

North Briarcliff Civic Association

*Serving 1400 houses / condos and 1700 apartments
in the Hawthorne Elementary school district and adjacent streets*

Winter 2010 Newsletter

>>> **NEW MAILING ADDRESS:**
2566 Shallowford Road, Ste 104, PMB 132
Atlanta, GA 30345-1200

2010 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NBCA membership dues for the 2010 calendar year are now due.

The cold heart of winter is upon us. Our country is still in a recession. Other events take up your time. Other responsibilities take up your funds. And yet, your neighborhood association, the North Briarcliff Civic Association, needs your participation and your annual membership dues more than ever. Just do it. Join NBCA.

Your home is still likely the largest investment you have. The quality of your neighborhood is one of the intangible factors that contribute to the value of your home in a difficult economy. Your Association strives to help you maintain that value. We need your help.

In a difficult economy, the County is cutting many services. Yet in the North Briarcliff Civic Association area, we see increased police presence, road work, and construction activity at Mary Scott Nature Preserve. This doesn't happen by accident. It happens because your neighbors support the work and initiatives taken by the North Briarcliff Civic Association volunteers. And you reap the benefits.

The North Briarcliff Civic Association's helpful quarterly newsletter, improved website and neighborhood watch network have made more information available to our residents.

Give back to the community which gives you and your residential investment so much.

Show up at a meeting. Volunteer for a project.

Join NBCA today for \$25.

This year there are two mechanisms for delivering your message of support for NBCA's activities (paying your dues):

- 1) OnLine at www.northbriarcliff.org/membership
- 2) USPS mail using the enclosed reply envelope



-- NBCA Board, 2009-10 --

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-- Board Meetings --

1st Wednesdays, 7:30 pm.
Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Open to all NBCA members
Verify meeting details with president.

-- Off Board --

June Buechner
gardens@northbriarcliff.org

Linda Dahlke
database@northbriarcliff.org

Subscribe to listservs (Watch & General) at
www.northbriarcliff.org/Comm/listjoin.htm

Send Neighborhood Watch items to
nwatch@northbriarcliff.org

RE-IMAGINING SHALLOWFORD – a Public Meeting

Date: **Saturday, February 13, 2010**

Time: **Registration/Coffee 8:30 am**

Meeting 9:00-noon

Location: **St Pius X High School – enter at 2674 Johnson Road and circle right; look for signs**

At this meeting, local residents, businesses and institutions will be given time to voice their opinions and best suggestions for the **future of the Shallowford corridor on both sides of I-85**. If you are concerned about future zoning decisions in this area, you should make every effort to be present at this meeting where we will begin the process of developing a new plan for this area – residential, commercial, institutional, traffic, greenspace, etc. Land zoned anything other than single family residential surrounding the Shallowford/I-85 interchange has been designated by county officials as a Neighborhood Center. No specific plan has been defined, leaving it open to anyone to “plan” our Center ... UNLESS we take the reins.

The intent of the Neighborhood Center Character Area is to identify areas that can serve the local neighborhood's needs for goods and services. These areas should complement the character of neighborhoods and the location of the commercial areas should reduce automobile travel, promote walkability and increased transit usage. These areas consist of a neighborhood focal point with a concentration of activities such as general retail, neighborhood commercial, professional office, higher-density housing, and appropriate public and open space uses that are easily accessible by pedestrians. The proposed density for areas of this type is up to 24 dwelling units per acre. [from DeKalb Comprehensive Plan].

To be clear about the purpose of this public meeting...we can't request specific businesses to occupy specific spaces. However, we can propose that zoning be amended to allow office buildings or greenspace in place of older apartments or businesses that are nearing the end of their profitable lifespan.

What type of development would you like to see over the next 20 years in this corridor--more live/work/play space? Are you comfortable with the idea of much higher density living spaces whenever a residential complex is redeveloped? Should the heights of buildings be capped? Do we need more greenspace designations in these areas? How about transportation -- more pedestrian friendly? More bike lanes in this area? Better access to/from St Pius High School? More direct access to Shallowford Plaza from residential areas along the access road? These are some of the questions that we as residents need to consider and respond to at this meeting.

We need **EVERYONE's opinion** ... homeowners, apartment dwellers, businesses, of all walks of life, races, ethnicities, ages, etc --- everyone who has a stake in this area's success.

The meeting is sponsored by Commissioner Jeff Rader and the TABASCO coalition (**T**ransform and **B**eautiful **A**long the **S**hallowford **C**orridor), composed primarily of Dresden East Civic Assn and North Briarcliff Civic Assn activists. The meeting will be professionally moderated by Civic Strategies, Inc.



