



HAWTHORNE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Newsletter *Fall / October 2005*

Distribution: 1400+

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:

David Markus .. 7/491-6325
Northlake Comm Alliance

Directors:

Brad Bartling.. 6/592-6129

June Buechner 7/938-5550

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*

Renée Scalzini..... *graphics*

Next board meeting: Nov 2

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

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 20, 7-9 pm

Shallowford Presbyterian Church

Speaker:

CEO Vernon Jones

“Upcoming Bond Referendum”

Bond referendum info on page 2.

Business:

- *Reports on the 2004-05 board year*
- *Election of 2005-06 board (more info on page 6)*
- *Direction to the new board from the membership ... to what issues should the board devote the most energy?*
- *Discussion: Should we call ourselves “North Briarcliff”?*



NOVEMBER 8 BOND REFERENDUM

Absentee Voting: poll opens October 3 (8 am – 5 pm).

Advance Voting: poll open Oct. 30 – Nov. 4 (8 am – 5 pm), Memorial Drive location

Acceptable ID (list has changed): Georgia driver's license, valid ID card (not driver's license) by any state or U.S. with photo, valid U.S. passport, valid government employee photo ID, valid U.S. military ID card with photo, valid tribal ID with photo. First time registrants by mail will also be able to use a current utility bill, current bank statement, government check or paycheck, or valid government document with name and address.

YES/NO Questions to be voted in our unincorporated area:

- **TRANSPORTATION PROJECT.** Shall special tax district general obligation bonds to finance certain transportation projects, including, but not limited to, resurfacing streets, improving intersections, building sidewalks and bike trails, and constructing new roads, located within unincorporated DeKalb County, in the amount of \$79,000,000 be issued by DeKalb County payable from the levy of a direct annual ad valorem tax within the unincorporated portion of DeKalb County?
- **LIBRARY PROJECT:** Shall special tax district general obligation bonds to finance certain library projects, including, but not limited to, building, expanding, replacing and improving libraries, located within unincorporated DeKalb County, in the amount of \$54,540,000 be issued by DeKalb County payable from the levy of a direct annual ad valorem tax within the unincorporated portion of DeKalb County?
- **PARKS AND GREENSPACE PROJECT.** Shall special tax district general obligation bonds to finance certain parks and greenspace projects, including, but not limited to, acquiring land for additional parks and natural areas, preserving greenspace, protecting clean water, improving existing parks, dams, arts and cultural centers and athletic complexes, located within unincorporated DeKalb County, in the amount of \$96,460,000 be issued by DeKalb County payable from the levy of a direct annual ad valorem tax within the unincorporated portion of DeKalb County?

"SAGAMORE & FRIENDS" YARD & GARAGE SALE

Several Sagamore Hills Neighbors got together because they wanted to ***DO something for hurricane relief.*** As you know, sometimes it only takes an idea to get something going. They decided to have a **One Day Yard/Garage Sale.** They envision a massive event with lots of neighborhoods joining in.

Briarcliff Woods Beach House (on Morris Landers) has donated the space. **October 29, 2005** has been set as the day. (Set-up the day before; clean up the day after.) Sagamore Hills invites other neighborhoods to participate.

As you can imagine, a wide variety of skilled volunteers like you and your family are needed to make this a success. Please contact one of your neighbors listed below to discuss how you may become a part in organizing the event. They can tell you what is needed and where your talents can best be utilized. A few particular areas of need include gathering and transportation of saleable items, setting up & tearing down of the sale, marketing, pricing, hospitality, and more!

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Elizabeth Bridges, (404) 636 3053, elizb57@aol.com

VOLUNTEERS (SETUP, SALE, CLEANUP): Beth Ma, (404) 321 6428, beth.ma@choa.org

SALEABLE DONATIONS (anything but clothes): Kathleen Tate, (404) 329 0734, ktinthedirt@bellsouth.net

LOCATIONS FOR POSTERS: Lou Barnhardt , (404) 634-6302, loubarn@mindspring.com

PDK OPEN RECORDS LAWSUIT VICTORY!

