

North Briarcliff Civic Association



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

Spring 2011 Newsletter

2566 Shallowford Road, Ste 104, PMB 132
Atlanta, GA 30345-1200

MARY SCOTT NATURE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC & RIBBON CUTTING

Spring is finally here and MSNP is finally ready for its official opening! Join your friends, neighbors and *Friends of Mary Scott Nature Park* for a **Family Social event** sponsored by the NBCA.



Where:
Mary Scott Nature Park (across from Briarcliff Methodist Church)

What: Get to know the new 'Lady' in the neighborhood and all her attributes, possible volunteer opportunities, scheduled workdays!

When: Saturday May 7th from Noon-3 pm. Official ribbon-cutting ceremony will likely be around noon.

What to Bring: Light bag lunch for your family, folding chairs, blankets, etc. NBCA will provide light refreshments and possibly ice cream! Plus, tour guides and native plant enthusiasts to show you around.

Parking: Walk, bike or run preferable; parking available courtesy of Briarcliff UMC.

Please join us to celebrate the reality of our dream for a neighborhood 'park' and gathering place in the great outdoors!

For more information, please email: Parks@NorthBriarcliff.Org.

Friends of MSNP was formed to create a centralized discussion & activity group to support Mary Scott Nature Park. To be included in this group, simply email MSNPfriends-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Images and background material about MSNP are posted on the NBCA website under "Parks and Greenspace", also on the Georgia Native Plant Society (gnps.org) website under "Programs & Projects / Restoration Projects".

-- NBCA Board, 2010-11 --

Beth Nathan 404-315-7440
president@northbriarcliff.org
parks@northbriarcliff.org
tabasco@northbriarcliff.org

Jon Gordon 404-235-0566
vp@northbriarcliff.org
schools@northbriarcliff.org

Donald Vick 404-636-7600
treasurer@northbriarcliff.org

Laura Bulbin 770-939-4636
secretary@northbriarcliff.org

Ralph Carl 770-723-1024
schools@northbriarcliff.org

Larry Foster 678-637-9227
pdk@northbriarcliff.org

Michael Gross 404-636-7887
nwatch@northbriarcliff.org

Randy Hollingsworth 404-228-0868

Kyle Johnson 404-806-0931
webmaster@northbriarcliff.org

Donna McPherson 678-778-2832
infrastructure@northbriarcliff.org
involvement@northbriarcliff.org

Betty Phillips 404-634-6498
<zoning>
<newsletter distribution>

-- 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

Bob Keaton
creek@northbriarcliff.org

Billie Sherrod
interchange@northbriarcliff.org

Port Wilson 404-449-1010
editor@northbriarcliff.org

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

Send Neighborhood Watch items to
nwatch@northbriarcliff.org

NBCA PAVES THE WAY

While perhaps not erstwhile Mayor Shirley Franklin's 'Pothole Posse', the NBCA 'Blacktop Bunch' expedited repair of a serious sinkhole issue on Sylvan Ramble Road near Hawthorne Drive. John Caudle lives on Sylvan Ramble and brought the problem to the attention of DeKalb County Storm Drainage unit – *four times!*

A January e-mail to NBCA President Beth Nathan put this street on the road to recovery, and fast. President Nathan contacted DeKalb Deputy COO Ted Rhinehart, who just so happened to be the guest speaker at NBCA's 2009 annual meeting. On February 11th, Rhinehart acknowledged by e-mail that the Roads/Drainage Unit had a large backlog of repairs, but had determined the Sylvan Ramble location to be among its worst, and repairs would start the next week.

Fast-forward to February 24th, and this follow up message from Caudle: 'Done! Thanks for your help!'. Good news travels fast – especially on a smooth road...

I-85 INTERCHANGE GARDENS

Gone is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer...by NBCA's beautification project at the I-85 interchange! Hey, if the Bard had to exit Shallowford Road every day, he would appreciate the NBCA's efforts. A rose, by any other name would smell, well, a little less like traffic on 85.

NBCA is responsible for the SW corner, closest to the Publix shopping center. Neighbors often comment that this is one of the best, and most visible, projects undertaken by the association.

