



MARCH 2016

# MESSENGER

News for Candler Park • Your In Town Hometown • [www.CandlerPark.org](http://www.CandlerPark.org)

## Candler Park makes way for a New Church

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Benning House

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# The Fun is about to start in Candler Park

By Zaid Duwayri

Those who attended our February membership meeting witnessed a familiar lineup of festival organizers who are looking to hold their festivals in Candler Park in the next few months. Since these festivals are not organized by CPNO and Candler Park is a city park, we don't have the authority to approve or reject these festivals. The festival organizers understand the importance of the support of our neighborhood, and we appreciate them coming to present their plans and answer questions from our members. Our External Affairs Officer (Lauren Welsh) is interacting with the organizers to explore areas for collaboration or support of our project and initiatives.

We also have exciting events of our own that are being organized or sponsored by CPNO. Our annual fall festival is scheduled for October 1 and 2 and is shaping to be bigger and better than ever before. The committee in charge of the festival is already hard at work lining up sponsors, music, food and artists to ensure we have an event we can all be proud of and one that generates revenue to support our projects and our grants program. You'll be hearing more about our main event in subsequent issues of The Messenger.

This year will also feature another popular CPNO event which is the Candler Park Easter Egg Hunt. Scheduled for a noon start on March 20th, this fun event is sponsored by

## PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING

the Candler Park Market and attracts many families from our neighborhood and beyond. This year's event is being led by our Treasurer (Chris Fitzgerald) and it's a great opportunity to meet and reconnect with neighbors.

The very popular movie night series is back. The series, which is sponsored by CPNO and organized by Mark Clement and the Friends of Candler Park, has been receiving positive reviews in several web and print publications for years. The lineup and the dates are on our website, [www.candlerpark.org](http://www.candlerpark.org).

There is more to come. We will be also getting ready to kick off our porch party season soon and we are planning for a special annual party later this year. We are thankful to all of you who responded to our call for help and we invite more of you to reach out. We need more volunteers to help us organize and publicize our events, and of course, propose new ones. Please contact our membership officer (Roger Bakeman) to become a member of the membership committee and help us organize fun social events for Candler Park and our neighbors. Roger's email is [membership@candlerpark.org](mailto:membership@candlerpark.org)

The mission of the **Candler Park Neighborhood Organization** is to promote the common good and general welfare in the neighborhood known as Candler Park in the city of Atlanta.

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Find a complete list of CPNO committee chairs, representatives and other contacts at [www.candlerpark.org](http://www.candlerpark.org).

## MEETINGS

CPNO Members Meetings are held every third Monday at First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive.

Committee meetings take place at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1561 McLendon Ave., unless otherwise announced (enter from the street level door and ring the bell if you're late).


All are welcome. Only registered members are eligible to vote at monthly meetings. Membership applications must be received by Membership Officer by the first day of the month of meeting.

Find specific meeting information on page 1 and a complete list of CPNO meetings at [www.candlerpark.org](http://www.candlerpark.org).


## MEMBERSHIP

CPNO membership is free to Candler Park residents, property owners and businesses. Membership must be renewed annually.

Sign up at [www.candlerpark.org](http://www.candlerpark.org) or complete the membership form in this issue of the Messenger.



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David Terraso

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The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization. Articles reflect the opinions of authors, and not necessarily those of CPNO, the CPNO Board of Directors, the Messenger or the editor.

Articles must be signed and submitted via email to [editor@candlerpark.org](mailto:editor@candlerpark.org) by the 18th of the month prior to publication.

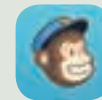
If you have a news tip or story idea, please email relevant information including contacts to [editor@candlerpark.org](mailto:editor@candlerpark.org) or call the editor.

If you live in CP or own a business in CP, and aren't receiving the Messenger by mail, be sure to notify us! Send your name and address to [editor@candlerpark.org](mailto:editor@candlerpark.org). Place the words "Messenger Delivery" in the subject line.

## CP ONLINE

For the most up-to-date information on Candler Park events and news, check us out on the Web at [candlerpark.org](http://candlerpark.org).

## JOIN CPNO TO GET EMAIL BLASTS



To receive informative email blasts, sign up online to become a CPNO member. We don't spam!

## MESSAGES &amp; CRIME ON NEXTDOOR



Join the Candler Park group at [candlerpark.nextdoor.com](http://candlerpark.nextdoor.com) to keep up on crime reports and other messages.

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You'll get the latest news and will be able to interact with 500 of your neighbors at [facebook.com/CandlerPark](https://facebook.com/CandlerPark).

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Our handle is your handle: [twitter.com/CandlerParkATL](https://twitter.com/CandlerParkATL)

Cover photo: David Terraso



## Cheers to the Brewhouse Cafe

Thank you to The Brewhouse Cafe for providing dinner for the March CPNO Members Meeting. At the corner of Moreland and McLendon, the Brewhouse features a full English-pub-style menu (with a few twists), as well as soccer and other sports on the telly.

If you know of a local food purveyor who wishes to partner with CPNO as a cash-free meeting sponsor, email Chris Fitzgerald at [chrisfitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:chrisfitzgerald@gmail.com).



