



HAWTHORNE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Summer/ July 2005

Distribution: 1400+

Hawthorne Civic Assn
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Atlanta, GA 30345

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Future Visioning

Off-Board:

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

MIRA Design Studio *graphics*

Next board meeting: Sept 7

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

HAWTHORNE:

A QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD ON NORTH BRIARCLIFF

At last year's annual meeting, attendees were asked where they tell other Atlantans that they live. The responses in order of popularity were Northlake, I-85/Shallowford, Lakeside, and Other. We don't typically tell people we live in Hawthorne. Hawthorne is not recognizable as a community. Say Dunwoody, Virginia-Highland or Tucker and immediately there is immediate recognition of geography along with a lifestyle perception.



There are pros and cons to being a secret gem. Maybe we don't want overwhelming hordes clamoring to live here, but an appropriate public image could help us attract the kind of people who will build the community we envision for our future. The pace of change is accelerating as many longtime local residents are now seek new lifestyles. If we wanted to be a little better known, how would we do that? We could start with all of us identifying our home community in the same way. We could say "Hawthorne" and try to establish that name or maybe there's an easier way.

Briarcliff Road is a main artery running through our neighborhood. While Briarcliff may not be as identifiable outside of Atlanta as Peachtree Street is, most Atlantans know Briarcliff Road and the name conjures up positive images in most peoples minds, either of big old houses or a traditional two-lane road running through wooded countryside. It's a long road, touching a number of well-known and popular neighborhoods such as Druid Hills, Virginia-Highland, Morningside and Emory. Look at Briarcliff on a map. Between Shallowford and Cravey, Briarcliff is at its most northerly. From there, Briarcliff heads southwest toward Oak Grove and southeast toward Northlake. The next time somebody asks you where you live, try saying "North Briarcliff" and note the response. Collect those reactions for discussion at Annual Meeting.



What's in a name?

NEXT YEAR'S BOARD. Every year HCA 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 HCA board by contacting a current board member. Next years board will be elected at the **HCA ANNUAL MEETING**, the evening of **Thursday October 20**. We plan to publish a list of candidates in the early October newsletter. An HCA board member's term of volunteer service is a year, though there are no term limits. Board officers are elected by the board. If you have a suggestion for a discussion topic for the annual meeting, please contact a board member.

HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY

Last spring, the Hawthorne PTA hosted an introduction to Hawthorne Elementary for local realtors. The following is a capsule of what they heard.

Being a small school of approximately 300 students, Hawthorne teachers and staff are able to provide individual support and recognition to each child. Additionally, a special partnership with Coralwood Elementary allows Hawthorne additional personnel which equates to almost two teachers in every classroom for language arts and math instruction. As research supports, lowering the teacher pupil ratio is a key component of student success which is most evident in Hawthorne's recent test scores.

During the fall of 2004, DeKalb County administered the Iowa Test of Basic Skills to all students in grades 1-5. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is an achievement test that provides individual schools with information about how their students perform in relation to other schools across the nation. Schools scoring at the 50th percentile are average. Hawthorne students scored well above the average national score. Furthermore, scores indicate that Hawthorne students are scoring similar to our nearest school neighbors in

grades 3 and 5 (State Department required grades for testing).

Percentile nationally

	Reading	Math
Grade 1	86	86
Grade 2	75	81
Grade 3	80	85
Grade 4	77	75
Grade 5	62	71

Compared to other area schools

	Reading	Math
Oak Grove	91	90
Hawthorne	80	85
Briarlake	80	84
Henderson Mill	67	76

Hawthorne students consistently perform well on standardized tests. The success is attributed to strong parental support, professional and knowledgeable teachers, lower teacher-pupil ratio, and a small overall school population. Hawthorne is an ideal learning opportunity for all students.

