

Mary Lin traffic changes cause a stir

By Kate Sandhaus,
CPNO Education Chair

In late November, the Mary Lin administration announced contro- versial traffic and logistical changes that have the potential to impact parents and neighbors. The changes included elimination of one of two drop-off points, removal of the pri- mary crosswalk, and dismantling of the Crossing Guard Dads program.

The plans caught many by surprise, and caused parents to post ques- tions and concerns to the Mary Lin Facebook page and directly to Mary Lin principal Brian Mitchell. The CPNO Board of Directors respond- ed by reaching out to APS to ask for a more inclusive process when changes will impact the broader community.

The first change announced was the removal of the northbound drop-off point on Candler Park Drive. Some feared this would cause a ripple ef- fect to neighborhood traffic patterns, though it seems to be working reason- ably well so far. A November 21 email blast from the school said, “With the closing of the back parking lot, we need as many parking places as pos- sible, hence, the decision to eliminate the morning parent carpool drop-off in the morning.” A blog post by the principal several days later stated, “The ultimate goal is to have a safe and orderly procedure in place for students to arrive at school.”



Candler Park Drive. Photo by David Rotenstein.

Soon after that, parents learned that the administration was eliminating the crosswalk itself, not just the dropoff point, and also dismantling of the all-volunteer Crossing Guard Dads program. Dr. Mitchell explained that the crosswalk was not sanctioned by the city; several days later, that deci- sion was reversed when it became ap- parent that the crosswalk was, in fact, legitimate.

In addition to concerns about safety and logistics, many also expressed dis- appointment about the way in which these decisions were made and imple- mented since stakeholder groups did not have an opportunity to give input.

At a December 2 meeting at the school, CPNO president Ken Edelstein delivered a board-approved state-

ment urging the school administration to engage the neighborhood prior to making or implementing any decisions that will impact the neighborhood. He noted that the neighborhood has spent the last year working on a Master Plan, and that traffic patterns and crosswalks are central to the plan. He also said that the neighborhood had reached out to the school during that process, and that CPNO respectfully asks the same consideration from the school.

The complete statement sent to APS by the CPNO board was posted on the CPBO website at <http://candlerpark.org/content/cpno-board-aps-please-suspend-candler-park-traffic-changes>.

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Adopt a master plan project

By Ken Edelstein

A couple of months ago, a friend offered up her key to unlocking the great project ideas in the Candler Park Master Plan.

“You can set up whatever scheme you want,” she said. “But your success all depends on whether there are people willing to own the projects that need to get done.”

As CPNO moves closer to establishing a formal process for implementing the recently completed Master Plan, we should recognize a simple reality: You, I and all our neighbors individually have the power to make a difference. You can grab the project you really care about and make it happen. And you don’t need to wait for any more official sanction from CPNO to do that.

The Master Plan contains 108 recommendations — each endorsed by the members’ 44:1 vote last August in favor of the entire plan.

Presidential Briefing

Some recommendations are mighty complex; they’ll require money, multiple steps, committee work, the cooperation of city agencies, or some combination of the above. Others simply await the dedication of one or two people.

Take recommendation 3.1: “Organize Farmer’s Market at MARTA parking lot or Candler Park park driveway.” Imagine spending six or seven months laying groundwork for an organic market. Imagine that market becoming a reality — with locally grown food, baked goods, cheeses and a festive atmosphere gracing our neighborhood every summer weekend. Imagine the pats on your back, the accolades and the historic marker with your name on it — praising you for your role in founding the “Great

See *President*, next page

Laughter in the park



by Deb Milbrath

President, continued

Candler Park Organic Farmers' Market."

OK. Maybe not the historic marker. Yet.

But you get the picture. The Master Plan (download it at candlerpark.org) holds dozens of great ideas complete with seals of approval from our neighborhood and our city. There's nothing to prevent any single neighbor or group of neighbors from selecting their pet project, talking it up with neighbors, seeking grants or sponsors, and turning it into reality.

Of course, it would be a good idea to check in on your plans with CPNO — either by contacting me or the appropriate CPNO officer (you'll find our email addresses on page 2) — to ensure that we're not duplicating efforts. You also should take into account that the most costly, complex ideas — traffic calming, sidewalk repairs, major park improvements and the like — will require a coordinated approach and probably some support from CPNO as a whole.

So here's where a caveat kicks in: We need to strike a balance between individual initiative and community coordination. For example, it's great that you and your pals are working to "add drinking fountains at key areas of Candler Park park" (recommendation 1.6) or "recruit pre-k school services into the area" (9.2). But that doesn't mean all your neighbors are obligated to rank those projects as CPNO priorities.

