High School (131) is the highest ranked school in Georgia. There are a total of twenty-seven schools listed from the state Georgia. DeKalb County School System is honored to have six schools make the list. They are DeKalb School of the Arts (264), Chamblee Charter School (268), Druid Hills High School (742), Dunwoody High school (829), and Tucker High School (1139).

AND BEYOND: Alpesh Patel graduated this year from The University of Georgia with a 4.0 grade average, achieving straight A's throughout his college career. He did the same in his high school career at Lakeside, and his elementary career, which included grades Kindergarten - 3rd grade at Hawthorne (he entered the magnet program after 3rd grade). Congratulations !!

AJC TAKE TO TASK PROGRAM

The AJC has a "Weekly Look at What's Not Working in Your Neighborhood" called "TakeToTask" that shines a public light on neighborhood problems. Tips on what needs fixing in DeKalb are to go to dekalbfixit@ajc.com and include a daytime phone number. Christine Dodge on Cravey went this route to get a footbridge between Hawthorne Drive and Cravey Drive fixed in May, four years after it was destroyed, according to a May 25, 2006, article.

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 2677 Flair Knoll Drive
 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



July 18	Primary Election (runoff Aug 8 as needed)
October 10	General Election voter registration deadline
October ??	General Election Meet-The-Candidates Event
Oct or Nov	NBCA Annual Meeting
Nov 7	General Election (runoff Dec 5 as needed)

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!