*Aug 10- registration ** Aug 15- school starts ** Friday preceding Memorial Day- school ends*

AVERAGE HOME SALES, 1st half 2005, presented to HCA by realtor Amanda Fraser

	Oak Grove	Hawthorne	Briarlake	Henderson Mill
All homes	\$540,197	\$372,404	\$352,598	\$327,601
3 BR / 2 BA, built pre-1975	\$287,175	\$279,000	\$251,379	\$267,441
4 BR, built pre-1975	\$384,266	\$322,166	\$408,366	\$317,286

PDK MASTER PLAN: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SIDETRACKED

BACKGROUND. Master Plans are important documents that guide, direct, and set limits on project development. **The DeKalb Peachtree Airport (PDK) Master Plan process that is currently underway will guide and set limits on PDK Airport development for the next several decades.** In August 2004, the DeKalb Board of Commissioners authorized the development of a new PDK Master Plan, utilizing professional consultants and promising extensive public involvement throughout the entire process.

Six months and \$80,000 into the project, the consultants had produced two strong reports by April 2005 -- the first on Public Involvement in the process and the second a 6-page PDK Vision & Policy Document. This second report identified seven key vision and policy themes: (1) safe and efficient operations, (2) environmental sensitivity, (3) community relations, (4) financial self-sufficiency, (5) general aviation, (6) customer friendliness and (7) effective institutional framework. Full details are available at www.pdkwatch.org. The consultants intended their vision and policy document, along with the public involvement plan, to be used "as a means to provide structure to the master plan development process" after its review and adoption by the PDK Airport Advisory Board (AAB) and the DeKalb Board of Commissioners.

RECENT ACTION. At the three AAB meetings in April, May, and June 2005, the consultants' policy report and all-but-one of the nine proposals from the public were blocked from even being discussed. Instead, Richard Ossoff, chair of the AAB, put forward his own one-page set of loosely-drawn policy proposals that appear to leave the airport largely free to develop as it chooses in the future. These policy proposals, with minor modifications, were approved by the AAB in June 2005, and are being recommended to the Commissioners for adoption.

CONCERNS

- It would be hard to disagree with the general sentiments expressed in the AAB policies but the policies fail to provide clear and explicit limitations on PDK expansion. Missing are (1) an explicit reaffirmation that PDK will remain a general aviation airport and undertake no engineering measures that could allow it to become a Class III airport, capable of accommodating much larger jets and (2) the 1992 Master Plan prohibition on airport physical expansion beyond its current boundaries (except under certain specific circumstances). Why were the excellent recommendations from the professional consultants set aside? Why is the AAB unwilling even to DISCUSS more than the limited range of policy proposals put forward by one of its own members?
- At a BOC work session, August 2, airport director Rimmel and AAB chair Ossoff are scheduled to present the AAB recommendations. There is no provision for public comment at work sessions; no public comments, questions or rebuttals. How will the commissioners get a full perspective on the issues?

WHAT CAN A CITIZEN DO?

1. **Get more detailed information** about the PDK Master Plan process and how its public participation component appears to have been derailed by the recent actions of the PDK Airport Advisory Board at www.pdkwatch.org in the Master Plan section.
2. **Contact your County Commissioners** about your concerns and encourage them to consider seriously the recommendations of their own Master Plan consultants and the public before adopting policy guidelines for the PDK Master Plan. **In particular, ask the Commissioners to approve a clear policy preventing PDK Airport from changing from its present Class II "general aviation" status into a Class III airport that would allow larger and more disruptive jets.**

Commissioner contact information:

District 2, Gale Walldorff, galew@co.dekalb.ga.us, 404-371-3054

District 6 (superdistrict), Kathie Gannon, kgannon@co.dekalb.ga.us, 404-231-2425

All the Commissioners: 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA 30030

--Larry Foster

GREENSPACE UPDATES

A contractor (IPC) was scheduled to continue invasive control work in **Mary Scott Nature Preserve** in early to mid July, attacking most of the remaining invasives including English ivy. Some sensitive areas may be done in the fall. In late May, construction documents were being prepared but the project had not gone out for bids.

Greenspace Steward Training is being offered to the public by DeKalb Parks & Recreation. This FREE training is an introduction to greenspace ecology, invasive plant control, and stream protection. Held at Forty Oaks Nature Preserve, 3790 Market Street in Clarkston, the 9am to 1 pm training will be repeated on different dates:

Friday 7/29 *** Saturday 8/20 *** Saturday 9/10.
Pre-registration is required. Classes are limited to 20 and contain both classroom and field instruction. To register, contact Shirley Harland (4/371-2621, slharland@co.dekalb.ga.us).
More info: Connie Gray, 4/501-9452, cpgray@co.dekalb.ga.us

Dresden Park saw groundbreaking on its new master plan on May 7. According to that day's printed program, there will be new trails for biking, walking, jogging and roller-skating, new play equipment, soccer fields and landscaping enhancements.