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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### MARCH

- 14** CPNO Board Meeting, 7 pm, Epworth Church
- 16** Candler Park Conservancy Meeting, 7pm, Rush Center
- 20** Candler Park Easter Egg Hunt, 11:15 am - 1 pm, Candler Park
- 21** CPNO Members Meeting, 7 pm, 1st Exist. Church

*In case of cancellations or changes, check calendar at [candlerpark.org](http://candlerpark.org). For meetings at Epworth, knock on door at street level to get in. All CPNO meetings are open to the public.*

## Candler Park Movie Night turns 10

The Friends of Candler Park are excited to announce our 10th annual Movie Night series in our beloved park, starting on April 23! We have a stellar line up that will shock and amaze. We have five, count 'em, five awesome masterpieces of cinematic mastery.

To highlight a few we have "Goosebumps" the movie. This is particularly interesting since the outdoor house scenes were shot right here in Candler Park on Mell Avenue. I do not want to give too much away but there is actual footage of the Abominable Snowman running down Iverson vandalizing cars.

We also have the prequel to "The Wizard of Oz." This film answers all the nagging questions we all have had for years, like, what's up with the flying monkeys? Where did that Oz dude come from? And most importantly, what ever ticked off that Wicked Witch of the West so badly? All those questions and more will reveal themselves.

Also we will be screening the film "McFarland." This is based on a true story of track coach Jim White (Kevin Costner). He is a newcomer to a disadvantaged predominantly Latino high-school in California's Central Valley. This is a terrific uplifting story about strong family ties, an incredible work ethic and team commitment. Caution tear jerker alert.

We are proud to be sponsored by the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization, Candler Park Market, Front Page News, Tijuana Garage, Atlanta Leasing, Councilman Kwanza Hall, Fox Brothers B.B.Q., Lee

and Darlene Gillespie Realtors, Kroger, BOND Credit Union and Realtor Cynthia Baer. As always, thanks to our fiscal partner Park Pride and the Official Pizza of Movie Night, Uncle Maddio's in the Edgewood shopping center. We are close to making our sponsorship goal. We may make up the difference in a Go Fund Me campaign. Stay tuned.

Candler Park Movie Night festivities start at 6:30 pm and the feature presentation will go on around 8:00 p.m.(sunset) in front of the pool house. You will want to get there early for the best spot!

Once again, well-behaved dogs on a leash are welcome. Bring your own coolers but be aware that GLASS containers or bottles are strictly forbidden in city parks. And ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS check our web site [www.FriendsofCandlerPark.org](http://www.FriendsofCandlerPark.org) or the Friends of Candler Park Facebook before making your way to the park in case of weather or something out of our control has taken place.

*- Mark Clement*

## BRIEFS



Superman Mark Clement gets mad with the mulch. Courtesy: Mark Clement

### Mulch Madness

Time to show some love to our trees in Candler Park! We are pleased to announce the return of MULCH MADNESS, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Aside from the

**Candler Park Movie Night**  
FRIENDS OF CANDLER PARK  
2016  
2016 Movie Schedule  
• April 23 - Inside Out  
• May 7 - Goosebumps  
• May 14 - Rain Date  
• August 6 - The Great & Powerful  
• August 20 - Big Hero 6 - RO Credit  
• September 10 - McFarland USA  
• September 17 - Rain Date  
Movie Festivities Start 1 Hour Prior To Dusk In Front Of The Pool House  
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usual crowd we have the Cub Scouts from 586 and Boy Scouts from 101 to help.

Our scope of work will be mulching most trees in Candler Park. So if you happen to be available- we would love to have you! Plenty of gloves and tools will be on hand. Free work day T shirt while supplies last. Go to [www.FriendsofCandlerPark.org](http://www.FriendsofCandlerPark.org) to sign up!

A really good job of mulching tree will offer many benefits:

- Inhibits weed germination and growth. Weeds are not only unsightly, but they also steal resources from desirable plants!
- Holds in soil moisture, protecting trees from drying out.
- Moderates soil-temperature fluctuations. This benefit is especially valuable during that turbulent-weather period in spring.
- Protects tree roots from winter cold and helps prevent frost-heaving, in which plants are literally pushed out of the ground by the natural expansion and contraction of the soil as it cools off and heats up.
- In hot-summer areas, helps keep tree roots cooler.
- Depending on what you use, adds a bit of welcome nutrition to trees as it breaks down.

- Mark Clement

### CPNO joins forces with the Horizon Theatre

Mark your calendars for a fun-filled fund-raising evening of the performing arts on May 19 when the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization partners with Horizon Theatre for "City of Conversation." Look for more details in next month's Messenger.

What's "City of Conversation" about? Glad you asked. Here's a blurb from the Horizon Theatre.

"Washington DC was once a place

where people actually talked to each other...where adversaries fought it out on the Senate floor and then smoothed it out over drinks and hors d'oeuvres. But it was all about to change and Hester Farris has a front row seat as she hosts Georgetown dinner parties that can change the course of Washington's politics. When her beloved son, Ethan, suddenly turns up with an ambitious Reaganite girlfriend and a shocking new conservative worldview, Hester must choose between preserving her family and defending the causes she's spent her whole life fighting for. Follow the Farris family from the end of Carter's presidency through the Reagan era and into Obama's game-changing inauguration.