Ted Rhinehart on Infrastructure

Ted Rhinehart has been DeKalb's Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Infrastructure since January 2009. Infrastructure includes the DeKalb Departments of Public Works, Watershed Management, Parks and Recreation, Facilities Management, Libraries, and PDK Airport. From late 2002 through 2008, Mr Rhinehart was DeKalb's Public Works Director. Prior to that, he was Public Works Director for the cities of Bloomington, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis in Indiana. He's been a government management professional for 21 years. We asked him to talk with us about DeKalb Infrastructure, especially about infrastructure projects and needs in our vicinity.

Resurfacing. 300 mile backlog of roads rated 30 or worse including 15 or 16 streets in this area. GDOT will resurface Echo Hills Circle. Roads/Drainage will resurface Peachwood Circle, public portion only. Actively doing roads rated 34 or 35 now.

Traffic. Shallowford had some traffic light timing studies a couple years ago that resulted in some electronic clocks getting tweaked, but because of fiber optic problems, those timings haven't held well. Federal stimulus dollars are going to be used for hardware replacement (bid & contracted) along Shallowford from Briarcliff to Dresden which should improve that problem. Shallowford is an arterial that is over capacity and that isn't going to change.

Water. There is a 30" water line down Shallowford, a 1956 steel line, that has little history of breaks; the recent leak was in an abandoned ¾" line near the 30" line. From Lake Flair Circle to I-85 the 30" line is 2000 ductile iron.

Potholes. Repair can be a "temporary patch" or a "heavy patch". It will take longer if the spot needs a heavy patch, but a temp patch is usually done a couple days after call-in to Roads/Drainage.

Steel plates in the road, how long? Left if the fix is temporary. An on-call contractor (water/sewer funding) or Roads/Drainage does the patch. Call Roads/Drainage to report problems.

Sanitary Sewers. There was a sanitary sewer collapse at the end of Melinda. DeKalb has a couple thousand miles of aging sewers. Mapping is being updated. On-call contractors do pipe-lining.

Roadside Mowing. Xway & access roads are DOT responsibility; DOT had funds to mow once in 2009 rather than usual 3 times. On county roads, Sanitation mows on a cyclic basis, once per month or once per two months. Areas not on cyclic schedule are supplemented with community service workers. *Comments:* Asked that S'ford at North Fork Ptree Creek be added to the cyclic schedule.

Littering. Can we increase fines? County fines are limited to \$1500; state fines might be higher. Problem with illegal dumping is catching the perpetrator.

Road Repair. Can the list be on-line? It is temporary housed in an SQL database looking for a permanent home. Calls Roads/Drainage to ask about a particular street.

Adopt-A-Mile Program. Can/does DeKalb have one? Keep DeKalb Beautiful has an Adopt-A-Road program. See that subsection of the Sanitation website.

Feedback to Communities. Improvement is planned. Will pilot this by working with well-organized civic associations such as this one. Will assess how hard the community is working on clean-up, recycling, minimizing water use, etc, and provide a small project as a reward. What project might work for NBCA?

Business Items & Board Reports

The addition of the following statement to the NBCA bylaws, Article IV (Board of Directors) was approved. *A board member who misses three board meetings within a board year may be removed from the board by a two-thirds vote of the remaining board members.*

The meeting elected a board consisting of the candidates listed in the autumn newsletter plus Donna McPherson. [Gary Powell has since resigned.

Neighborhood Watch. ICP Officer Obester (Center Precinct) said that burglaries west of Shallowford were a problem this year but arrests were made. Michael Gross said that there are many traditional micro-watches organizing within the larger NBCA watch area, spearheaded by Sherry Treco-Jones, Monica Hollingsworth and himself. He also encouraged neighbors to invite their neighbors in for coffee to strengthen our community bonds.

Schools/Kids. Jon Gordon reported that Hawthorne Elementary has a new principal, Mr Rajnish Singh, formerly principal at Fernbank Elementary. Grade 3 CRCT scores are similar to other schools in the area like Oak Grove, Sagamore Hills, Henderson Mill. Ralph Carl reported that Lakeside HS has completed architectural diagrams for renovations and the build-out of a new 600-seat auditorium from SPLOST funds. Construction contracts are to be awarded near the end of February with work starting next spring and continuing for approximately 2 years. Harrison Rogers reported that Lakeside High's new principal, Joe Reed, is from the community and seems to be working out well.

