



# HAWTHORNE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## *Newsletter*                      *January 2004*

**Hawthorne Civic Assn**  
2677 Flair Knoll Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30345

President:

**Beth Nathan**..... 4/315-7440  
HCA@gazebosoftware.com  
*Greenspace*

Vice President:

**Larry Foster** ..... 4/636-2192  
*PDK Airport*

Treasurer:

**Betty Phillips** ... 4/634-6498  
*Zoning; Dues*

Secretary:

**Gary Powell** ..... 4/633-0189

Directors:

**June Buechner** 7/938-5550

**Michael Gross** . 4/636-7887  
*Neighborhood Watch*

**Bill Gussman**... 7/934-8049  
*Schools*

**Jim Holmes**..... 4/634-7897

**David Markus** .. 7/491-6325

**Sandy McKittrick**  
..... 4/325-7355  
*Editor; Traffic Safety*

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

**Board Meeting dates:**

2nd Wednesdays, 7:30 pm,  
odd-numbered months.

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

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

### **A New Year ..**

Wasn't DeKalb District Attorney J. Tom Morgan's presentation at HCA's annual meeting fascinating! I thought I knew enough about the Derwin Brown case, but I was definitely entertained, besides being enlightened about the powers of Georgia sheriffs.

The HCA board, elected at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting, held an organizational meeting in November at which it selected officers, set the chairs for critical committees, set a regular meeting schedule, and set the annual dues rate to \$20. See the lefthand column for organizational details.

The board may be the head of the association, but **YOU**, the resident of the Hawthorne School District, are the heart of the organization. You know best what's happening (good and bad) in the neighborhood and you can make it better. Your input to the board and your volunteer assistance are vital. Any resident can directly contact a board member about an issue or question. HCA members (**you have paid your annual dues, haven't you?**) are welcome to observe HCA board meetings. Can you help as a committee member, a neighborhood watch coordinator, or a greenspace cleanup worker?

The board is considering holding 2 to 4 public meetings during the year with topics to be determined. What issue would you like to hear about? Would you like to have a social gathering? Can you help organize an event?

I'd like to see our community spirit continue to improve this year. New communications capabilities (a website and one or more e-mail lists) would let us share information among ourselves and let the outside world know what a great community we have.

Please take a moment to complete the quick membership survey on page 5 and return it with your dues check. Let the board know what YOU want to hear about, want you want the board to know about, and what you can do to help. Please volunteer to help in some way!

Beth Nathan, President

The next board meeting is Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 pm.

**2004 dues are DUE NOW !      \$20/household**

**Hawthorne Civic Association geographic area coincides with the Hawthorne School District. On some streets only one side of the street is in the district.**



### **Meet Your 2003-04 Hawthorne Civic Association Board**

**June Buechner:** 32-year resident who has served as poll manager for the Hawthorne election precinct for many years. Grandmother of 16. Master gardener since 1979.

**Larry Foster:** American historian at Georgia Tech. 17-year resident with three children who attended Hawthorne. President of the Hawthorne Civic Association for nine years from 1994 to 2003. Special concerns focus on preventing threats to our neighborhood from PDK Airport expansion.

**Michael Gross:** 4-year resident; Flair Knoll Ct. Neighborhood native. Property management professional.

**Bill Gussman:** 32-year resident with 4 children who attended Hawthorne, Lakeside, IHM and St Pius X. Now a full-time granddad to a Hawthorne student. Member of Hawthorne ES Council, DeKalb County Schools Citizens Review Board, Emory/LaVista Parent Council (for Hawthorne ES). Retired from Coca-Cola International Marketing Research. Rental property manager.

**Jim Holmes:** Resident since December 1996. Retired Navy Reserves. Attorney (civil litigation) and mediator.

**David Markus:** Attorney whose practice emphasizes domestic relations and criminal law. Also a certified mediator, domestic mediator, arbitrator, and neutral case evaluator. Interests with the board are social programming and troubleshooting. Resident on Sylvan Ramble Road since 1992.

**Sandy McKittrick:** Behavior consultant / professor. Resident of the Hawthorne community for 19 years. Working on neighborhood safety and more active involvement by all members.

**Beth Nathan:** 4-year resident; Flair Knoll Court. Past President and past Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Georgia. Database programmer and website designer -- small business owner. Focused on functional systems for the office, government, environment, etc.

**Betty Phillips:** 34-year resident; Flair Knoll Drive. HCA founding member. Retired Certified Public Accountant. Community Council member, focused on preserving & protecting the integrity & value of our neighborhood by monitoring proposed developmental changes.

**Gary Powell:** Resident on Sherbrooke Drive.

**Debbie Rupp:** 6-year resident; Hawthorne Drive Graduate of Lakeside High. Employed at Georgia State University. Interested in neighborhood safety, creative development and PDK issues.

## PK AIRPORT

### WHOOPS! I meant 737s, not 747s!

My apologies for the typographical error in the last Hawthorne Newsletter. In writing about PK Airport's plans to rebuild the remaining older taxiways so that the entire airport could ROUTINELY accommodate planes weighing at least 105,000 lbs. (and some weighing considerably more), I erroneously said that the expansion would allow 747s to use PK Airport.