It will come as no surprise that the hard winter, several years of drought-like conditions and particularly the installation of new traffic lights have taken their toll on the NBCA corner of I-85 [apologies for mentioning 'toll' and I-85 in the same sentence!]. Many plants need replacing, and the area needs a general sprucing up.

Your proactive civic association has a plan to revitalize the corner. But we need your help. We've scheduled a workday the third Saturday of each month. Come out and work off your weekday stress! An hour or two of your time, planting, pruning or weeding will go a long way toward reaching our goal. Can't make it Saturday? Just stop by, time to time, and pick up the magically reappearing litter. Let's take ownership of our little corner of I-85!

If the mere thought of planting makes your back hurt, a financial donation or two can work wonders on the old sacroiliac. Make your checks payable to the NBCA and designate 'I-85 Interchange'.

IT'S A WILD, WILD LIFE

Somehow, Wile E. never managed to catch up with the Road Runner. Unfortunately, his brethren are a bit more adept in their pursuits. Our area has lost more than a few pet cats and wild rabbits to coyotes. Please don't leave temptation outdoors unattended, whether it's a serving of pet food, or a serving of Fluffy herself; this has become a real problem!



Our wonderful pets, of course, wouldn't hurt a flea, right? Well, *all* animals are predators to some degree, hence the reason there exists a **DeKalb County Animal Ordinance**. Please keep your pets on a leash! And need we mention 'dog do's and don't's'? Pick up after the little darlings...

We won't recite chapter and verse, but check it out – they *do* enforce the code: www.municode.com and search the free municipal code library.

HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Walk ‘n’ Roll, Hawthorne! Horrible pun aside, the Hawthorne Safe Routes to School program is hard at work, encouraging students to walk, and yes, roll (by bike, scooter, skateboard or wheelchair) to school each day.



The program promotes physical activity while improving neighborhood safety. It’s also a great opportunity for families and neighbors to connect socially! Fewer cars driving students to school cuts down on traffic frustration and reduces air pollution. This is a win-win for everybody!

Hawthorne’s Safe Routes to School committee has hosted walk-to-school events, provided pedestrian and bicycle education for its students, and secured a crossing guard to ensure safe crossing at the corner of Caladium and Foster Ridge.

Georgia Safe Routes to School named Hawthorne a Gold-level program as a result! More than two-thirds of students participated in ‘International Walk to School Day’ last October, and ‘Georgia Walk to School Day’ this March. We’re talking record numbers for Hawthorne here! *That* deserves a walk ‘n’ roll encore, don’t you think?

Support the Safe Routes to School effort by obeying posted speed limits, stay off your phone while driving (*please!!*), and keep your eyes peeled for students using ‘kid-power’ to get to school.

Let’s keep our neighborhood safe for everyone. For those about to walk, we salute you!

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOODS

DOGGED PURSUIT



Far Side fans remember this as one of Larsen’s funniest cartoons.

Not so funny when it involves a real dog. Residents along Lake Flair Court watched in horror as runaway Springer Spaniel ‘Ford’ darted in and out of traffic on Shallowford Road like he was training for the Olympic Car Dodge event. He escaped capture by neighbors for the better part of a week in January. The pros from DeKalb County Animal Control came in – same result. Apparently, this wasn’t Ford’s first rodeo. Finally, Georgia/Alabama Springer Rescue Group arrived to help out – during the Super Bowl, no less.

A canine happy ending was in store, except for Pittsburgh fans (good thing Philly wasn’t in the Super Bowl, eh?). Everyone rallied together, and after four long hours, he was finally crated.

Ford, now known as Barney, has decided against Olympic competition. He was reunited with his sister Sadie and is living in the lap of luxury on the beach in Biloxi. Rumor has it he has a book deal in the works.

Special thanks for Barney/Ford’s rescue go to Bill and Betty Whatley, Nabb and Etta Quinn, Charlene Cantrell and all the Lake Flair Court families. According to a recent tweet by Barney, they’re all in the club...