The Amazing Mary Lin Chess Team: Ella Blair, Grey Boblett, Thomas Carter, Farris Duwayri, William Guthrie, At-ticus Levine, Ryan Levs, Ivy May, Alex Sandhaus, Oscar Strachan and Hudson Wirth. Courtesy: Kate Sandhaus

### Look out Garry Kasparov, Mary Lin rocks the chess world

The Mary Lin chess team attended the state qualifier chess tournament at Cobb Galleria last month and placed 13th out of 71 teams. They'll compete in the state tournament on March 19 in Alpharetta.

"We are incredibly proud of our Mary Lin chess team who beat out dozens of

other teams for a coveted spot at the statewide chess tournament in March," said Kate Sandhaus, volunteer parent organizer. "Our team may not be the largest or the most organized, but we are strong and scrappy enough to compete with the best chess teams in the city, including those of many private schools.

"I love to see our kids excelling at chess. Not only is it incredibly fun for them, but they're learning a lot about focus, persistence and strategic thinking. And it's a game that is enjoyable whether you're five or eighty-five."

### CPNO welcomes new members!

- Michele Daly
- Linda Sheffield
- Jeffrey and Trang Wisard
- The Eaton Family (Coleman, Kisha, Sydney & Avery)

With gratitude, we thank the following members who have made contributions to CPNO recently:

- Anne E. Giles
- David, Nicole, and Norm Griffin
- Linda Sheffield
- Thom & Nannette Roberts
- Glenna Kline
- Brian Daly
- Frances Parker
- Carol Morgan
- Joel and Liza Reed

Become a member or renew by visiting, <http://candlerpark.org/register>. Remember, membership expires at the end of each year, so if you haven't renewed for 2016, there's no time like the present!

- Roger Bakeman  
Membership Secretary

Cover photo credit: David Terraso

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# People in your neighborhood: Robert and Carole Craig and the Smith-Benning House

By David Terraso

It's been known as the Addams Family House, the Spooky House, and a few other names, but its true name is known mainly by longtime residents or those with a penchant for history. One of the oldest houses in Candler Park, the Smith-Benning House stands at the corner of Oakdale Rd. and Benning Pl. Originally constructed in the 1880s by lawyer, state senator and appeals court judge Charles Whitefoord Smith, the house was later owned by Augustus H. Benning, a merchant sea captain. He bought the house and the five acres that surrounded it for \$6,500. At the time, Oakdale was known as Whitefoord Ave, a name that was changed on the north side of DeKalb Avenue in 1960.

The house was so large and difficult to heat in the winter that the Benning's built a smaller home in 1905 that they could use during the colder months. The winter home still stands across Benning from the original house.

By 1981 the home had been divided into apartments and was in disrepair when Robert Craig, a professor of architecture at Georgia Tech, and his wife Carole, a respiratory therapist, saw a picture of it and fell in love. They moved in just before their son Christopher's third birthday. They spent the next 30 years renovating it.

**CC** We saw a picture of the house at an Inman Park festival one weekend, and it had a for sale sign on it. When we got



Robert and Carole Craig have spent most of the past 30 years fixing up the house to its former glory.

there we said, "Oh my gosh, this was the house we saw in a painting a couple of years ago at the Piedmont Arts Festival." By Wednesday we bought it.

**RC** The house was, architecturally, something I saw some real potential in. It was a wreck, but I thought maybe we could bring it back. I taught the history of architecture at Georgia Tech, and I was interested in living in a historic house. We were trying to maintain the integrity of the whole on the outside and mostly on the inside.

The whole thing was totally unlivable. Two previous owners had started to restore the house, but gave up.

**CC** We had no walls upstairs (only original open framing). The house was in such terrible condition the fire department turned up with several trucks one day to scout the house for a possible test burn for training purposes and were surprised to find us living there.

**RC** The building needed stabilizing, it needed to be dry. It was leaking all over

the place, the roof was ancient and rooms throughout the house had false ceilings that compromised the authenticity of the historic volumes; the whole house had to be replastered. For most of the restoration time we lived in this 650-700 square-foot of space (downstairs in what's now the kitchen) probably for 25 of those 30 years and just operated in slow motion working on the house piece by piece.

**CC** The whole neighborhood was very inexpensive then; older people were dying and their children didn't want to live here. It was what I called the earth people moved in. It wasn't hippies, it was more "we have no money and we're artists." And they came in here and bought or rented and lived happily for a long time. Some of them grew older and stayed. So the neighborhood slowly evolved.

**RC** From the outside it's never been changed. The windows are exactly the same. We added the rear deck using 1x4 ipe wood to give it a verandah appearance, built (2004-6) the adjacent new storage/workshop/garage to be compatible, and we did all the brick work in the driveway. The house is basically four rooms up and four rooms down. We restored the four upstairs bedrooms with three baths and unfinished attic above. Downstairs we have a living room, dining room, my office, a den, and the kitchen, with crawl space below. The kitchen has more of an Arts and Crafts



Robert and Carole Craig in the living room of the Smith-Benning House.





The Craigs, with son Christopher, lived in a small corner of the home as they renovated it. Here they are in the 1980s. Courtesy: Brown's Guide to Georgia.

character, whose design features were inspired by Greene and Greene, Bernard Maybeck and Frank Lloyd Wright

**CC** There's not much closet space in the house. We always need more closet space.

We'd renovate a bit, sit around a bit saving money, then do a bit more.

One thing that's nice about Candler Park is everybody is very patient with everybody else as they try to fix up their houses. We had people who'd come over and say, 'We got fed up with fixing up our house. We were so depressed. So, we came over to see your house and we realized how far we've gotten along and we're not depressed anymore!'