The Master Plan prioritization process that members are slated to vote on next month is intended

to help us decide as a group which recommendations will be first in line for help from organization. If members approve the scheme (and so far we've gotten positive feedback), a three-person team will lead the neighborhood in setting priorities from among the recommendations. Then, the team will support, prod and supplement the efforts of those who are working on those priorities.

That in itself ought to provide another motivation to start now on the ideas you care about. Projects that have "owners" and already are taking steps toward implementation are bound to gain an edge over projects that don't.

So, go ahead. Are you burning up to "create a Candler Park Business Association" (7.4)? Well, let us know so that we can help you. And then, have at it. The master plan's success depends on you.

CPNO President Ken Edelstein can be reached at president@candlerpark.org.

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Do you have a news tip or want to contribute to the Messenger? Let me know about it at editor@candlerpark.org. Help us tell all of our neighborhood's stories.

MEETING & EVENTS

**CPNO general meeting Jan. 20
7:00 pm (social period @ 6:30 pm)**

CPNO general meetings are held every third Monday at First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive; committee meetings are at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1561 McLendon Ave., 2nd Fl. (or as shown) All are welcome - only registered members are eligible to vote at monthly meetings. Membership applications must be received by CPNO by the 1st of the month of meeting.

EVENTS CALENDAR

(open to all)

**Jan. 13: CPNO Board Meeting
Jan. 20: CPNO Monthly Meeting
Feb. 5: CPNO Zoning Meeting**

For the most up-to-date information on Candler Park events and news, check us out on the Web at candlerpark.org.



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The Messenger

The Messenger is published monthly by Candler Park Neighborhood Organization, Inc. Articles must be signed and submitted (by 23rd of month prior to publication) via email to editor@candlerpark.org. Articles published reflect opinions of authors, not necessarily CPNO or The Messenger.

Information about ad Rates, specifications, and payment may be found at the CPNO website: <http://candlerpark.org/content/messenger>

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How I moved to Candler Park

By Don Bender

Before moving to Candler Park in mid 1972, my spouse Judy and I had been residents and program coordinators at the Atlanta Friends Meeting House (also known as Quaker House) on Fairview Rd. We had met in Atlanta 5 years earlier. Each of us was attracted to Atlanta to teach in the newly integrated public schools and to work in the civil rights movement. Judy came from Minnesota as a Franciscan nun and I came from Virginia under the Mennonite Central Committee. We were married in 1969 and then moved to Quaker House in 1970. Our focus at Quaker House was on organizing against the Vietnam War and operating an active draft counseling and draft counselor training program.

It was with this activist background that we along with other families from the Friends Meeting were attracted to Candler Park. We chose Candler Park because it was one of five neighborhoods which formed the Bass Organization for Neighborhood Development (BOND) from which the Credit Union derived its name. The BOND neighborhoods were very involved in fighting the proposed Stone Mountain Expressway for which 200 acres had already been cleared by the Georgia Department of Transportation. We were drawn to the strong commitment to self-determination on the part of these neighborhoods. The expressway was the most imminent threat to that self-determination and quality of life.

Three families from the Friends Meeting moved at the same time into Candler Park in 1972: the families of Harry and Esther Lefever, Frank and

Candler Park Memories

Carol Cummings, and our family. We joined activists already in Candler Park such as Panke Bradley, John Ball and others. We took leadership in getting CPNO restarted and stepped into other leadership roles in the neighborhood.

The largest issue, of course, was the proposed Stone Mountain Expressway. A coalition of neighborhoods called Citizens against Unnecessary Thoroughfares in Older Neighborhoods (CAUTION), which included the BOND neighborhoods



Don Bender (right) next to Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson at the 1977 opening of the Little 5 Points Community Pub (now the Corner Tavern). Photo courtesy of Don Bender.

as well as the neighborhoods of East Lake, Druid Hills, and Decatur – all of whom were fighting this road.

The strategy for this opposition included both legal and political activism. Shortly after we moved into Candler Park, as an example of the political activism, Panke Bradley of Candler Park was elected with neighborhood support in a special election to the City Council.

Late in 1972, Gov. Jimmy Carter named a “Blue Ribbon Panel” of eight people to resolve the Stone Mountain Expressway issue. Four panel members, which included new council member Panke Bradley, were thought to be against the road and four were considered to be for it. Several nights of hearings were held in a large auditorium in Decatur. One night was devoted to those opposed and thousands showed up asking to testify in a meeting that finally ended the next morning. The next night, a few dozen people showed to testify in favor of building the expressway. The panel then voted unanimously that the road not be built. President Carter accepted the recommendation that it not be built “at this time.”