Barney (!) reassures sister Sadie he’s OK

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

📁 **Calling all Hawthorne Elementary School Alumni, Parents and Grandparents of Alumni**
The newly formed *Hawthorne Elementary School Foundation* celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Hawthorne during the 2011/2012 school year. Events are planned throughout the year. Please contact John Oselette, Co-Chair of Communications for the Hawthorne Elementary Foundation, info@thehawthornefoundation.org

📁 **Hoe and Grow Home and Garden Club Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale**
Saturday, May 14th 9:30 am to 3:30 pm 2503 Sherbrooke Drive
It's spring-cleaning time! Clean out your basement/garage/attic/shed, and donate to this worthy cause! Proceeds benefit projects throughout our community, from neighborhood entrances, the I-85 garden project and Mary Scott Nature Park.

Bring lovingly used but no longer needed items to this neighborhood event! Please deliver items to the Sherbrooke Drive address Friday, May 6th, through Friday, May 13th. Need items picked up? Call Chris Triplett, 404.822.3804. And be sure to come to the sale! You probably have room now in the garage!

📁 **Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast**
Join Oak Grove United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 23rd at 8:30AM for its annual event. Reservations for breakfast are recommended, and the Easter Egg hunt begins at 10:00 am.

📁 **Springtime**
Ahh, Spring. Puts an extra zip in your step...even when you're driving. The beautiful weather brings people out on the street, so please, watch your speed, and *actually stop* at stop signs. Next time, we'll discuss that protrusion on the left side of the steering column – the turn signal...

BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS

Your NBCA is excited to sponsor a fantastic new program to keep our neighborhoods blooming! It's a one-year beautification project, and it's open to established garden clubs or well-organized *ad hoc* groups.

Here's the deal: Apply for one of three *matching* grants of up to \$500 each. These will combine with funds raised by your organization to help pay for 'entry-area' landscaping at three sites in our neighborhoods. There are approximately 16 locations that qualify as entry-area (intersecting streets leading into neighborhoods, allowing access into and out of our community. Qualifying side streets feed into Briarcliff or Shallowford Roads.

Details and the application will be posted on the NBCA website in the next several weeks. Deadline for submission is May 31st. You may contact us now to request an application package.

Applicants are expected to contribute at least the maximum funds of each grant (\$500), and must submit a design and plan for review. Get more information by calling Laura Bulbin, NBCA Secretary, at 770.939.4636.

AND SPEAKING OF BEAUTIFICATION...

Like the first waves of yellow pine pollen, out come the 'Garage Sale/Yard Sale/Estate Sale' signs, tacked to the nearest telephone pole, or stuck on a busy street corner.

Yard sales are fantastic – we shop them almost every Saturday ourselves – but please, when the last Hawaiian shirt, used Monopoly set or dusty lamp has been sold, *remember to take your signs down!*

It won't take long, and people won't show up at your house the next Saturday!



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Some bad news about our *Interactive Community Policing* unit (ICP). The North and Center Precinct ICP detachments have been suspended due to budget cuts. Our ICP officers have been assigned to other duties, and are not full-time ICP's for our areas. Al Fowler is still the Neighborhood Watch (NW) Coordinator for North Precinct, and he continues to provide great support to NBCA's NW, as does Jeanine Hightower for Center Precinct. We still have our VIPs, Joan and Arnold Kurth, Maria Madsen and Art Hansen.

We've enjoyed a strong relationship with the ICP officers. They know our neighborhood, and many of us, offering tremendous help and support. We cannot overstate the comfort level they provided - a safety net of sorts when needed.

The officers often took their own time to attend NW meetings and respond to our calls and emails. 911 is still the most viable option, but we'll miss the presence of our ICP officers in our neighborhoods.

Have concerns about the ICP unit's suspension? Contact our commissioners, Jeff Rader, 404.371.2863 or Kathy Gannon, 404.471.4909. This has been a critical program to ensure our neighborhood remains safe and secure.

We continue to have a terrific NW program of course, and will make the adjustments.

GOVERNMENT

OPEN LETTER FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT HOLCOMB

I am writing this on Day 31 of the 40-day legislative session; chances are the session will be over, or nearly so, by the time you read this. I hope you've been receiving my email newsletters, with which I've tried to keep you abreast of what's happening at the Capitol and in the district. If you haven't but would like to, just send me an email at scott@repscottholcomb.com.