HCA continues to get compliments on the **interchange plantings**. Contact HCA's interchange gardens chair Debra Staton (dstaton@comcast.net, 404/321-0006) if you can help with general maintenance or if you can contribute bulbs for fall planting. Thanks to all who have participated, including Dave Savage. Other corners are maintained by DECA (Dresden East Civic Assn), SPXAA (St. Pius X Alumni Assn), NAGS (Northlake Alliance of Gays/Lesbians & Straights). Signs were carved by the Atlanta Woodcarvers Club; project organized by David Crumb, carving by Loveta Hilton, Ginny Gray, Micky Hutchinson, and Gaines Burnett.

Other Spaces: Planting, weeding, mowing, edging and raking of our own yards benefits the whole community by preventing weed seeds from blowing around, creating a streetscape that makes the whole street more attractive to potential buyers, or insuring that storm water can drain freely along the gutter. **For that we all deserve a round of applause.** Some people deserve a little **extra applause** because they also tend public areas outside their own lot.

- **Flair Forest signs:** Flair Forest Garden Club; President: Sandy McKittrick (404/325-7355, sandymckittrick@comcast.net). Corners plant maintenance: Linda Dahlke, Andie Heyburn, Carol Rudd, Gail Parnelle, Beth Nathan & non-members Doug McKittrick, Michael Gross, Bryan Golson. Corners sign redesign: Beth Nathan.
- **Evergreen Hills Signs:** Maintained by Betty & John Mysza of Glenbriar Drive. Evergreen Hills Garden Club pays for mowing & upkeep; President: Dani Lucking (404-634-6759).
- **Shallowford/Sherbrooke, Nancy/Melinda, Briarcliff/Sunset and Briarcliff/Raintree signs:** Hoe and Grow Garden Club; see the Exchange section for more info. David Lowe was instrumental in recent plantings; a student has been hired to do maintenance.
- **Hawthorne School Nature Trail:** Cub Scout Pack 577 (Dec. 2004), parents and friends of Hawthorne Elementary (March 2005). Harris Bienn, a Troop 77 boy scout is extending the Nature Trail as an Eagle Scout project this summer. Contact John Leonard (678-406-9675, john-leonard@comcast.net) for trail information.
- **Flair Knoll Court traffic circle:** Ongoing Maintenance: Michael Gross, Beth Nathan, Stefanie Hanagud. The Overhaul: Most of the neighbors along Flair Knoll Court.

Contact the appropriate person to Volunteer. Tell HCA who else deserves thanks.

UPDATE: PDK OPEN RECORDS LAWSUIT

Major progress has been made recently in the PDK Open Records Lawsuit (Feltus v. DeKalb). It seeks to gain the full release of the County-held records on PDK flight operations to which the public is entitled under the Georgia Open Records Act. Release of those records is essential if the public is to be able to take the crucial additional steps that are necessary: (1) to put a stop to the illegal use of PDK Airport by the estimated 1,000+ oversized, noisy jets that annually exceed the County's 66,000 lb. PDK weight limit, and (2) to insure that the roughly half of the all aircraft based at PDK that are not paying their required County taxes- estimated to exceed \$4 million annually--do so.

On June 2, 2005, the lead counsel for the Open Records Lawsuit, Brandon Hornsby, made a compelling presentation of the case for a summary judgment requiring DeKalb County to open the PDK flight records it has been withholding from the public. We expect a favorable decision by the end of the summer. In the meantime, if the case is to be able to

continue in order to secure PERMANENT, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF from use by noisy, oversized jets, your generous, continuing financial support is ESSENTIAL. How much are your property values, quality of life, and ties to this neighborhood worth to you?