The 200 acres of land that had been cleared for the expressway was to lie idle, overgrown with kudzu, for the next decade despite an effort for its reuse led by residents Bill Fletcher, Quinn Hudson, Kelly Jordan and others, through the organization, Great Park Planning. After a decade had passed a new proposal for

a “Presidential Parkway” was made by Mayor Andrew Young in 1983, but that effort and its defeat is another chapter.

In addition to the election of Panke Bradley to City Council and the initial success at stopping the expressway, 1972 was also the year that the BOND Credit Union was established and new members were signed up at Epworth Methodist Church. This was the first

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Getting the story on educational equality

By Quinn Mulholland, Grady High School

My school's newspaper, The Southerner has had a long history of excellent coverage of the racial divide, both socially and academically, in our school and in our district. For example, when the staff saw that the school's new "small learning community" system was resulting in high levels of racial segregation, we investigated and reported on it. But, it seemed to me, we have focused perhaps too much on race, neglecting what I believe to be the underlying factor for the achievement gap at our school and nationwide: socioeconomic level. So, this past September, I decided to write a long-form article about the reasons behind the socioeconomic achievement gap and solutions toward creating a more equitable public education system.

Ever since I joined the staff of The Southerner, I knew I wanted to write about this topic, but September was the first time I spoke with the rest of the staff about actually running the story. As soon as I had pitched the idea, I got to work researching and reporting on it, since I knew it would take a great deal of both. By early December, I had compiled over 300 pages of snippets from relevant studies and newspaper articles, as well as notes from interviews I had conducted with five experts on educational policy, from places like Emory University and the Center for American Progress. I also analyzed demographic, financial, and testing data from 10 school districts and 61 high schools in metro Atlanta.

I realized, however, that in order for my story to not simply be a research report, I would need a human-interest angle. So, I decided to visit a school in south Atlanta, an area that my data analysis showed had a very high rate of low-performing, high-poverty schools. I chose the South Atlanta Law and Social Justice School, because, though it had a 95 percent poverty rate, its

Student Voices

students had comparatively high test scores, and, with an emphasis on social justice, it seemed like a perfect example for my story.

When I visited the school, I was amazed by all the good things that seemed to be happening there. I spoke to many inspiring people, including the principal and several teachers and students, and they were all eager to help, and were just as passionate about issues like equal opportunity and social justice as I am. They consistently disproved the stereotype many people have of high-poverty schools: that they are crumbling, decrepit buildings filled with teachers who don't care and students who are always acting out. Obviously, our education system has problems; that is what my story is about. But the take-away from my visit to South Atlanta is that the necessary course of action is not to just give up on these schools, but to give them more resources so they can break the vicious cycle of poverty that so many of America's low-income students face.

As more and more experts are becoming convinced that economic inequality is, as President Obama put it, "the defining challenge of our time," it is essential that we ensure that the institution of public education, which is supposed to be a bastion of social mobility, is truly serving its purpose as the

"great equalizer." This means solutions like guaranteeing universal preschool to all four-year-olds so the playing field isn't uneven from the beginning, and reorganizing school funding so that schools in wealthy neighborhoods don't have more money to work with than those in poorer neighborhoods. It also means changing the way we think about our teachers, to ensure that instead of demonizing them, we're giving them plenty of opportunities to improve, and paying them the wage that their hard work and dedication warrants, especially those who work in the areas where students have the most need. All of these solutions are discussed in my article, as well as several others, but there is one common theme throughout: unless our public education system stops perpetuating inequalities in our society, the American Dream may become a thing of the past.

Editor's note: Read Quinn's original article online: <http://bit.ly/1aDeFZC>

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Dad's Garage: Rolling into Candler Park?

By David Rotenstein

After eight years at its Elizabeth Street location in Inman Park, Dad's Garage was displaced by a new mixed-use development that broke ground last year. The popular comedy improv company began looking for a new permanent home for performance and office space as its members took temporary refuge at 7 Stages in Little Five Points.

The short list for a new location includes 351 Moreland Ave.: the 0.4-acre lot where Front Page News and Tijuana Garage are located. Dad's Garage would require between 15,000 and 20,000 square feet to accommodate its needs.

The law governing Little Five Points zoning currently bars entertainment venues larger than 8,000 square feet in the "neighborhood commercial" (NC) district. Late last year, the theater proposed raising that cap to 20,000 square feet, but neighborhood groups — including CPNO and Neighborhood Planning Unit-N — are examining whether to support such a change or to work out something different.

"We have a history of being threatened with eviction at 280 Elizabeth because of redevelopment a number of times," explained Dad's Garage board member Amanda Rhein.