The tight budget and cuts to the HOPE program dominated much of the session, but we're actively voting on legislation now. I introduced HB 431, to ban Bisphenol A in products to which infants are exposed. It didn't receive consideration this year, I am hopeful we can get it passed in 2012.

As your new Representative, I am struck by how many of you write to me to tell me your concerns and priorities. From these communications, I am able to learn what issues you feel are important. I always want to know your thoughts, so keep writing! Please also let me know about community events that you would like me to attend.

**Sincerely,
Scott
House District 82**

GARDEN TOURS

FORGIVING YOUR TRESPASSES

Admit it...you're curious. You've glimpsed them from the street as you passed by. Wouldn't you like to snoop in someone's fabulous garden – *with an open invitation?*

Now's your chance! The gardeners of North Briarcliff invite you to visit their gardens. Look for the above symbol on yard signs in front of Open Gardens.



Gardeners ... show off your hard work! You can even pick the day, so your garden will be at its peak! Choose any

Saturday, from about 10am to 3pm. It's a great way to meet neighbors and exchange ideas.

Respond to gardens@northbriarcliff.org (June Buechner) with your address, a likely date and a brief description of your garden.

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

AND NOW, A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Greetings to all! My name is Port Wilson, and I'm your new neighbor. No, not the house with nine cars out front - the quiet, respectful house just down the street.

I am also the new resident editor of this newsletter. Should you have any tips/suggestions/articles/concerns/winning lottery tickets, please feel free to forward them to me, editor@northbriarcliff.org.

I look forward to your input!

IN THE ZONE

BANKING ON PEACHTREE CREEK



Many remember the 2009 storm that collapsed the granite retaining wall along Peachtree Creek behind Shallowford Exchange Shopping Center. The guardrail

and curb sunk 15 feet as a result!

Emergency measures stabilized the stream bank to prevent further erosion. In April 2010 a permit for restoration was submitted to DeKalb and approved in September. Actual work began in December.

Johnson Construction Assistance Team designed a solution to restore the stream bank permanently. JCAT took into account traffic control, stationing two employees at the shopping center entrance to provide traffic control measures.

Sheer scope required the project be performed in stages. First, a steel and lagging wall, 25 feet high and 300 feet long was erected as a temporary retaining wall. I-beams were driven 17 feet into the earth and run underneath the parking area. Each beam was lifted into place by crane and vibrated into place utilizing a hammer drill.

The finished wall will be a Gabion wall, made of rectangular galvanized wire mesh baskets filled with stone and stacked in tiers that step back up the slope. Gabion walls often stabilize shorelines from erosion. They are advantageous because their ability to stack in different shapes makes them resistant to being washed away by moving water.

Project completion is scheduled for November 2011. JCAT plans to complete the project as early as possible. Estimates push the cost of the retaining wall at well over a million dollars.

PDK/OPEN DEKALB

BREAKTHROUGH AGREEMENT

On January 25, after almost a year of extensive discussion regarding the proposed new PDK Airport Layout Plan (ALP), the DeKalb County BOC approved an agreement between Open DeKalb and the County regarding two important points.

First, the ALP description of the main PDK runway will remain at the 66,000 lb. weight-bearing capacity, with "Class II" as the critical aircraft, as in the current PDK Airport Layout Plan.

Second, an independent environmental study of air quality and noise impact associated with PDK will be conducted according to guidelines set forth by Open DeKalb and the Airport cooperatively, and funded by the Airport Enterprise Fund.

The goal is to provide critical information to the Commissioners to inform their future decision-making regarding the airport. Results will be made available to the general public.

Both breakthroughs are due to the leadership of Commissioners Jeff Rader and Elaine Boyer, CEO Ellis' office, and PDK Airport Dir. Mike Van Wie.

Open DeKalb expects to obtain from the study what it had previously felt might have to come through litigation. Funds for litigation remain in place, but Open DeKalb is enthusiastically working with the DeKalb CEO, Rader, Boyer and Van Wie to determine the environmental impact of PDK Airport.