**RC** 'Nothing could be worse than yours!' they'd say, as though their visit to our wreck of a house was therapy.

In terms of style, the house is Eastlake Victorian, which makes reference to an architect named Charles Eastlake who published an influential interior design book entitled Hints on Household Taste. The tower is Italian, leftover from the mid-19th century Italian villa style, and the fact that there is a mansard roof on the tower adds a French Second Empire character, so there's an eclectic quality over all.

When I go out to the street-side mailbox and find people outside photographing the house, they think I'm coming out to chase them away, so I say "No, no, no, that's alright."

We had a television Halloween special made in here before we renovated. They commented that what they liked about the house was they really wouldn't have to decorate.

It was a TV movie aired on WSB many years ago. Essentially someone had rewritten Faust, in a story in which some guy had sold his soul to the devil to become the great pool shark of history. So the different scenes would have him playing pool with different people out of history, one of them was Marie Antoinette, as though she played pool. Somebody else was a riverboat gambler and somebody else was W.C. Fields. The 30 second promos were better than the house show.

**CC** I hope new residents of Candler Park are people coming in because they like the historic nature of the neighborhood and the houses. I hope the community stays eclectic because that's another nice feature of the neighborhood. There's a big variety of people here, different occupations, different types of people.



The Smith-Benning House is around 130 years old. It stands at the corner of Oakdale and Benning.

People here appear to love their houses, you know? They are "I live in my house," rather than "I park in my house."

I think a historic neighborhood also attracts people who value history and their connection with each other. You become a community. And because we have front porches, in the summer people are out on them, and when people go by, you talk to each other, and that doesn't happen in every part of the city.

The Smith-Benning House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Candler Park neighborhood was listed fifteen months later in 1983.



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# Candler Park makes way for a New Church

By David Terraso

Epworth at Candler Park, a United Methodist Congregation is no more. As January came to a close this year, so did more than 100 years of Epworth as it merged with Druid Hills United Methodist. Since then, both congregations have been putting the final days of their ministries behind them and preparing for their first service together on Easter Sunday.

"We thought we could be better together than apart," said Reverend Alvin Lingenfelter, pastor of Epworth.

"We're really excited about this new life that has been given us to be able to reimagine what it means to be a church, within and for a community," said Reverend Dave Allen Grady, pastor of Druid Hills.

When the churches merged, they committed to a new life together, one where they ceased being Epworth and Druid Hills and became New Church, which they took as their temporary name. They'll settle on a permanent name later this year, but for now they're focused on building on the strengths of both congregations as well as forging new ground in the years ahead.

Like many neighborhood churches, both Epworth and Druid Hills have seen their memberships shrink in recent years. As people have more demands on their time and more distractions, church has become, for many, just one more activity. Church has come to represent a place where rules are drawn and judgements are made, rather than the loving gathering places that many residents desire for their families.

"I want people to know that we're not going to be church as usual," said Allen Grady. "We welcome everyone. It does not matter how you identify, what socioeconomic status you're from, what your education level is, you're welcome here. We want to journey with you."

Druid Hills draws only 80 people every Sunday to its 800-seat sanctuary while Epworth attracts about 50. Those small numbers and the costs associated with keeping the Druid Hills buildings running, but also to remodel them so their space fits the needs of their community meant it made more sense for them to move to Candler Park.



The church formerly known as Epworth is being temporarily named New Church.

For both pastors, the merger promises to allow them to focus on their congregations more concretely rather than on the needs of aging bricks and mortar.

"Being freed to be able to focus on people and ministry again, to be able to say with pride, 'Welcome to this place. It doesn't matter who you are--come be part of this.' That's exhilarating," said Allen Grady.

"We want to be your church," added Lingenfelter. "What can we do to help? How can we serve you? What are your needs?" After all, both pastors agree that's what a church community is for.

New Church will still be a United Methodist congregation, but Allen Grady said it's important that they be a welcome and hospitable place for interfaith relationships.

"Some of my core leaders have spouses who are Muslim," added Allen Grady. "We're a place where folks know that they're welcome."

"We'd like to push those boundaries and every boundary for that matter," said Lingenfelter. "We're excited about bringing people together, opening out to a whole new component and seeing where we can push some of those limits in a very faithful way."

New Church is planning to focus on its strengths, families with youth, music and arts, and outreach and social justice to attract new people to its community.

"There are plenty of studies that show people will come back to church when they have children, but they won't just go to any

church," said Lingenfelter. "We're looking for something that will embrace the gifts of the community. We have great space here for children and leadership and worship."

And like the song says, the children are the future.

"The only growing demographic group in this area for the next 10 years is children up to age 17," said Allen Grady. "So we're talking millennials that have decided to stay and have their families in town rather than move elsewhere. You're talking people who are here who've had kids and have decided to stay in town because of the excellent elementary schools we have in the area. Everyone can come along for the journey."

Music and the arts are also gifts of both congregations. With the 5 at 5 music show on Sundays, Rhythm and Blues month, Broadway Month and more, both pastors say they're looking to elevate their musical activities and hope people from Candler Park and the surrounding areas continue to wander in as the music moves them.

A third area they'd like to make central to New Church is social justice and helping others.