Dad's Garage tried to negotiate with the developer but the property — one block from the Beltline — was beyond the nonprofit's means. "As soon as we had caught wind that they had the property under contract, is when we started seriously looking. It's been over a year," Rhein said.

The group wants to remain intown where its patrons can easily walk to restaurants and bars. Rhein said that Dad's Garage requires a performance space with 14-foot ceilings and 100 parking spaces. They also need office space, classrooms, a shop, and a

production studio. That's an ambitious shopping list for a nonprofit working in a hot real estate market.

The owners of 351 Moreland learned that Dad's Garage was looking for a new home. With 200 parking spaces and underutilized building space behind the two existing restaurants, co-owner and Candler Park resident Josh Sagarin saw an opportunity to improve the stretch of Moreland Ave. south of McLendon. "I think there's a lot of synergy there and it's a chunk of Little Five Points that I think has been sort of underutilized until now and so I think it will be a good thing," Sagarin said.

If the zoning issues are resolved, Dad's Garage would need to embark on a capital campaign to raise the funds necessary for the construction. The outfit would occupy the upstairs portion of the existing building as

well as a new addition in the rear. Rhein admits that the regulatory reviews and capital campaign could take more than a year to complete.

Sagarin said he has offered Dad's Garage a sweet deal if the funding and zoning fall into place. "They're footing the bill for the construction," he said. "The rent we're charging them is really low. It's less than half what I would have charged another tenant. But they're bringing a lot of money into the deal to improve the property so we'll end up with a pretty substantially improved property."

Dad's Garage has been invited to speak to the CPNO Zoning Committee at its January meeting. Check the CPNO website for the most up-to-date information on this evolving project.

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Dad's Garage is temporarily parked at 7 Stages. Photo by David Rotenstein.



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Fruit trees on sale

By John Skach, CPNO Environmental Chair

The Atlanta Local Food Initiative is having their 2014 Fruit Tree Sale on Saturday, January 25th from noon to 3:00 at North DeKalb Mall. If you are interested in purchasing trees, fruiting vines or berry bushes specifically suited to our climate, check out the online catalogue to see if they have what you need. Candler Park residents who ordered online before January 8 helped CPNO gain tree credits. The credits were offered in an online challenge and they awarded \$10 towards future fruit tree purchases for every \$200 purchased.

Find out more about the 2014 Fruit Tree Sale at <http://www.atlantafood.org/fruit-tree-sale-home/>.

NPU-N activities

By David Rotenstein

CPNO's NPU-N representative Amy Stout attended the December 2013 NPU-N meeting. According to Stout, the NPU-N board voted to create a special temporary committee to study the proposed changes to the NC-1 zoning overlay. The Inman Park Neighborhood Association (IPNA), CPNO, and the Little Five Points Business Association each will appoint two members to the committee. The effort is a response to potential city legislation affecting the NC-1 zoning overlay, negotiations to relocate Dad's Garage to 351 Moreland Ave. and a recent controversy over a proposed fast-food drive-thru.

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Meet Bella: Cultivating community on a wall

By David Rotenstein

Late one November evening my wife and I passed by Diana Swiderski's Miller Ave. house and two things caught our eyes. The first was the line of Christmas cactus plants in plastic cups lining her retaining wall and the second was a sign inviting us to buy one of them. As we were selecting one of the plants, Swiderski emerged and began telling us about her plants. I returned a few weeks later for a longer discussion about her budding business and her history in Candler Park.

"One thing about the plants out there on the wall, it's been a really good opportunity to meet my neighbors," Swiderski said. "And so being outside and people walking and stopping at the wall, I find out they're my neighbors and I get to meet new people and make friends."

It works. I know from experience and now you're reading about it.

Swiderski came to Atlanta in 1981 from Reading, Pa. After sharing an apartment with her sister in Virginia-Highland and then on Ferguson Street, she moved in 1988 to Miller Avenue between Oakdale Rd. and Candler Park Dr.

Once a shy nutritionist – Swiderski retired from healthcare three years ago – the Candler Parker became a popular WRFG radio host in the 1990s. For 13 years, she hosted the Americana-themed program "Old Strings, New Strings" every Monday evening.

The radio gig began with some innocent chiding. "I fell in love with

bluegrass music," Swiderski said. "That's a funny story. My husband at the time said that he was just getting tired of being responsible for planning all of our fun stuff and entertainment and that he wanted me to take some initiative."

fetching vinyl from the station's library and answering phones, Swiderski got a call from station manager Abdul Man-non. "He wanted to know what my social calendar looked like on Monday night," she recalled.



Swiderski in her greenhouse. Photo by David Rotenstein.