Open DeKalb Inc. continues to work to insure that DeKalb County government makes decisions based on reliable information and that the information is made available to the public in a timely and accurate manner.

Julian F. Fuerst, M.D.
President, Open DeKalb Inc.

HISTORY

RESCUE ME



The missing Blake's Mill historical marker, 500 lbs. of bronze, washed away by the 2009 flood, had been sitting on a back porch at Ramsgate Condos for more than two years.

It has been summarily rescued by NBCA board members, assisted by Ramsgate HOA, and is in the possession of the DNR for refurbishing and re-installation. We look forward to it once again marking Peachtree Creek as an important Civil War location, and we'll keep you 'posted'.

If your mailing label doesn't indicate that you're a paid member , please join NOW !!

By mail (send check + form below) to the address on the front of the newsletter -- OR --

Via the website (with credit card or PayPal) -- www.northbriarcliff.org/membership

North Briarcliff Civic Association membership. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ covering 2011 annual dues for my household (\$25) plus a donation of \$_____.

I can help with _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Atlanta, GA 30345

Phone / E-Mail(s): _____

Membership in the North Briarcliff Civic Association, Inc. may include all residents and owners of property within the Hawthorne Elementary School district and such other residents on bordering streets as may request inclusion. Neither dues nor donations are tax deductible.



If you'd like to receive NBCA e-mails about General News and/or Neighborhood Watch alerts, go to www.northbriarcliff.org, click on the "starburst" and fill in the requested information. You can "unsubscribe" in the same way.

Change of address = unsubscribe the old + subscribe the new.

BUILDING COMMUNITY VALUE

RUN! IT'S A CIVICS LESSON!

Well, at least you didn't flee screaming into the night with horrible memories of the loongest class you ever took in high school. Now that we're all adults, and our priorities have changed, civics is *fun!* Ok, we at least understand the necessity.

Which brings us to our point. Who is the North Briarcliff Civic Association, and what are they doing to make our neighborhoods better?

The NBCA isn't a 'them', it's an 'us'. Or it's supposed to be. The Board is a volunteer group of your neighbors who work very hard to promote the best interests of all our neighborhoods.

What the NBCA isn't, is a clearinghouse for every single personal problem in the community. Think big picture here, folks. Consider this newsletter. The Board is keeping tabs on developments at Peachtree DeKalb airport, the work at Peachtree Creek, the growth of Mary Scott Nature Park, community events and neighborhood watch, just to name a few.

Everyone wants high property value, low crime, a friendly community and progressive development. But it takes a village to raise, well, a village. The NBCA can't be the same 10 to 15 people carrying the ball. Membership is low, and frankly, there is power in numbers. Join the NBCA. Have a say in your own neighborhood.

Just clip the form above and mail it in. To make it even easier, you can join on our website!

North Briarcliff Civic Association
 2566 Shallowford Road, Ste 104, PMB 132
 Atlanta, GA 30345-1200

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 ATLANTA, GA.
 PERMIT NO. 4009

Spring 2011

Mailing label incorrect? That must mean you need to JOIN NBCA! Or notify database@northbriarcliff.org. "Or current resident" on the second address line insures delivery to every house and condo in the NBCA area – member or not – as a service to our community.

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

Inside this newsletter

MARY SCOTT NATURE PARK 1
 YOUR NBCA..... 2
 SCHOOLS/EDUCATION/KIDS..... 3
 NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOODS..... 3
 NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES 4
 BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM 4
 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH 5
 GOVERNMENT..... 5
 GARDEN TOURS 5
 IN THE ZONE 6
 PEACHTREE DeKALB AIRPORT 6
 HISTORY 6
 MEMBERSHIP FORM 7
 BUILDING COMMUNITY VALUE..... 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
April 23 rd (Sat)	Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am, Oak Grove UMC
May 7 th (Sat)	MSNP Grand Open, 12:00-3:00 pm
May 14 th (Sat)	Hoe-N-Grow Garden Club's Annual Garage Sale, 9:00-3:30, 2503 Sherbrooke Drive

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 !