Please either make a generous donation of \$100 or more NOW or to pledge at least \$25 per month for the next year (the cost of basic cable service) to help insure the necessary resources to win this vital fight. Send your contributions to the entirely volunteer run, non-profit organization, Open DeKalb, Inc., which now serves as the sole fundraising support for the PDK Open Records Lawsuit. Either go to the Open DeKalb, Inc., website (www.opendekalbinc.org) and use the secure PayPal connection there, or send your check to: Open DeKalb, Inc., P.O. Box 190895, Atlanta, GA 31119. Your generous support is essential. Please contribute NOW.

-Larry Foster

PET PEEVES

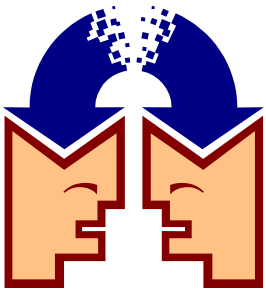
The cost of your enjoyment of your pet is your responsibility for keeping this other living creature in good health (food, shelter, exercise), training it to be a good citizen, and taking care of its indiscretions. The problems the civic association hears most about are:

- **Owners not picking up after their dogs <illegal>**. You wouldn't expect your neighbor to take care of your baby's diapers; don't expect them to take care of your dog's droppings.
- **Dogs and cats off-leash <illegal>**. Your dog could be affectionate with you and aggressive toward others, or it could encounter a not-so-friendly animal or vehicle.
- **Loose pets without a tag with a current phone number**. Tags should be current and legible. If you can't deal with a lost pet in your vicinity, try contacting a nearby dog-owner. If there's no one closeby, Brad & Jill (Hawthorne Place, 678/592-6129), Chantal (Sherbrooke Drive, 404/633-5031), Beatrice & Gary (Sherbrooke Drive, 404/728-9788), Debra (Shasta Way, 404/321-0006) and Carolyn (Flair Knoll Drive, 404/982-9881) are willing to try to help. Other people who are willing to be on this list, please contact HCA.

Pet hazard reminders:

- ✓ Pet food left outdoors attracts wild animals. Try not to attract coyotes or rabid raccoons.
- ✓ At 85°, the dashboard temperature of a closed car can reach 170° in less than 15 minutes.
- ✓ Dogs' feet can burn touching asphalt on a hot day, especially if owners stop to talk.

How do these things happen? The cable TV repairman has told our Zoning Chair that squirrel damage is the reason that she is not receiving sound on one channel only, the county cable channel. Do we have a subversive squirrel?



COMMUNITY INFO EXCHANGE

The **HOE AND GROW (H&G) GARDEN CLUB**

promotes the study and cultivation of flowers, plants, trees and shrubs while encouraging civic interest, safety and friendliness in the neighborhood. Meeting in a neighbor's home the 2nd Monday of each month, September to May with programs ranging from gardening topics to civic issues. Social time begins at 7:00 pm, program at 7:30 pm, followed by a business meeting. H&G primarily serves the streets of Sherbrooke, Nancy, Melinda, Sunset, Raintree, Echo Hills, Echoclipf and Circlewood although interested neighbors from other streets are welcome to join us. Annual dues are \$12 per person. More info: www.HoeandGrow.com or contact one of the 2005-06 co-presidents: Billie Sherrod (4/633-9773, billie_sherrod@bellsouth.net), or Monica Hollinsworth (4/288-0868, mmhollingsworth@bellsouth.net).

NORTHLAKE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

(NCA) held its annual membership meeting June 2 at Northlake Mall. Two open business representative seats were filled. As described by NCA's consultants, several things have caused a one year delay in the initiation of construction of the Phase I LaVista Rd. Streetscape project. First, a need to modify an intersection project where Briarcliff meets LaVista (rt. fork of the triangle at Northlake) which will require a minor modification of the plans and the studies (Right-of-way acquisition, environmental and historic pres.) for the corridor. Additionally, GDOT has not agreed to the joint use lanes intended for bicyclists in each direction. AND GDOT's area sidewalk plans for 2008 (LaVista from Nlake Pkwy to Harobi Dr.) have been merged with the streetscape project, to be done in 2007. This allows for economies of scale and probably a much better project in the end.

DROWNING IN WATER BILLS? Have you had a ridiculously high water and/or irrigation bill in the past year that wasn't due to a leak? How did the county respond when notified? Please share your experience with neighbor Brenda Shavin, 770/934-7164.