That episode led to attending a show at the Variety Playhouse and volunteering at WRFG. After a few years of

In 1994 Swiderski became WRFG's "Lady Di." Though her show ended a few years ago, Swiderski still volunteers for the station and can still be heard as a substitute host on some nights.

Now, though, on-air and around Candler Park Swiderski likes to be called Bella. "My neighbors know me as Diana but I'm trying to get them to go to Bella. And then people that I meet, I'm introducing myself as Bella and I've been doing that for probably three years,"

she explained.

Swiderski morphed into Bella right

See Bella, p. 9

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Bella, continued from p. 8

around the time she retired. The name comes from the popular vampire series, *Twilight*. In the books and movies, Bella is a teenage vampire. Says Swiderski, “So it’s not anything to do with vampires but just changing into a different – not totally changing into a different person, but not being who I was. I don’t want to be Diana any more. I’d rather be Bella.”

About the same time she retired and became Bella, Swiderski decided to take her lifelong love of plants to a new level. For eight years, she’s had a mail-order greenhouse a friend erected in her backyard. In it she cultivates cuttings that she nurtures into thriving baby plants.

Swiderski said that her first cuttings came from a neighbor’s plant. “I Used to have a neighbor on the corner, Pedro. Pedro came from Cuba a long, long time ago. And Pedro brought with him a cutting from one of his mother’s plants,” Swiderski recalled.



Bella's baby plants. Photo by David Rotenstein.

The plant was a Grand Duke of Tus-cany, a kind of jasmine.

Swiderski now has geraniums, elephant ears, ferns, string of pearls plants, Christmas cactuses, and a variety of other plants. She sells her plants on her Miller Ave. wall and at nonprofit auctions, flea markets, and yard sales throughout Atlanta.

Her wall, though, is her favorite venue because it’s how Swiderski keeps in touch with Candler Park. “I love everything about it. I love the diversity of the people. I like the outward look of the community, the older houses that have been ... fixed up and made really nice.”

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Memories, continued from p. 4

credit union with a community base. It was another step in the effort toward self determination and 1972 ended as a banner year!

In 1973 Panke, who was the first woman on City Council, was re-elected, Charles Helms from Inman Park was elected to another City Council post, and Maynard Jackson was elected Mayor. He was a neighborhood advocate and he along with the 2 neighborhood council members, received strong support from the BOND neighborhoods.

Mayor Jackson as one of his initial actions reorganized city government and created the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) structure modeled after the BOND coalition. In time it was understood that BOND was no longer necessary as its functions had been taken over by NPU-N.

An interesting sidelight is that when we purchased our house on Miller Ave., we received a stock certificate from the former owner who had moved to a nursing home. The stock certificate was for membership in the Candler Park Improvement Assn., an inactive organization, which we discovered later, was open only to members of the "Caucasian race." It owned the old Stone Church on Candler Park Dr., which was unused and in disrepair. It had been vacated by the First Antioch Baptist Church in the early 1950s and while no one wanted to discuss the details of what happened, it is clear that the African American congregation sold and moved out of the neighborhood under duress. In 1977 the church building was purchased by the Unitarian Church and later by the E church. After the sale the Candler Park Improvement Assn. was disbanded.

In the spring of 1973 at the Inman Park Festival, Candler Park set up a booth to attract people to move into the neighborhood. Kelly Jordan rode by on his bike and decided to move

into the neighborhood later that year. He was later to become a key player in the re-development of Little Five Points among many other ventures.

CPNO also became involved in the planning for the MARTA system that was starting to be built. We were particularly concerned with keeping the Edgewood/Candler Park MARTA station from becoming a sprawling development with a large storm water retention pond on the west side of Oakdale Rd. With much effort we were successful in getting MARTA to enlarge the sewer system instead. We worked with the Edgewood neighborhood in this effort and our proposal that the name of the station be changed to Edgewood /Candler Park instead of Candler Park was accepted.

As the children of the new arrivals reached school age, residents became more involved with the Mary Lin School. Carol Cummings was instrumental in getting some innovative programs started including "mini courses." Residents taught these courses in their area of expertise.

In 1975 a significant tract of land with two residential buildings on it became available near where 2 of the families had purchased houses. It included 2 acres of land bounded by Oakdale Rd., Miller Ave. (west of Oakdale) and an undeveloped Ferguson St. right of way on its western border. The property, overgrown with kudzu, was purchased by several families and after much work the wooded area behind the houses was liberated from the kudzu and a small pond was built. The common property was later (2000) put into a conservation easement. Known as Tern Valley it became a place for political gatherings, weddings and memorial services. Tern Valley and especially the pond is now frequented by children and playful adults.

In 1973 a group of neighbors from Candler Park and the other neighborhoods in the BOND community formed a corporation, Atlanta Intown Development Corp.