On August 8, 2005, after years of hard work, the plaintiff in the PDK Open Records Lawsuit (Feltus v. DeKalb) won and won big in the first round of the suit. The DeKalb County Superior Court ruled that DeKalb County, PDK Airport, CEO Vernon Jones, and PDK Airport Director Lee Rimmel were in violation of the Georgia Open Records Act for withholding records about operations at PDK Airport.

Although the County has produced some of the sought-after computerized records on aircraft operations at PDK, it has done so very slowly. The County is now saying that it will deliver the second batch of computerized records to the Feltus legal team on Monday, October 3, 2005. The parties have agreed to stay (suspend) the lawsuit until November 3, 2005 to allow the County time to comply with the Judge's order to disclose the PDK records. However, if the County continues to drag its feet on production of the records, the Feltus legal team will be forced to go back to the Judge and ask him to intervene and make the County produce the records (requested in January 2004) promptly.

What's next? Currently the County is commencing formal decision making on what kind of airport PDK will be over the next twenty years. The process is called developing a "Master Plan" for the Airport, and will determine the nature of PDK operations in the future. As a result, the win in the Feltus case and the records that are being received and analyzed are even more crucial than was previously understood because the evidence they provide can verify whether the County is living up to its commitment to limit the size of aircraft using no more than 66,000 lbs. maximum takeoff weight. Significantly, it is not yet clear whether CEO Vernon Jones and DeKalb County will start to adhere to the 1987 contractual weight limit on aircraft at PDK, reversing a trend at the Airport of permitting larger and more aircraft on a regular basis and changing the Airport's taxiways and other facilities to accommodate use by larger and larger aircraft.

-- Larry Foster

UPDATE ON PDK MASTER PLAN

On September 19, 2005, approximately 350 citizens almost completely filled the Maloof Auditorium in Decatur at a public meeting to find out about different PDK Airport Master Plan policy proposals and share their concerns about future policies and directions at PDK Airport for the next several decades. The meeting had been called by CEO Vernon Jones, after talking with citizens who felt that Master plan policy input from the Master Plan consultants and from concerned citizens had not been properly considered at the PDK Airport Advisory Board meetings in April, May, and June 2005.

Four proposals that concerned citizens had drafted for the meeting called for: (1) PDK to continue to remain a CII general aviation airport rather than becoming a CIII commercial airport capable of handling much larger jets, (2) maintaining 1992 PDK Master Plan policy prohibition on expansion of the geographic size of the Airport, except under certainly carefully specified conditions, (3) developing mandatory and enforceable flight paths and plane height requirements to help mitigate noise impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods, and (4) maintaining the 66,000 lb. weight limit for aircraft using PDK Airport. For more details on these citizen policy proposals, as well as the policy proposals presented by the PDK Master Plan consultants and by the Airport Advisory Board, see the Master Plan section of the PDK Watch web site (www.pdkwatch.org).

Many citizens and several pilots spoke at the meeting. A comment sheet was collected at the end of the meeting so that all citizen input could be in writing and recorded. The County Administration indicated that these comment sheets would be provided to the commissioners and to PDK Watch.

Unfortunately, none of the seven DeKalb County Commissioners attended the September 19 public meeting. The following morning, the commission work session dealing with PDK Master Plan issues, dealt primarily with the question of whether and how to restore funds that the FAA had cut from the public participation part of the Master Plan proposal. That public participation part of the original Master Plan proposal had called for spending nearly \$500,000 (almost the cost of the substantive part of the Master Plan itself); but the Federal Aviation Administration had indicated that such a large expenditure was inappropriate for an airport that was not intending to expand substantially.

The community and the commissioners need to understand that the citizens did not participate in the initial planning stage when the scope of the Master Plan was drafted, the budget requirements for the plan prepared, or the scope, methodology, and cost of the proposed public participation part of the initial plan determined.