Zoning. Executive Park zoning was approved and construction will be done in phases, some already starting. County Zoning Code (Chapter 27) is being rewritten. What used to be called R100 will now be called R15, reflecting the 15,000 sf lot size. Pure Nightclub's owners have filed a counter suit in Supreme Court to have the recent verdict against them set aside and also filed with Judge Hunter in Superior Court, asking to re-open their club in the interim.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Comments from Al Fowler, Public Education Specialist, DKPD North Precinct

2009 has been a great year for a continued bond between the North Briarcliff Civic Association and the DeKalb County Police Department North Precinct.

Neighborhood Watch has been greatly strengthened by the breaking into smaller group formations. Brookdale/Foster Ridge, Flair Forest, Cravey and Lower Cravey, Hawthorne, etc. have all become very active in helping make their streets safer places to live. Among the many of you who have worked to make this happen, special thanks go to Michael Gross, Sherry Treco-Jones, Don Vick, Gayle and Ken Yeager and Ann Woodard.

Volunteers In Patrol (VIP) has come into being this year. We like to think of it as Neighborhood Watch on wheels. Your community has volunteers who, after training with ICP officers, actually spend time driving around and patrolling your community.

The Cravey Drive area has the distinct pleasure of having Arnold and Joan Kurth as two of the original VIP members trained in November of 2008. They are timely and consistent and have furnished ICP Officers Rowe, Poythress and Hoskins much information and tips that have helped in keeping your community safe.

NBCA has just added another VIP, Mr. Art Hansen of Brookdale. Now there are three VIP's in your North Precinct area working to help keep you safe.

To all of the NBCA, the North Precinct would like to say "thank you" for the wonderful lunch that was served to the Officers on Friday, December 18, 2009. For a very rainy Friday, good food and good company was shared between community and the police officers.

I would like to thank all in your community that donated gifts for our three foster girls this Holiday Season. Truly giving by far is the best!

May 2010 be a year of continued growth and even greater efforts in keeping all of our communities safe.

NBCA sponsored a lunch for all officers and personnel of the North Precinct on Dec. 18. We received thank you's from Major Steve Waits & from Al Fowler (above).

Thanks to Michael Gross, Robert Jones, Gayle Yeager, Arnold and Joan Kurth, Art Hansen and Sherry Treco-Jones (in photo) and Don Vick (not pictured) for coordination. Added goodies were baked by Amanda Lohnaas (cake pictured), Holly Meglio, and Sarah Wiley.

Area neighbors sponsored three girls in a family adopted by the North Precinct for Christmas. Gifts (photo to right) were given by members of the Ladies Wine and Cheese group and delivered personally by Joan Essen.

Though Center Precinct does not have a holiday luncheon tradition, NBCA is planning to hold a special chili lunch for them in the next few weeks, with the event chaired by AnnaBeth Balance.



DOG ATTACKS / LEASH LAWS

In October, the NBCA Board listened in horror at a report from a Cravey Drive resident as she described dog attacks on their leashed small dog, four times in the preceding eight months, as they took their daily dog walk. In the last of those attacks, their dog suffered a broken rib and multiple deep puncture wounds all over his body from three large dogs. Within an hour, the owner witnessed the same three dogs plus a fourth attacking another neighbor's small dog, also being walked on a leash.

In court, the attacking dogs were declared "dangerous animals"; the owner was fined and required to install, prior to a certain date, fencing that meets specific regulations set by DeKalb County for housing "dangerous animals". The penalty for non-compliance would be euthanizing the dogs. These dogs have been permanently relocated outside of DeKalb County.

While it appears that this specific situation has been taken care of, there remains an ongoing problem in the neighborhood with dogs attacking dogs that are being walked on leashes. Sometimes dogs are intentionally let out to play or "do their business" and end up roaming; other dogs escape fenced yards (digging, jumping, gates unintentionally left open by workmen, etc). While your dog may be loving to you, that may not be his/her reaction to passers-by. Some dogs will "defend" the street in front of your house as "their territory". You need to be creative in outwitting escape artist dogs OR not let the escape artist out in the yard off-leash at all. Any everyone needs to respect leash laws.

Everyone, with or without leashed dog, should be able to walk our streets without having unrestrained dogs attacking or threatening pedestrians or their pet(s). Make it happen!

At NBCA's Annual Meeting, Animal Control Officer Hearst emphasized that **there is a leash law that applies outside of fenced yards. Fines can be \$1000.** For law, see dekalbanimalcontrol.com.



CEO ELLIS 2010 BUDGET GATHERINGS



The Board of Commissioners is required by law to approve the county budget before March 1, 2010.