That was wrong, as several people have kindly pointed out. 747s are simply ENORMOUS and couldn't possibly use PK Airport. I had meant to say 737s--specifically Boeing Business Jets. Along with DC-9's, Boeing Business Jets are ALREADY occasionally using PK Airport, even though they are considerably heavier than the weight allowed by DeKalb County's 1976 ordinance. That ordinance is supposed to prohibit planes weighing more than a MAXIMUM of 75,000 lbs. from using the PK Airport--except with special permission.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT? Busy PK Airport, just two miles as the plane flies from most of our homes, appears to be in a process of transformation from a general aviation airport (its present official status) to a commercial airport capable of accommodating much heavier and generally noisier planes. A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) administrative regulation currently under consideration would MANDATE that any airport that is physically CAPABLE of accommodating larger planes do so. If this new FAA regulation is adopted, DeKalb County would lose control over the weight of planes using its County-owned airport to an appointive agency of the Federal Government.

At its August 26, 2003, meeting, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners acted to try to head off the possibility of loss of control over PK Airport by voting unanimously to require that the remaining PK taxiways be reconstructed so they could routinely accommodate NO MORE than a MAXIMUM weight of 75,000 lbs. for dual-wheeled aircraft. At the PK Airport Advisory Board meeting on October 15, 2003, however, PK Airport Director Lee Rimmel repeatedly and explicitly indicated that he was, instead, moving ahead with earlier plans to rebuild the PK taxiways in question to the level of the rest of the airport-- a MAXIMUM of at least 105,000 lbs.

Will the DeKalb County Commissioners insist that DeKalb CEO Vernon Jones and PK Airport Director Rimmel implement their ordinance, or will they let the DeKalb County Administration get away with disregarding their will and rebuilding the taxiways to a level almost TWICE the MAXIMUM weight that they voted for on August 26, 2003? The answer to this question will greatly influence whether the Hawthorne area and other parts of northeast DeKalb County will remain a desirable place to live in the future.

To protect our investments and rights as homeowners, community representatives have retained legal counsel to pursue litigation to hold DeKalb County to its promise to limit the size of aircraft using PK. If you want to support that expensive but vital effort, please send a check payable to 'F.O.R. [For Our Rights] DeKalb, Inc.' to P.O. Box 29604, Atlanta, GA 30359.

For further information about any of these issues or to volunteer to help, please feel free to contact me ([larry.foster@hts.gatech.edu](mailto:larry.foster@hts.gatech.edu)). I believe that we stand at a critical point in our efforts to try to protect our neighborhood from the threat of heavier and generally noisier planes at PK Airport.

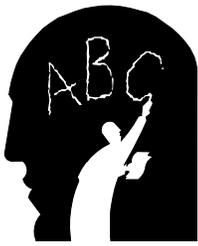
**ARMSTRONG GREENSPACE** Approx. 10 acres off Briarcliff near Shallowford acquired in 2003 by DeKalb's greenspace program from the estate of Mary Armstrong,

In December, the county removed a collapsed structure and other hazardous materials from the site and installed a gate. During the winter, the county's invasive plant control contractors will clear some overgrown non-native vines with additional work planned for the growing season. The county plans to begin a base ecological survey of the property around mid-winter -- cataloging existing natural features.

The Flair Forest Garden Club was told that the site is suitable for passive recreation (walking trails, nature education, etc), and that neighborhood input on its development would be welcomed. HCA plans to hold a winter meeting of neighbors, churches, schools, & representatives a few nature-oriented non-profit organizations. Others interested in contributing viewpoints should contact HCA President Beth Nathan.

There will be many future opportunities to volunteer physical assistance to the project. Use the membership survey to volunteer available person-power from your household.





## SCHOOLS

Neighborhood schools are not expected to last. Most 40-year-old buildings will be closed in favor of new mega schools that are more efficient in moving kids thru. Target sizes are 1000 for elementary, 1200-1400 for middle and 1400-1600 for high schools.

New elementary schools built or under construction are all designed to accommodate 1000 or more kids. New Middle schools are also larger.

No plan is in place to "fix" Henderson middle school. Formerly a High school, it now houses 1400-1500 students. Tucker Middle will help some with overcrowding but moving 6th grades from all the feeders will offset some of that.

The promised \$92 million from SPLOST II to help improve Lakeside High school and its feeders will not be available. A sales receipt shortfall for the past 2 years has resulted in over \$100 million reduction in projected funds.

Attendance lines will need to be revised as new schools come on line. Here's an opportunity to address the high concentration of apartment kids at Hawthorne vs. other area schools.

**Positively Hawthorne**, a neighborhood group founded to increase awareness and interest in Hawthorne Elementary School is hosting a "Meet the Teachers" for parents of infants to preschool age children on Tuesday, February 10, 7 pm. More info: Leslie Stigaard, 770/938-4956.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Spurred by recent home burglaries (Oct/Nov daytime, January night) and thefts from cars, HCA is formulating a new Neighborhood Watch plan to replace the non-sustainable system that fell into disuse. An e-mail listserv is being considered.