(AIDC) to purchase, renovate and re-sell residences in our community. Many who had moved in had purchased dilapidated houses and had spent years renovating them often with their own labor. In order to attract more people into the neighborhoods we thought that we could provide the option of purchasing a house already renovated and ready to move in. The first house was in the 1400 block of McLendon Ave. and other houses in different parts of our neighborhoods followed.

In 1975 a row of eight commercial buildings in Little Five Points at the intersection of Moreland and Euclid became available. AIDC decided to venture into commercial re-development and purchased the property. The next year the Point Center Building was purchased by another community corporation and the revitalization of Little Five Points was born. That also is another chapter.

This is a brief sketch of our first 3 years. Forty years and many milestones later, we are still proud to call Candler Park our home.

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Read about our vexing historic sidewalks in next month's *Messenger*.

Post-Holiday Chicken Soup Weather

By Donna Palmer

Now that the holidays are over, chances are you may be shocked ... shocked to find that clothes you were wearing in say, November, have suddenly shrunk to an uncomfortable size. And, to make matters worse, chances are that winter weather is making it uncomfortable to get outside and work off those extra pounds.

Fear not, Candler Parkers. My beloved Aunt Hazel's chicken soup recipe offers a one-two punch to combat these problems and it couldn't be easier to make.

Lifestyle

Here's what you'll need:

1 (3-4 pound) chicken
1 1/2 cups chopped onion
1 cup chopped celery
1 cup chopped carrots
1 cup brown rice
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
Salt & Peppa

Put the first five ingredients into a large (5 quart) stock pot then cover with about 3 quarts of water. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat, cover it and allow the soup to simmer for about an hour. Skim off any funky foam that rises up.

Remove chicken to a large bowl and allow it to cool. Remove the meat then toss away the skin and bones. Tear the chicken into bite sized pieces and return to soup. Stir in salt, peppa and parsley. Give it a little taste and adjust the seasoning to your liking.

Enjoy!

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 273 Matthews Ave	 273 Matthews Ave	 367 Oakdale Ave	 367 Oakdale Ave

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Compassionate Cities

By Karina Hatcher

Compassionate Atlanta is a grass roots movement that seeks to create awareness about the benefits of compassionate action, has already planted its seed in our neighborhood community.

“What we have learned from the Civil Rights movement and more recently the movement for LGBT equality, is that communities consist of conversations, to bring real change to our communities we must first change the conversation,” said Rev. Robert Thompson, a Lake Claire/Candler Park resident and an initiative organizer. “We believe that compassion is a conversation changer.”

Compassionate cities focus on violence prevention, raise consciousness about bullying and develop strategies to reduce homelessness and hunger. Compassionate cities consciously seek to build bridges in a polarized society. Compassionate cities are not governed by fear or hate. Compassionate cities celebrate kindness.

In November 2007, author Karen Armstrong became the recipient of the TED prize. TED (the acronym for Technology, Entertainment, Design), a private nonprofit organization best known for its superb conferences on “ideas worth spreading,” gives awards each year to people whom they think have made a difference but who, with more help, could make a greater impact. Other winners have included former U.S. president Bill Clinton, the scientist E. O. Wilson, and the British chef Jamie Oliver. The recipient is given \$100,000 but, more important, is granted a wish for a better world.

Armstrong's wish was the creation of the Charter For Compassion, inspired by the Golden Rule (treat

See Cities, p. 13

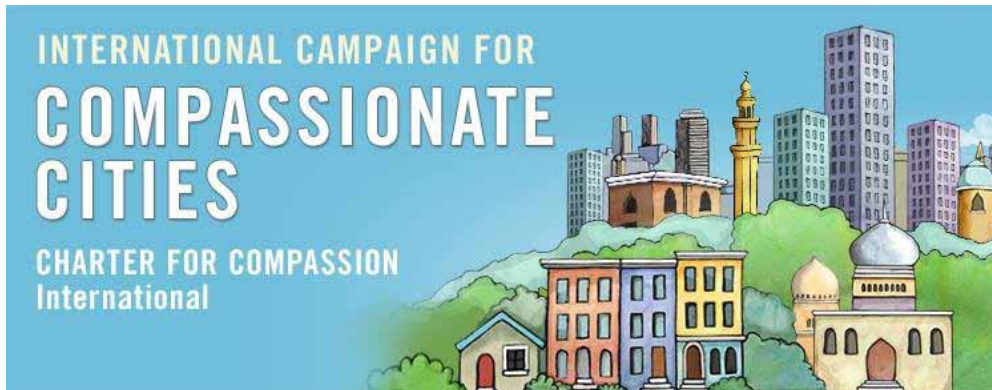
Cities, continued from p. 12

all others as you wish to be treated yourself). Compassionate Atlanta's is to have the City of Atlanta named a Compassionate City under the auspices of the Compassion Action Network International. To be considered "compassionate" a city must affirm the Charter for Compassion. Once affirmed, Compassionate Atlanta will serve as a catalyst for compassionate action throughout the city of Atlanta by encouraging and facilitating activities, events and other initiatives that allow people from all walks of life to get involved.