Two news releases about the 2010 budget available through <http://www.yourdekalb.com/news.html>

- ◆ "CEO presents 2010 proposed budget" –contains a full list of public budget gatherings.
- ◆ "2010 Executive Budget Recommendations" – background and intent of the budget with some detail.

All meetings 7:00-8:30 pm. Nearest locations to our community:

January 14, 2010
Druid Hills High School
1798 Haygood Dr
Atlanta, GA 30307

February 2, 2010
Tucker Recreation Center
4898 LaVista Rd
Tucker, GA 30084

February 16, 2010
Torah Day School
1985 LaVista Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

MARY SCOTT NATURE PRESERVE

Acquired in 2003, with development funding set aside within months and a design charrette held in August 2004, visible work on the **Mary Scott Nature Preserve** improvements began November 4, 2009. This 10.6 acre parcel of land, on Briarcliff Road just northeast of Shallowford Road, was once a single family homesite, last owned and occupied by Mary Armstrong who had a close friend named Scott. A pocket of greenspace with a small stream at the rear of the property, the property was nominated for DeKalb Greenspace Program acquisition by the Flair Forest Garden Club and the Hawthorne Civic Association.

The first stage of construction is the area, just off Briarcliff, which accommodates a small number of parking spaces plus a number of amenities. An image of this part of the plan is available at http://northbriarcliff.org/nb/images/parks/MSNP_ParkPlayPicnic.jpg

The looping driveway will be surfaced in crushed granite, with curbs and surrounding sidewalks in concrete that is already in place. Just beyond the driveway loop is a bike rack, a concrete pad for a "trellis structure", a children's playground, picnic tables, and a wildlife-secure trash can. Most of the ground level work in this area should be completed by the end of 2009. The children's play equipment is on order and expected in January. The same contractor will both install the play area and create the trails (permeable surface), likely in January or February. Trails will connect with both of the Overlook Drive dead-ends. No lighting is included in the plan. The master plan's meeting place in the homesite area is not part of the current site plan.

The entry sign for the park has become something of an issue. The county has certain classifications for parks; "nature preserve" is not among them. Mary Scott falls into the classification "neighborhood park", so the entry signage was ordered to say "Mary Scott Park". There may be an option to add "Nature Preserve" such that no one coming to the park is misled about appropriate activities for this "park".

Mary Scott, as it stands, is not a great representative of DeKalb's original forests. There are remnants of the native plants you would have expected to see but they are overwhelmed by exotic (non-native) invasive plants. There are scattered examples of plants from other parts of the world introduced by the homeowners, some of which are expected to be preserved in the homesite area. Proposals are now being collected for the professional minimization of invasive plants and for some re-planting of native plants, with the expectation of starting such a program in 2010. Another ongoing project will be the creation and installation of educational signage.

The county transportation department has been asked to look into the potential for a pedestrian crossing of Briarcliff Road to service the Evergreen and Payton areas. Mary Scott is being added to the list of parks that ICP officers patrol.

DeKalb PARKS generally

Other local parks have been in DeKalb's Park Planning and Development process. **Mason Mill Park**, District 2's Regional Park (largest, most facilities), has a new Master Plan. The plan, meeting minutes and other information are available at http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/parks/mason_mill.htm. **Kittredge Park**, is in the midst of a series of public planning meetings to develop a Master Plan. The Friends of Kittredge Park website has posted the current drafts of potential plans as well as documenting other efforts in the park. See <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Kittredge-Park/95443953911>. The **Lindbergh-LaVista** Corridor Coalition is working on greenspace and trails that were envisioned in the community master plan that came out of their Blueprints study process. See http://www.lindberghlavista.org/north_fork_trail.htm for more info.

A **2010-2020 Parks Strategic Plan** has been proposed. Documents are available on the county website (<http://co.dekalb.ga.us/parks/pdf>)

- Parks Strategic Plan Summary (proposed) - [DeKalbParksRecMasterPlan_ExecutiveSummary.pdf](#)
- Parks Strategic Plan (proposed) - [DeKalbParks&RecMasterPlan_Complete.pdf](#)
- Parks Strategic Plan Maps (proposed) - [Full_Size_Maps.pdf](#)

An October 2009 Review of 2001 and 2005 Countywide Bond Acquisition Expenditures created by the Parks Bond and Greenspace Office concluded with the recommendation that remaining parks bond funds should be *primarily spent in underserved areas based on population density, that is suitable for both active and passive recreation or that completes on-going projects, creating smaller parks in densely developed areas, and acquiring property that improves access to parks from adjacent neighborhoods*. If you can picture a property that would make a great pocket park and that is likely to be available for sale, then **nominate that property for county acquisition**. The Nomination Form and further information on the greenspace acquisition process is located at <http://web.co.dekalb.ga.us/Greenspace/Property.asp>

SPRING GARDEN TOURS



The gardeners of North Briarcliff invite you to visit their gardens. Look for this symbol in front of Open Gardens.