There are many ways you can make yourself and the neighborhood more secure, including ...

Be observant and CALL 911 if you see something suspicious ... like

- a van or panel truck slowly cruising
- walkers or solicitors who seem out of place
- unexpected activity at a neighbor's house

Make your home and your vehicle less inviting targets ...

- Make it look like you're home even when you're not, with indoor lights and/or a radio on timers. Make sure newspapers and mail don't pile up.
- Share your travel plans with a trusted neighbor or two.
- Make good use of outdoor lighting.
- If you have a garage, use it for vehicles.
- Don't leave anything tempting (cell phone, bags/boxes, etc) visible in a car parked outside of a garage.

Make it more difficult for a burglar to steal your identity ...

- Lock up your financial records.
- Deal quickly with financial mail.
- Thoroughly destroy any pre-approved credit card solicitations you don't want; don't just throw them in the trash whole.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

As 2003's Traffic Calming project winds down, HCA's focus shifts to gathering information on localized traffic problems and measures that can be utilized to ameliorate them. Please contact HCA board member Sandy McKittrick with your observations, thoughts and questions.

Betty Phillips reports that the County's Traffic Calming Department is still 'counting' the petitions for the seven areas that considered traffic calming last summer. Final counts have been determined for Flair Knoll Drive, Hawthorne Drive, Briarmoor Road and Sylvan Ramble Road, all of which failed to achieve the required 65% affirmative vote.

In November, Robbie Stadter began a traffic calming petition process on behalf of Sherbrooke Drive and Court. The county now requires that the original request be signed by 20% of the affected property owners in order to be placed on their traffic study list.

In the upcoming weeks, the Hawthorne PTA will be selling yard signs that promote safe driving. Cost is \$15 each. More info: Laura Goldsmith, 770/939-0345 or lgoldsmith@mindspring.com.

We could all enjoy the benefits of traffic calming if we ALL drove as if ALL the kids, pets, adults and property in this neighborhood were precious to us.

**NOTE:** The potential workshop on **erosion and creek bank stabilization** mentioned in the last newsletter was not scheduled due to lack of response. If you're interested in this topic, please indicate that on the membership survey.



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2677 Flair Knoll Drive, Atlanta, GA 30345

**Annual Dues are \$20 per household.** If you recently sent \$10, you're OK for 2004.

**Check enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Donations welcomed!**

*please print*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### **My interests / concerns for the neighborhood:**

- PDK Airport
- Neighborhood Watch / Crime
- Schools
- Traffic Safety
- Greenspace
- Zoning
- Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### **I can help with:**

- Committee work (specify which committee)
- Newsletter editing or layout
- Newsletter labeling / sealing / mailing
- Website creation & maintenance
- Providing information for the website
- Fundraising projects
- Membership benefits & involvement
- Greenspace projects
- Logo creation
- Organizing a meeting on the concern I suggested
- Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### **I'd like to receive timely information via e-mail about:**

- 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.
- Specific issue discussion about \_\_\_\_\_

**My e-mail address is** \_\_\_\_\_

### **If HCA were to institute such a fundraising project, I'd be willing to:**

- take an ad in the newsletter
- perform or take a booth at a social event
- contribute to a silent auction
- contribute something to a sale catalog

### **Category for my contribution or my advertised business:**

- art/music/crafts
- home maintenance
- baby-sitting
- home cooking
- medicine/law
- electronics
- gardens
- pets
- other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

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2677 Flair Knoll Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30345

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**2004 DUES DUE NOW**

**RSVP: SURVEY ENCLOSED**

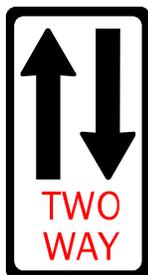
If your mailing label is incorrect, please indicate this on the membership survey form when you return it. The "or current resident" designation on the second address line is necessary to insure proper delivery of all newsletters.

## *Inside this newsletter ....*

Armstrong Greenspace ....	3
HCA Board .....	2
Membership Survey .....	5
Neighborhood Watch .....	4
PDK Airport .....	3
Schools.....	4
Traffic Calming .....	4

## **COMMUNITY.... Making it better**

- ✦ For safety's sake, trim back any vegetation that obstructs motorists' vision at corners and any plants growing in the street gutters (creeping vines, low-hanging limbs, etc) that force pedestrians to walk on the street proper.
- ✦ Do yourself and your neighbors a favor by not leaving pet food outdoors. You could be attracting raccoons or other wild animals that may carry rabies.
- ✦ For the sake of dogs walking and kids playing, don't throw glass at the roadside.
- ✦ Pick up after your dogs. Nobody wants to step in it.



If you have some quick thoughts to share on improving our community, send them to Beth Nathan noting that they are for a Community column in an upcoming newsletter.

What do you like or dislike about this newsletter? How can it be improved? Send written comments on contents and/or appearance to Beth Nathan, [HCA@gazebosoftware.com](mailto:HCA@gazebosoftware.com) or 2543 Flair Knoll Ct.