SAFETY / NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

HCA continues to work with the DeKalb police to try to set up a communication system that is not dependent on having a traditional neighborhood watch (70% participation/signatures). The following incidents have been reported to Hawthorne Civic Assn:

- A second check (different victim) has been "washed" and presented at a local bank with altered payee and altered amount. Always take checks to a secure mailbox, the closest being within the UPS Store.
- June 10, around midnight, a coyote was spotted on Flair Knoll Drive at the top of the hill. TV news reports say that small dogs and cats can be at risk.
- June 11, before sunrise, Brookdale / Hawthorne Drive area: Stranger sitting in neighbor's truck in neighbor's carport. Later, the door of a car in another driveway was found ajar; a CD player and CDs missing.
- A reliable source reports an attack on a woman during her 9 am walk in the Briarcliff Woods area. She thought he was on a morning walk like herself, until he ran up from behind and put her into a choke hold. Her screams scared him off, but he did stop and smile at her as he fled.

DECA Kicks Off Project TABASCO

The purpose of the **TABASCO** ("Transform, And Beautify Shallowford Corridor") sessions is to create an aggressive community plan aimed at the elimination of destructive/illegal activities that degrade the Shallowford Corridor using steps that involve, encourage and support diverse groups within our community. First meeting, Monday, July 18.

**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.**

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.

ZONING / DEVELOPMENT

<p>The SLUP application from Light International Ministries for transitional housing of 100 children with problems in the Tara Trail Apartments was DENIED by the DeKalb County Commissioners on 4/28/05. Thanks to HCA members, HCA zoning chair Betty Phillips, residents of Peachwood Circle and members of Dresden East Civic Association for their efforts.</p>	<p>A proposal to modify the zoning of Shallowford Lodge (other side of I-85) to C1 to allow the use of the first floor for retail shops was DEFERRED for a full cycle by the Board of Commissioners (6/30/05) despite Denial by the Planning Commission and opposition from the community. HCA and DECA will continue to oppose this application.</p>
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SIDEWALKS. Briarcliff Road from Northlake Mall to North Druid Hills Road has been surveyed for a proposed GDOT and DeKalb County joint sidewalk venture. {from *The Story*, 6/16/05}

IN-FILL. Within the HCA area, especially around Echo Lake, the pace of change has increased dramatically. New houses catch your eye on Circlewood, Raintree, Melinda and Melinda Court with pricetags between \$729K and \$869K. To some, our neighborhood's existing houses are sensible, simple-life bargains. To others, existing houses just hide the dirt on which a dream-house can be built. Is there a way to provide what some people want without destroying what other people want/have? Everyone has the right to swing their arm as long as it doesn't hit anyone else. The DeKalb InFill Task Force (www.dekalbinfill.org) is charged with designing new zoning code to protect everyone; Commissioners may vote by late summer. One proposal: benchmark measurements taken prior to demolition that guide the replacement's design. The HCA board would like your input on what's fair and what we should stand for; send your thoughts to HCA@gazebosoftware.com or talk directly to a board member. We recently received a letter from a Nancy Lane resident in disbelief about the demolition of the home of old friends which had been in good shape when it sold: *"It had a new roof, was lovely inside and out, and had a new driveway."*

HAWTHORNE 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 Hawthorne Civic Association.

Inside this newsletter

North Briarcliff	1
Next Year's Board	2
Hawthorne Elementary.....	2
PDK Master Plan.....	3
Greenspace.....	4
Open Records Lawsuit.....	5
Pet Peeves.....	5
Info Exchange	6
Neighborhood Watch	6
Zoning	7
Calendar.....	8

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



Aug. 15	School starts at Hawthorne Elementary
Sept. 7	HCA board meeting, 7:30 pm
Sept. 30	Deadline for articles for Fall Newsletter
Oct. 20	HCA Annual Meeting, 7-9 pm

Entertainment Value: AtlanTIX, which sells same-day, half-price tickets for performing arts companies and cultural attractions, opened a second location in February at Lenox Square as part of the Simon Guest Services Booth. Over 10,000 people currently receive e-mail advance notice of what will be available for sale. {from *The Story*, 6/06/05}

www.atlantaperforms.com, 678-318-1400