With all the rain this past year, we are looking forward to a spectacular Spring, and beautiful gardens in every neighborhood. Consider sharing yours with members of the North Briarcliff Civic Association. As always, the date for showing your handiwork is at your convenience, usually on Saturday, and the hours that you, yourself, choose. Respond to gardens@northbriarcliff.org (June Buechner) with your address, a likely date and a brief description of your garden.

The gardens are only advertised in our community and not to the general public. Look for notices on the NBCA General News email list and NBCA yard signs on the day of the event.

INTERCHANGE GARDENS:

Regular workdays, for cleanup and/or planting, at the Shallowford I-85 interchange will continue, weather-permitting, on the third Saturday of every month, starting at 8:30 am. Contact interchange@northbriarcliff.org for more info.

GIRL SCOUT "Daisy" TROOP 5020:

The Hawthorne Elementary School Girl Scout troop #5020 has completed a community service project to support Atlanta Pet Rescue, a no-kill animal shelter located in midtown Atlanta. This brand-new "Daisy" troop of 12 hard-working kindergarten girls is very proud to make a donation of over \$150 to sponsor an abandoned kitten at the shelter. A big thank you to all in the neighborhood who contributed your extra change -- it really added up! As we went door-to-door, we learned there are many many rescued pets from Atlanta Pet Rescue who have found a loving home in Flair Forest. We are glad to know that our service project benefits our local community as well as greater Atlanta. In January, the troop will begin its first sale of Girl Scout cookies. *Nicole Thorp, troop leader*
nicole@erinnandnicole.com

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

Saturday, Jan 23, 9 am – noon. Resurgens Bank Building, 2300 Henderson Mill Rd NE. Prevent Identity Theft ! Bring sensitive paperwork such as tax records, credit card statements and canceled checks to be shredded on site. Donations benefit Northlake Community Alliance. Sponsors: Eagle Secure Shredding & Resurgens Bank.

U.S. CENSUS

The 2010 census is only 10-questions long and covers everyone living at your address as of April 1, 2010. The form will be delivered to your address and include a prepaid envelope. **Participation isn't just important—it's mandatory.** A census taker must follow-up in person with every address that doesn't mail back the form in order to obtain the responses. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties.

Census information

- ◆ Affects the numbers of seats Georgia occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- ◆ Helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like: hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects, emergency services
- ◆ Is used by the public to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

WATERWAYS & WASTE

This past fall's rains have reminded us of the importance of the proper functioning of our public drainage system. Please do your part to keep the drainage system working at its peak.

- ◆ Clear debris from gutters at the curb, roadside drains, creeks, ponds, lakes, etc.,
- ◆ Never dump debris (leaves, rocks, etc) into roadside drains or store it on creekbanks.
- ◆ Stabilize creekbanks with heavy riprap (rocks) and/or native plants with roots that stabilize the soil.
- ◆ If you resurface your driveway , please be sure to preserve the gutter (rather than turning it into a little ramp) to keep gutter water flowing smoothly past your house.

If your mailing label is incorrect, please notify database@northbriarcliff.org or Harrison Rogers at 404-890-6012. 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 North Briarcliff Civic Association.

Inside this newsletter

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 1
 SHALLOWFORD PUBLIC MEETING 2
 ANNUAL MEETING SYNOPSIS 3
 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH 4
 DOG ATTACKS / LEASH LAWS 5
 COUNTY BUDGET MEETINGS 5
 MARY SCOTT NATURE PRESERVE 6
 SPRING GARDEN TOURS 7
 INTERCHANGE GARDENS 7
 DAISY TROOP 5020 7
 COMMUNITY SHRED DAY 7
 U.S. CENSUS 7
 WATERWAYS & WASTE 7
 CALENDAR 8

Community Calendar



1 st Wednesdays	NBCA Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Shallowford Presbyterian
3 rd Saturdays	Interchange Workday, 8:30 am, Shallowford @ I-85
Jan 23, Saturday	Community Shred Day, 9 am – noon. Resurgens Bank Building, 2300 Henderson Mill Rd NE.
Jan 30, Saturday	Community Gardening Workshop, 9 am – noon, GA Perimeter College, Decatur Campus
Feb 13, Saturday	Public Meeting: Re-Envisioning Shallowford. 8:30-noon. St Pius High School.
March	Census – shortest census ever. Important that YOU respond.

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 !