"Both churches have strong, strong histories for standing up for those on the margins and that doesn't matter if its homelessness and housing justice, or transportation issues, LGBTQ issues," said Allen Grady. "We make sure we are a place where it doesn't matter who you are, you are welcome here."

In addition Druid Hills has been involved with Pride and both churches have contributed to the activities of the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries and Intown Collaborative Ministries.

In the days to come the people at Epworth will be readying their space to welcome their new members, while the folks from Druid Hills will be saying goodbye to their building. On Palm Sunday, the members of Druid Hills will be gathering at the church's original location in the space now occupied by the Carter Center at 4 p.m. They'll process to their next location at Blue Ridge and Seminole where they worshiped for around 50 years and then end up at their final home at Briarcliff and Ponce for their last service at 5 p.m.



# Candler Park Master Plan: two years and running

By Roger Bakeman

Just over two years ago, the Atlanta City Council adopted the Candler Park Master Plan. How, you may wonder, did the plan come about? Why do we even need one? And now, more than two years later, what has it gotten us?

The how is detailed on our web site (<http://candlerpark.org/master-plan>): In April 2013, CPNO engaged Market + Main, a professional Atlanta planning firm, to steer us through the process and prepare the formal plan. The process involved neighborhood-wide meetings, less formal “focus” sessions, input from dozens of individuals, and consultations with elected officials, representatives of various state and local agencies, and others.

After discussion at regular CPNO monthly meetings, a final round of edits, and an almost unanimous vote of approval, we had a plan we could submit to city council. To see the result—and get a sense of the time, effort, and careful thinking that went into the master plan—visit <http://candlerpark.org/master-plan> and download the 98-page PDF file. And for a detailed summary of accomplishments to date see the Master Plan Coordinating Committee Report in this issue.

Why have a master plan? Primarily a master plan gives a neighborhood credibility. Without one, we may miss out on opportunities for improvements. When the city has money to spend, it looks for projects that have been vetted, that have neighborhood support, which is what a master plan provides. In fact, a strong motivation for beginning the process was our realization that neighborhoods around us had master plans and we didn't. A master plan gives us not just credibility, but voice.



Some of the more difficult changes in the Candler Park Master Plan include raising the intersection and improving the spacing of the traffic signals at Moreland Ave. and McLendon Ave.

But just as drawing plans for a house doesn't get the house built, so drawing up a master plan doesn't get the work done. Much of the ensuing work is political, not so much time-consuming—although it can be that—as simply slow. Some projects—e.g., changes to DeKalb Avenue and Moreland Avenue—are inherently complex and involve many players. Others, like a stop light replacing a traffic light at Oakdale and McLendon (Recommendation 4.6), were quickly accomplished and largely applauded.

Within the past year, the Candler Park Conservancy and the Candler Park–Lake Claire Patrol have been established. The conservancy was Recommendation 1 of the master plan and the patrol was Recommendation 9.6. Both exemplify how elements of the master plan can come to fruition when motivated neighbors decide to organize, own an issue and act.

One issue that has long been of concern to CPNO, and one that is addressed at length in the master

plan, is zoning. As Seth Eisenberg, the CPNO Zoning Officer, pointed out recently in a lengthy Nexdoor.com thread, the city's proposed rewrite of the zoning code provides an opportunity to see master plan recommendations implemented that protect our neighborhood's unique character. This is not glamorous work; it requires being informed, attending not-always-exciting meetings, and exercising some political acumen and patience. Any volunteers?

Funding the master plan was the largest single expenditure CPNO ever made. Was it worth it? In my view, yes. We have the plans. Now we need the builders. If you want to get involved, contact Zaid Duwayri ([president@candlerpark.org](mailto:president@candlerpark.org)), Seth Esienberg ([zoning@candlerpark.org](mailto:zoning@candlerpark.org)), Randy Pimsler ([masterplanchair@candlerpark.org](mailto:masterplanchair@candlerpark.org)), or come to the monthly CPNO meetings on the third Monday of every month.

# In memoriam - Frank Cummings

By Don Bender

Frank Cummings, a long time resident of Candler Park, died on February 19, on his 76th birthday, after a struggle with MDS (Myelodysplastic Syndromes) and then leukemia. He and his wife Carol moved to Candler Park in 1972, with their two sons, Andrew and Mark.

They lived at their house on Clifton Rd. until 2001. After thirty years in Candler Park, they moved to Suchitoto, El Salvador, where Carol died in 2006.

Frank and Carol were both focused on improving the quality of education at Mary Lin Elementary and later at Inman Middle School and Grady High School as their sons moved along in their education. They served with Apple Corps, a public school advocacy and monitoring group, and in the parent teachers councils at Mary Lin and Grady.

Frank was a professor at Atlanta University (later Clark Atlanta University) in the Chemistry Department from 1966 until 2001, serving as department chair for a number of years. Frank also was involved with the Atlanta Regional Planning Advisory Council of the Atlanta Regional Commission from 1974-82.

In the mid 80s, Frank and Carol developed an interest in Central America, which was to be a strong focus of the rest of their lives. They were instrumental in the Atlanta Friends Meeting and Clifton Presbyterian Church declaring sanctuary for Central American Refugees in 1985. The Reagan administration did not grant asylum to those trying to escape the right wing governments and death squads in El Salvador and Guatemala. As a result, declaring sanctuary in Atlanta was in defiance of the policy of the U.S. government. Over the next few years, approximately 40 refugees found their way through Atlanta, many in Candler Park. Some continued to Canada, where they were granted refugee status. The Cummings as well as other members of the Friends Meeting visited El Salvador during the next several years.