-- Larry Foster

GREENSPACE

Mary and Scott Nature Preserve was part of the Georgia Native Plant Society's annual garden tour on Saturday September 17th, with Connie Gray leading tours. A neighborhood workday was also in progress that day. The Master Plan has been posted at ChocoLaté Coffee Shop, Hawthorne Elementary School, and 2 places on the DeKalb County website (www.co.dekalb.ga.us). If you click on Parks and Recreation, choose "Natural Resource Section" from the left-hand menu and you will find a write up about the park with a link to the master plan. Also, you can also view the plan if you choose "DeKalb Greenspace" and then choose "Land Acquisition" from the left hand menu. This brings up a county map with new greenspace locations and you can click on each for more information. The county hopes to have designs for the parking lot and trails before the end of the year. Connie Gray assures us that the project has not been forgotten though it is running behind projected schedule.

Thanks to Debra Staton, Georgann Schmalz, Doug McKittrick, Billie Sherrod & Joe Savage, Nikki VanDerGrinten, Bob Berrett, and Anna Beth Balance for care of HCA's **interchange** corner (and other corners as well) during the summer! In the future, the corners will be the responsibility of HCA, DECA, St. Pius alums and Publix. Debra Staton, who has done such a wonderful job in developing the HCA corner is moving on to new pursuits. **HCA needs a new DESIGN & MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR for our corner.**

Long-time residents who raised kids at Hawthorne Elementary over the years have probably explored the woods surrounding the school at one time or another, but have you seen the **Hawthorne Nature Trail** lately? Starting last fall, there has been a renewed effort to create new trails and "pave" some existing sections with mulch. During Phase 1 (last December), Cub Scouts from Pack 577 cleared away brush, lined the path with logs, and spread mulch across 1000 feet of trails – a huge undertaking for elementary age boys! Last spring (Phase 2), in conjunction with KaBoom, volunteers built a new "Nature's Classroom" with 6 large picnic tables and a teacher's table, and completely renovated "The Hornet's Nest" – another outdoor classroom. Phase 3 began this summer as Harris Bienn from Boy Scout Troop 77 launched his Eagle Scout project. Harris extended the Nature Trail northward from the KaBoom playground all the way out to Foster Ridge. Look for a new Nature Trail sign as Harris completes his project. Phase 4 has just begun and will be complete on December 3 when approximately 150 cub scouts from Pack 577 will add a new section of trail that will extend the Nature Trail further west out to the top of the hill at the school entrance on Caladium. As you are out walking around the neighborhood, look for the signs and make the Hawthorne Nature Trail a regular part of your daily exercise! Your dog is going to love it! For more information, please contact John Leonard by email, john-leonard@comcast.net, or at home 678-406-9675.

Editorial / Something to Ponder: Janisse Ray, author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* was speaking around Atlanta at the beginning of October, on "Finding Wholeness in a Fragmented America". One of her thoughts (hopefully faithfully translated): Fragmentation of our natural world (plants cannot spread easily across roads, animals have difficulty moving through an urban area, etc) is mirrored in the fragmentation of our communities and the fragmentation of our families. Georgann Schmalz said in HCA's April 2004 newsletter: "Try to picture your yard as part of the larger greenspace required by birds." And I say now: Picture yourself as part of a larger vibrant Hawthorne (North Briarcliff?) community. Let us work together to build and sustain our communities.

--Beth Nathan

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Thefts from Vehicles. Police arrested suspects in a series of thefts from vehicles in the LaVista Rd/Briarcliff Rd/Oak Grove Rd area. Shortly after that, there was an incident in the WINDING WOODS neighborhood (just outside 285, LaVista @ Midvale area) that the homeowners watched and described to the police as it happened. One of those perpetrators was holding a gun. Sometimes these incidents are juvenile pranks and sometimes they're more serious.

Animal Issues: A person was bitten by a neighbor's dog running loose on Sylvan Ramble in August. Throughout the summer there have been coyote sightings moving around our neighborhood, near Echo Lake in June/July, along Flair Knoll Drive in early June and again in late July, and in Evergreen/Payton Oaks area near the end of August. Any sighting needs to be reported to Animal Control and then also to Beth Nathan (HCA@gazebosoftware.com or 404-315-7440) for our records. We were told that if we only see one here or there, they are passing through, but if we have more clustered sightings Animal Control will investigate.

Purse Snatching. Sept 13. There was a purse snatching at Publix SHAMROCK PLAZA, September 12, but this kind of thing can happen anywhere. A mom was loading groceries in her car with her purse in the buggy - her child was safely in the car. A young kid (?) grabbed the purse and ran.....there were several eye witnesses and it was early evening - with still enough daylight. Be careful and always be aware of your surroundings.