Compassionate Atlanta is holding its next conversation at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Participants will be a mix

of Lake Claire/Candler Park neighbors and guests at the shelter. Please contact Bob Thompson, rvthompson@mindspring.com or Karina Hatcher, karina.compassionateatl@gmail.com if you are interested in attending

Compassionate Cities Atlanta launch will take place on Sunday February 2, from 2:00-5:00 PM, at the Carter Center.



or learning more about many local opportunities.

This global campaign has opened the local dialogue and will hopefully evolve into on-going compassionate action between neighbors. The official

For more resources visit: www.compassionateatl.com or www.charterforcompassion.org.

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Zone 6 crime reports

Complied by David Bruce

300 block Brooks Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/11 Mon Eve. Window broken out. Nothing listed as taken.

1500 block DeKalb Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/12 Tues Eve. Window broken. Nothing listed as taken.

500 block Page Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/13 Wed Morn. Window broken out. Sunglasses taken.

1300 block North Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/14 Thurs Morn. Catalytic converter taken.

1400 block McLendon Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/19 Mon Eve. Window broken out. Bag taken.

1600 block McLendon Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/20 Wed Eve. 2 windows broken out. HP laptop and Samsung Galaxy Note 8 touch pad taken.

200 block Elmira Pl – Larceny from auto – 11/20 Wed Eve. Window damaged. MacBook laptop, I pad Touch, cash and Sure headset taken.

1200 block DeKalb Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/20 Wed Eve. Window damaged. I pad, MacBook Air laptop, briefcase, Range Rover keys, West Point ring, 3 Mont Blanc pens and retainer taken.

300 block Mell Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/21 Thurs Day. No sign of forced entry, victim said vehicle might have been left unlocked. Pioneer AM-FM-CD-MP3 stereo taken.

300 block Mell Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/25 Mon Eve. Witnesses said they saw a black male with dreadlocks driving a blue Chevy, break out the window and snatch the backpack from the vehicle.

1200 block DeKalb Ave – Larceny from auto – 11/27 Mon Eve. No useable information available in report.
500 block Candler Park Dr – Larceny from auto – 11/29 Fri Eve. White Ford

2000. Entry: front passenger window. No mention of what was taken or how entry was done.

1300 block Euclid Ave – Auto theft – 11/30 Sat Day. Parking lot. Silver Honda CIV 2000. Victim said he does not lock the doors due to a previous break in.

•CP•

Clean Car Campaign Check List

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES AND YOUR CAR
Place valuables in your trunk **BEFORE** you arrive, not **AFTER**.

- ✓ Lock all windows and doors
- ✓ Remove GPS and mounts
- ✓ Remove cell phone and smartphone
- ✓ Remove laptop/tablet computers
- ✓ Remove all electronic cords and power sources
- ✓ Remove book bags, brief cases, shopping bags, gym bags, and purses
- ✓ Do not leave money, bills, or coins, out in the open
- ✓ Do not leave a firearm in your vehicle

Checklist provided by the Atlanta Police Department.

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Zoning Report

By Seth Eisenberg, CPNO Zoning Chair

The December Zoning meeting was cancelled and there was no report presented at the December CPNO membership meeting.

The next zoning meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2014. The tentative agenda should include discussion on Dad's Garage's interest in a potential move to 351 Moreland Avenue.

Everyone and anyone from the neighborhood is encouraged to attend and provide feedback for the neighborhood.

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From the Treasurer

By Peter Bluestone, CPNO Treasurer

CPNO continues to be in good financial shape. Fall Fest accounting is slowly closing its books we are waiting on one more large sponsorship check, if all goes well it looks like the festival will have exceeded the budgeted net revenue.

Fundraising activities: theater night was a great success. Preliminary estimate of funds raised, \$1,640 on 77 tickets sold including wine bar. Major expenses upcoming: The city has approved our Master Plan, thus we owe Market and Main the final payment of \$7,500.

Finally the annual proposed operating budget for 2014 of \$16,550 was introduced, per the bylaws in December, with a vote scheduled on said budget at the January meeting, see you then!

•CP•

Join or Renew Online in 2014

It's a great way to get involved and keep up with what's happening in Candler Park. Membership allows you to fully participate by voting in CPNO monthly meetings, receive e-mails with important news, and keep apprised of upcoming meetings.