During the final years of the war, a resettlement community was established in El Sitio, made from refugees returning from Honduras. A peace accord was agreed to in 1991 and El Sitio was granted ownership of the property as part of the accord.

In 2001 Frank and Carol retired and moved to Suchitoto, in El Salvador just across a hydro lake from El Sitio. There they became involved in education and in establishing scholarships for students to attend university. They helped 160 students graduate from university over the next 12 years.

A memorial service will be held for Frank on March 26th, 2 pm at the Atlanta Friends Meeting House at 701 West Howard Ave. in Decatur.



Frank Cummings (right) and his wife, Carol. Courtesy: The Cummings Family

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# Help keep Little Five Points safe

By Richard B. Shaprio, D.D.S.

The Atlanta Police Mini-Precinct in Little Five Points (L5P) is now in its 18th year, and continues to be a cornerstone in our community's approach to reduce crime. Since it opened, the increased presence and visibility of Atlanta police officers that the mini-precinct brings to our community, has made a significant difference in the conduct of those hanging out in L5P and the surrounding community, including Candler Park..

The mini-precinct is a public/private partnership between the City of Atlanta and our community. The officers, equipment, supplies, computers, electronic and video communication gear, etc., are funded by the Atlanta Police Department. The community provided the funds to renovate the space and continues to pay for rent, repairs, utilities and other operating costs—that funding has come from L5P Business Association and its members; grants from the Inman Park Neighborhood Association and the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization; and contributions from individual households in the area.

It is gratifying to see so many individual contributions every year to support the mini-precinct! But over the years for a variety of reasons (people move, financial situations change, complacency due to lower crime rates, etc.), the number of individual households contributing has dwindled some. We need to reverse this trend.

It's really a no-brainer: having more cops around makes criminals and problematic elements tend to stay away and/or watch their behavior. This protects people, possessions, and property values.

There are currently several other initiatives in L5P piggybacking on the success of the mini-precinct to improve the safety and appearance of the area:

- Additional off-duty police patrolling L5P on weekends and evenings, funded by L5P businesses.
- A Friends of Little 5 Points Parks Organization has been formed, affiliated with ParkAtlanta and the L5P Community Improvement District (CID). It is working to redesign and reconfigure the public spaces in L5P, as well as create new and exciting activities here. Long term changes are still in the planning stages, now in partnership with the Urban Land Institute. Their recent experiment of removing the benches from Findley Plaza, produced a remarkable improvement. This change, along with diligent policing, has that space starting to become less of a hangout and more of an open, safe, friendly, and inviting public plaza.
- The Little 5 Points Business Association, in collaboration with the L5P CID and the neighborhood organizations, is working with the Department of Public Works to improve and repair much of the long neglected infrastructure in the area. They are creating resources and funding for a number of exciting changes to the Moreland Avenue Corridor. And several other new and innovative future projects are in the pipeline.



The Little Five Business Association seeks community support for the mini-precinct in Findley Plaza.

- Most exciting in the short term is, due to the tireless efforts of Lisa Adler of The Horizon Theatre, there has been a substantial grant awarded from ArtPlace America. This will fund Little 5 Points Arts Alive, a project bringing performance and visual art into the sidewalks and plazas of Little Five Points, every weekend for nine months starting in April.

All of these efforts work symbiotically with the mini-precinct, to continue to improve the atmosphere in L5P. We need your help to keep this satellite police station open.

Thus, this yearly appeal for individual donations. Your financial support is particularly important this year to keep this valuable and truly vital facility open.

Please send your personal contribution now (matching or increasing your last year's contribution, or sending \$50 or more, is suggested). It's the right thing to do for your community, your neighbors and yourself.

Send your check (include your name, address and phone number) to: L5P Business Association Mini-Precinct Fund, PO Box 5733, Atlanta, GA 31107.

*Dr. Shapiro is a director of the Little Five Points Business Association*

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# Candler Park crime reports, January 1 - January 29

Crime reports are provided by Atlanta Police Department Zone 6 and compiled by CPNO member David Bruce.

## **1600 block Clifton Terr and 600 block Terrace Ave**

Larceny from auto – 1/1 Friday evening. Driveway. Windows busted. Wallet, purse and credit cards taken

## **1300 block Benning Pl**

Larceny – 12/29 Monday Day. Apartment. Victim said the lock was cut and the Fuji bicycle was removed.

## **1600 block McLendon Ave**

Burglary – 1/6 Wednesday Morning. Grocery store. Video at 5:01a.m. shows a silver vehicle pull up beside front door and 2 suspects get out. One uses a sledgehammer to break the window that is about 16 inches wide and 9 feet high. They went behind the counter and removed \$260 from 2 cash registers and about 20 cartons of Marlboro cigarettes and leave at 5:02 am. Suspect 1: Black pants, black hoodie, checkered shirt with orange scarf covering his face and orange gloves. Suspect 2: Black cargo pants, black hoodie with white scarf covering his face but he removed the scarf for a brief moment and camera captured his face. B/M, late teens to early 20s.