NOMINEES FOR THE 2005-06 BOARD

| Name <i>Applicable life experience</i> | Residence | Issues of particular interest |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Brad Bartling Neighborhood Native. Engineer with a commercial construction general contractor. American Red Cross Disaster Action Team Member DeKalb County, Happy Tails Pet Therapy, Neighborhood Lost Dog Coordinator, Georgia Aquarium Volunteer. Private Pilot in Training. | Briarmoor Manor since 2002 | generalist |
| June Buechner Hawthorne precinct poll manager for many years. Grandmother of 16. Master gardener since 1979. | Briarmoor Manor for 32 years | generalist |
| Ralph Carl Hawthorne Elem. School Advisory Council since 2001. Hawthorne PTA Rep. to the Emory LaVista Parent Council. Past board member and chair of Shallowford Presbyterian Preschool. | Canna Ridge | Schools/Kids |
| Larry Foster American historian at Georgia Tech. Three children attended Hawthorne. President of HCA 1994-2003. | Echo Lake area since 1986 | PDK |
| Edward Frost Retired Minister. 45 years experience as institutional leader. also counselor and marriage and family therapist. Presently a gardener and woodworker. Assistant to two 3-year miniature poodles. | Sherbrooke neighborhood since 1996 | generalist |
| Michael Gross Neighborhood native. Property management professional. | Flair Forest since 1999 | generalist |
| David Markus Attorney specializing in domestic relations and criminal law. Certified mediator, domestic mediator, arbitrator, and neutral case evaluator. | Briarmoor Manor since 1992 | Social programming |
| Beth Nathan Past president & past executive director of the League of Women Voters of Georgia. Database programmer, website designer, small business owner. | Flair Forest since 1999 | Systems: political, info, admin, and eco. |
| Betty Phillips HCA founding member. Retired CPA. Community Council member. | Flair Forest since 1969 | Neighborhood integrity & value; zoning. |
| Gary Powell Recovering attorney. Publisher of business-to-business periodicals in visual communication industry. | Sherbrooke Forest since 1992 | generalist |
| Deb Rupp Prior HCA board member. | Hawthorne Drive since 1997 | Community building |
| Rodney Zell Neighborhood native. Attorney specializing in appeals and habeas corpus. | Evergreen Hills for 5 years | generalist |

IN-FILL

HCA has not taken a position on the proposed InFill ordinances, wishing to hear from neighborhood residents about the issue prior to doing so. A call in the summer newsletter (page 7) for neighborhood input produced no responses.

Board of Commissioners votes on the proposed "Quality of Life" & height restriction ordinances relating to in-fill development had been scheduled for 9/27/05 but were deferred. Because the County Legal Department's latest draft moved an ordinance to Chapter 27, the subdivision code, it requires public advertising through the official organ of the County (*The Champion* newspaper) and a public hearing before the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners. This typically takes about 60 days, primarily to provide for publication in *The Champion* and for scheduling of hearings.

www.dekalbinfill.org, the website of the county-appointed task force of homeowners and developers, has posted the newest draft of the Code. There is an online petition that people can respond to with comments that will be collected and given to the Board of Commissioners prior to the final vote. A group opposing the proposed ordinance has established their own website at www.truthaboutinfill.com.

ZONING

The continued strong opposition by the community to the proposed rezoning of Shallowford Lodge (other side of I-85) to C-1 to allow first floor retail use was effective! The applicant WITHDREW THE APPLICATION at the Board of Commissioners hearing on 9/27/05; the present zoning remains unchanged and no re-development will occur. The withdrawal does not prohibit the applicant from submitting a new application in the future.

Development Alert: The 15-plus acres of Armstrong Estate property located at 3571 Briarcliff Road (not the greenspace) is currently under contract to be developed into approximately 29 homes. The developer has submitted two Subdivision Sketch Plats with the application: (1) an R-100 conventional layout and (2) a conservation subdivision site plan. The second plan allows grouping of houses on smaller lots and is the plan which the developer is pursuing. Both plans are cul de sac development with no connectivity to existing streets. This subdivision development is not a re-zoning. The sketch plat itself will require approval from the Planning Commission and from the County Planning Department. How this property is ultimately developed will most certainly change the face of Briarcliff Road forever.