Already a Member? Renew for 2013 by going to <http://www.candlerpark.org/renew> (yes, the bylaws require each member to renew)

To Join: Go to www.candlerpark.org and click "Membership"

Support CPNO with a Paypal donation today!

No computer? CPNO will still accept the paper application below, but its primary method of communication will be e-mail and *The Messenger*.

- Lexa King, CPNO Membership Secretary

CPNO Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone: _____ Mobile phone: _____

Email: _____

Minor Children (names and ages) _____

Any information NOT to be published in CP neighborhood directory? _____

Business applicants list name, address and phone of designated agent:

Name of business: _____

Address of business: _____

Optional Contribution

Supporting CPNO with a PayPal donation today? If you wish to make a donation to help CPNO continue serving the neighborhood, please take this opportunity to make a contribution.

Please indicate either: **New Enrollment** _____ or **Renewal** _____

I elect to contribute _____

Membership Involvement and Interests

___ New neighbor welcome

___ Newsletter/Messenger

___ Historic Preservation

___ Candler Park/Environment

___ 5K/Road Races

___ Land Use / Zoning

___ Tour of Homes

___ Flyer Distribution

___ Fall Fest

___ Parent/child groups

___ Social events

Other (specify) _____

If sending by mail, please address to:

CPNO Membership

P.O. Box 5418, Atlanta GA 31107

Candler Park Neighborhood
Organization
Membership Meeting
December 16, 2013
[DRAFT]

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Ken Edelstein, President. Mr. Edelstein welcomed new members and guests. Thank you to Corner Tavern for the Holiday dinner.

Motion to adopt the agenda as printed passed.

Announcements:

- CPNO is looking for more volunteers to be a NPU Alternate Representatives. Please submit names to Ken Edelstein for consideration/appointment. Lauren Welsh was appointed an alternate at the December Board Meeting.
- Peter Bluestone, Treasurer, presented the results of the Fall Festival as \$10,000 net. This does not include the sponsorship check (\$5,000) from Sweetwater Brewing.
- Cookies are for sale at Uncle Maddio's Edgewood Retail District to raise funds for the Clifton Sanctuary.
- There will be a fund raiser for Jason Carter, who is running for Governor, Saturday, December 21, 2013 at Twain's Tavern in Decatur.
- The Candler Park Theater Night at the Horizon raised almost \$1700.
- Cliff Mack has requested that the lights at the entrance of the Park be repaired.
- Master Plan was approved by the Atlanta City Council December 2, 2013 and signed by Mayor Kasim Reed.
- Amy Stout, NPU-N Representative, announced that the minutes for the NPU-N November meeting are in the Messenger.

Visitors:

- Lt. Floyd, evening watch Commander, reported that overall crime is down for Beat 608 (Candler Park) except car break-ins.

Reports:

Motion to accept the November minutes passed.

Written Officer reports -no questions.

Action Items:

Motion to amend Article IV, Section 5-Elections of the Bylaws passed.

Motion to support the changes to the ordinance NC-1-13-O-1259 and to an ordinance limiting the number of service (gas) stations in Little Five Points commercial district passed.

Ordinances with any changes will have to be resubmitted at the next session of the Atlanta City Council.

Discussion Items:

- Peter Bluestone, Treasurer, presented the Operational Budget for 2014. The 2014 Budget will require a vote by neighbors next month.
- Alex Beasley, Trees Atlanta, addressed the group about the tree planting March 22, 2014. He requested anyone who wants to volunteer to help that day and/or who wants to suggest tree plant locations to contact Amy Stout.
- With Peter Bluestone presiding, Ken Edelstein explained his idea for the next step of the Master Plan-implementation. The main need is the formation of a 'Master Plan Coordinating Committee'. Discussion will be ongoing.
- Amy Stout, Events Chair, encouraged neighbors to complete the SurveyMonkey on line. She distributed a 'draft of proposed ideas' that will be presented to the City.
- Paul Cornwell, promoter, explained the purpose of the Great Atlanta Pot Festival that is scheduled for April 20, 2014. Friends of Candler Park will be using the park for a movie night April 19th and is not willing, at this time, to relinquish the date to Mr. Cornwell. Mr. Cornwell proposes a joint 'Earth Day' activity.
- Alice Jenkins, Executive Director, spoke about the need for renova-

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tions of the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries office space. The space has no air conditioning or heat. The request is for \$5,000 through CPNO grant application. The entire project will cost \$25,000-32,000. The Ministry has 3 other fund raising events during the year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Submitted by
Bonnie Palter
Recording Secretary
December 16, 2013

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