## **400 block Moreland Ave (not in Candler Park but close)**

Robbery – 1/13 Wednesday Evening. Video shows a B/F taking the victim's phone off the table after he left and then handing it to a B/M in a restaurant. They were confronted by the manager and victim. B/M made threats if they did not let him leave. Suspect entered their vehicle and victim stood in front of it in an attempt to keep him there but suspects revved the engine and used the vehicle to push victim away. The B/F suspect paid cash for the food, entered the vehicle, took a pistol out of her purse, racked the slide and pointed it at the victim, telling her to back off. They left. Suspect 1: B/F heavy set with shoulder length

hair. Suspect 2: B/M, heavy set, red shirt, red pants and red hat. Suspect vehicle, white 2004 GMC Envoy GA tag AJWARD.

## **500 block Page Ave**

Burglary – 1/12 Unknown time. Residence. Basement door unsecured. HVAC filter box, box of air filters taken.

## **1400 block Miller Ave**

Larceny from auto – 1/13 Wednesday Day. Street. A cable was cut that locked up items in trailer. Witness saw 3 B/Ms jump into a silver VW, possibly a Jetta and leave. Said he would be able to pick them out if he saw them again. Gas power trimmers and weed eater taken.

## **400 block Moreland Ave**

Shoplifting – 1/14 Thursday Day. Employee noticed a B/M, late 30s, bald and wearing Adidas clothing, enter the store and look around. When the employee became distracted, the suspect concealed a Billionaire Boy long sleeved shirt and walk out.

## **1600 block DeKalb Ave**

Auto theft – 1/16 Saturday Day. Street. Silver 2015 Audi A4 with GA tags taken.

## **1100 block Euclid Ave (not in Candler Park but close)**

Robbery – 1/23 Saturday Morning. Street. Victim said while walking on Austin Ave near Euclid Ave, 3 men accosted him and put a gun to his gut. They told him to give them whatever he had, which was just a red fake ostrich wallet containing ID, access card and 2 gift cards. They told him to turn around and go the other direction. When he was a safe distance away, he saw they got into what appeared to be a late 80s box type Cutlass or Monte Carlo, black or dark color.

## **Mell Ave at DeKalb Ave**

Larceny from auto – 1/18 Monday Evening. Parking lot. 3 vehicles. Windows busted out. Wallet, DL, iPhone, weight lifting shoes, purse, DL, debit card, credit cards and iPhone 6S taken.

## **1500 block DeKalb Ave**

Larceny from auto – 1/20 Wednesday Evening. Parking lot. Window busted. Purse, iPhone 6, wedding band, engagement ring, debit and credit cards, DL and car keys taken.

## **400 block Moreland Ave**

Larceny from auto – 1/22 Friday Evening. Parking lot. Window broken. Video shows 4 B/Ms with hoodies get out of a grey BMW. Samsung Galaxy 6 taken.

## **1600 block DeKalb Ave**

Larceny from auto – 1/23 Saturday Day. Parking lot. 2 vehicles. Window busted out on one and cracked on the other. Victim said that upon coming out to her vehicle she noticed a black Ford Flex was sitting in the lot with 4 B/Ms inside. As she was walking towards her vehicle she noticed a dark skinned male in his 20s, 5' 7", with dark hoodie, attempting to break into a Nissan. He then got into the Ford and it left the scene. \$20 taken.

## **400 block Moreland Ave**

Larceny – 1/19 Wednesday Evening. Reporting party said that while doing inventory, 5 Adidas Pharrell jackets were unaccounted for. She reviewed store video and noticed that 2 males suspects had concealed the jackets under their clothing and walked out without paying for them.

## **1500 block DeKalb Ave**

Auto theft – 1/17 Saturday Evening. Parking lot. Blue 2001 Toyota CST with GA tags taken.



#### 400 block Moreland Ave

Burglary – 1/27 Wednesday Morning. An officer saw a B/M with a white and black bandana around the lower part of his face exiting a store. He then started to follow a suspicious vehicle, a small dark 4 door sedan, which had been parked beside a truck parked on Moreland Ave. The suspicious sedan was last seen heading east on Ponce de Leon Ave. Tobacco products were found inside the truck. The front door had been broken into and a cash register with \$200 and various tobacco products were taken. The truck was stolen from the 200 block of Memorial Dr.

#### 1500 block Marlbrook Dr

Larceny from auto – 1/26 Tuesday Morning. Street. Window broken. Wallet, SS card, cancelled credit cards and health insurance card taken. Suspects were 2 young B/Ms on bikes, one wearing a black skull cap.

#### 300 block Mell Ave

Larceny from auto – 1/29 Friday Day. Parking lot. Damage to window. A witness said that he was approaching the vehicle at 2:30pm and saw a B/M wearing a black hoodie, red pants and red and white boots, standing on the right side running board of the vehicle trying to retrieve something from the vehicle. The suspect took off running when he saw him. Ray Ban glasses taken.



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## CPNO officer and committee reports for February

*These reports were submitted by officer and committee chairs prior to the February Members Meeting*

### Freedom Park Conservancy-Carol Gregory

The Freedom Park Conservancy board held their regular meeting in Feb. The dog park is seeking lighting and the board rejected the park department proposal for temporary "telephone" poles and lights. Parks agreed to reconsider. Questions and comments please contact your representative, Carol Gregory, carolagreg@gmail.com.

### External Affairs Officer Report -Lauren Welsh

I will be attending my first NPU-N meeting as CPNO's representative on January 28, 2016. Any votes made at CPNO's members meeting will be brought to this NPU meeting.