HOT STUFF ON SHALLOWFORD

TABASCO stands for "Transform, And Beautify Shallowford Corridor". The TABASCO corridor runs from the Shell station on Shallowford Road across from Publix to the corner of Dresden Drive and Shallowford Road, and then running up Dresden Drive to the corner of Chamblee-Tucker Road. The purpose of TABASCO is to create an aggressive community plan to eliminate destructive or illegal activities that degrade the Shallowford Corridor using steps that involve, encourage and support diverse groups within our community. The #1 goal is to reduce and eventually eliminate loitering, littering and illegal activities such as drug dealing and prostitution. Initial activities have been focused on forming alliances with DeKalb County Police, DeKalb County Housing Authority, DeKalb County Parks & Recreation, DeKalb County Clean & Beautiful, Dresden Elementary, St. Pius X High, corporations owning local properties, small businesses in the area, and neighborhoods within this community.

Currently, TABASCO is primarily made up of Dresden East Civic Association (DECA) members. Board members from your Hawthorne Civic Association (HCA) have also been involved in TABASCO meetings, and HCA residents are encouraged to participate.

TABASCO has a lot of spice, leaves a strong trace, packs a punch and in small quantities transforms the essence of whatever it contacts. For more info, go to www.groups.yahoo.com/group/deca_tabasco/ and become a part of the solution.

**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 2005.**

Hawthorne Civic Association membership. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ covering 2005 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: _____

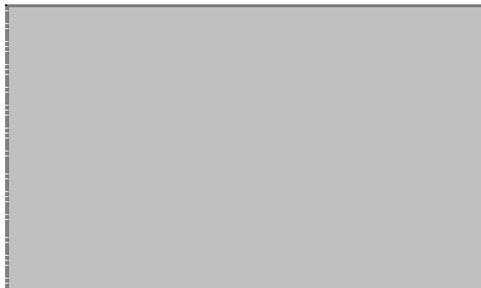
Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

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.

HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY

Publix Partners for Education



Want to make a BIG difference for Hawthorne Elementary School? **From now until the end of October, Publix will triple their contributions through Partners for Education.** Remove this card (designed to be attached to your keychain) and simply show the card to the cashier whether you are buying a week's worth of groceries or just a gallon of milk. Hawthorne will benefit. It all adds up to supporting our neighborhood school and we all win!

Grandfriends Program

Do you have a few minutes to share with a child? Hawthorne Elementary School is looking for adults with time to share with our students and teachers. We are starting a new program to get NEIGHBORS involved... **Grandfriends. Grandfriends** are people volunteering to be a positive influence in a child's life.

Read a story * share a life experience * help the teachers * listen * be a friend

Call to find out how to be a part of our team. (no obligation) *Call Hawthorne's principal, Jennifer Pittman at 678-874-2802 if this sounds like something you would like to try.*

This program is directed to people in our community without children at Hawthorne. Please help us spread the word to your neighbors.

HAWTHORNE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2677 Flair Knoll Drive
Atlanta, GA 30345

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ATLANTA, GA.
PERMIT NO. 733

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.

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

Inside this newsletter

Annual Meeting 1
Bond Referendum 2
Benefit Yard Sale 2
PDK 3
Greenspace 4
Neighborhood Watch 5
Board Nominee List 5
In-Fill & Zoning 6
TABASCO 6
Membership Form 7
Hawthorne Elementary 7
Calendar 8

**Community
Calendar**



| | |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 20 | HCA Annual Meeting, 7-9 pm, Shallowford Presbyterian Church. |
| Nov. 2 | Tentative: next HCA Board meeting |
| Nov. 8 | Election Day: Bond Referendum Absentee voting starts October 3. Advance voting October 30 - November 4. |

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!

Would you attend monthly or quarterly neighborhood meetings? if there were speakers on issues? if they were social events?

Should HCA have a signature event? A garden tour? A bike race? A neighborhood picnic? Other?