We have a few folks interested in being an NPU-N alternate to attend meetings when I cannot. If interested in being an alternate, please contact me at lnwelsh@gmail.com.

I attended the City of Atlanta's Zoning Ordinance Rewrite public meeting held on Monday, January 11. CPNO will be engaged throughout the multi-year planning process and public input is highly encouraged. More information can be found at the city's website at zoningatl.com.

### Zoning Officer- Seth Eisenberg

The February Zoning Committee Meeting was cancelled due to a lack of pending applications.

## CPNO Membership Application

All who live in Candler Park, or own property or a business in Candler Park, are eligible to join. Mail this application or visit our website to join [www.candlerpark.org](http://www.candlerpark.org) register or renew. [www.candlerpark.org/renew](http://www.candlerpark.org/renew)

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### Business applicants

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Address of business: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of designated agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Agent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional contributions

Membership in CPNO is free, but we welcome optional contributions. To contribute, please visit our website [www.candlerpark.org/contribute](http://www.candlerpark.org/contribute) or mail a check with this application. Typical contributions range from \$10 to \$100.

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# February 15 CPNO Members Meeting — draft minutes

*These draft minutes are presented for review. They may be amended before being considered for official adoption at the March 21 Members Meeting.*

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Zaid Duwayri, President. The motion to adopt the agenda passed.

## Announcements:

Thank you to Candler Park Market Deli for the tonight's food. Also to Maria of Palacsinta Crepes for dessert.

## Guest Speakers:

Lt. Carter, APD Zone 6 Evening Commander, reported no increase crime in the last 28 days (January 15-February 14). Car break-ins continue to be a problem.

DeKalb –State Traffic Court Judges Storey and Warrick explained the new court set up by Governor Deal. The Recorder's Court has been abolished.

Lauren Welsh, External Affairs Officer, introduced producers of three festivals to be held in Candler Park:

Atlanta Taco Festival-Class D; Motion to support the Atlanta Taco Festival (May 7) passed.

Candler Park Music and Food Festival- Class C--Motion to support the Candler Park Music and Food Festival (June 3 and 4) passed.

Olmstead Plein Air Invitational is to be held April 30-May 1, 2016. Andy Hall, founder, explained the concept of 'plein air' ("painting in the open air").

Ebenezer Abolarin, representing State Representative Stacey Abrams, which includes the Candler Park neighborhood, announced the date of February 20, 2016 for a Legislative Update.

## Zoning:

Seth Eisenberg, Zoning Chairman, explained variance request for 621 and 627 Moreland Avenue. These lots are zoned SPI-7 and as such only the Urban Design Department has to approve the variance. GDOT and Urban Design approved the variance for a shared driveway, therefore, only one curb cut will be needed for the two new houses. The CPNO Zoning Committee supports the variance request.

## Treasurer's Report:

Chris Fitzgerald, Treasurer said that as of today cash on hand is \$42,500. Motion to approve the 2016 Budget passed.

## Discussion:

Drew Jackson, Funding Officer, introduced the plan to close the portion of McLendon Avenue that is right in front of the Park entrance. This change in the festival foot print would allow for increase Artist presence and avoid the use of the soccer field. This is only in early stages of discussions and planning.

Chris Fitzgerald, Treasurer for FallFest 2016 introduced the budget.

Motion to approve the Jan Member Minutes as corrected passed.

Submitted by Bonnie Palter, Secretary,  
February 15, 2016



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## Spring has Sprung!

Spring has sprung so we all know what that means...bathing suit season is just around the corner! Many people find it hard to cook healthy food with such busy schedules or they will just eat out. It doesn't have to be that way. With a bit of planning and adjusting some key ingredients, you can cook healthy meals while not losing out on taste. Here's how...

- **Embrace ground turkey and chicken** – We all know that ground beef has lots more flavor than other ground meats, but that is because it has a lot more fat. If you substitute ground turkey or chicken when you are making meals that have other flavorful ingredients, you will not miss out on the fat. Try it! You might even like it better!
- **Bake, don't fry** – As soon as you coat an entire pan with oil, the amount of fat in your food as just gone through the roof. You can always find a way to tweak your recipe to cook it in the oven instead of coated in oil. Roasted vegetables are just as good as fried ones.
- **Eat more vegetables** – We all know that vegetables are healthy and good for us. However, not everybody likes them. Believe it or not, it's not that hard to hide vegetables in our favorite foods. When eating a salad, for example, throw in some fresh baby spinach or kale. With all of the other flavors and textures in your bowl, you won't even realize what you are eating. The same goes for soups, stews and pasta dishes.
- **Hydrate** – Water is essential for healthy living, but let's face it...water has no taste. One of our favorite ways to increase water intake is to make a pitcher of water with lemon and lime slices, cucumber, and mint. It is so refreshing, especially on a warm day!

For more tips like these, please visit our website at [www.mcnaackskitchen.com](http://www.mcnaackskitchen.com).  
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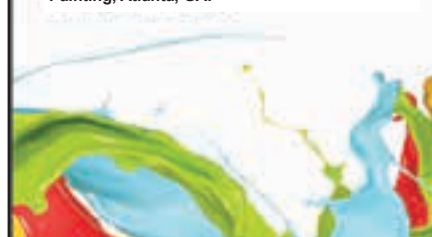


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