



October 2019

# MESSENGER

## Spooktacular Neighborhood Events

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Scary Stories at Land Trust  
Photo credit: Rob Giersch



Halloween On Page Ave  
Photo credit: Rob Giersch



Fall Fest



L5P Parade

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# One-on-One with the Atlanta School Board

By Dana Fowle, [president@candlerpark.org](mailto:president@candlerpark.org)

The recent announcement by the Atlanta School Board to not renew current superintendent Meria Carstarphen's contract has rattled the Grady Cluster community. She will exit at the end of her June 2020 contract and her replacement hasn't been tapped yet.

The outgoing superintendent arrived in Atlanta in 2014 to help APS to repair its reputation after the bruising and embarrassing cheating scandal that made international headlines.

"We hired Dr. Carstarphen to turn our ship around and she did that," Atlanta School Board Chairman Jason Esteves explained to residents at the recent Candler Park Neighborhood Organization membership meeting.

Mr. Esteves was joined by board members Leslie Grant (District 1) and Michelle Olympiadis (District 3), all of whom wanted new leadership.

He went on to say that he's proud of what the superintendent accomplished during her tenure, but "now we need a new captain to take our ship forward at a faster pace than we had before."

Although some board members did want Meria Carstarphen to stay on, the chairman said they are "unified around moving forward and moving forward together."

Carstarphen's big personality and active social media presence made her popular with students, parents and many administrators. But behind the scenes, her style could be brusque and sometimes combative, according to people who've worked with her.

Leslie Grant called her the "best publically engaged person I've ever seen in my life," but for the next five years, she said, she is looking for a new superintendent "who can really work on the nuts and bolts of the system."

While Grady, North Atlanta and Jackson clusters are growing, schools in other parts of the city are not. The board representatives said middle-class, African-American families are opting instead to send their children to private schools rather than

## PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING

use their public schools. It's a trend they'd like to see reversed.

Another focus for the new superintendent will be to close the 59 percent achievement gap between "black students and white students," Jason Esteves said. To do that, he added, the city has to address rising housing instability for the working class.

"We need to get to a point where our city and our school system are working together to tackle homelessness, to tackle transportation."

All three board members sprinkled the words "collaboration" and "collaborator" throughout the

hour-long chat. The chairman said the next super should "build bridges" not "burn" them.

A move like this at this juncture is not unusual for a big city school system. According to online magazine Education Week, the average superintendent term is six years. But change, timely or not, can leave stakeholders jittery.

Ms. Olympiadis says she feels comfortable that Mary Lin and its companion schools shouldn't experience any

big changes after the job is filled.

"What makes the Grady Cluster great, as far as I'm concerned since the last redistricting, the community and the parents."

Chairman Esteves says the hunt for a new superintendent will begin within the next six weeks, interviews will likely take place January – March, and an announcement could be made as early as April.

Ms. Grant has repeatedly said there is also a personnel issue that the board can't discuss. Often the personnel files of government employees are open to the public, but the chairman said that Ms. Carstarphen's contract allowed her to keep it private. The next superintendent, he said, will not have that luxury.



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 The Neighborhood 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 6 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 mail name, address, and email to

**CPNO Membership**  
**PO Box 5418, Atlanta, GA 31107**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### OCTOBER

- 5-6** Fall Fest in Candler Park
- 14** CPNO Board Meeting, 7 pm, The Neighborhood Church
- 15** Deadline to submit content for November Messenger!
- 19** Little Five Points Halloween Festival and Parade
- 21** CPNO Members Meeting, 7 pm, 1st Existentialist Church
- 26** Scary Fireside Stories, 6:30 pm, Lake Claire Community Land Trust
- 31** Halloween

### NOVEMBER

- 11** CPNO Board Meeting, 7 pm, The Neighborhood Church
- 15** Deadline to submit content for December Messenger!
- 18** CPNO Members Meeting, 7 pm, 1st Existentialist Church
- 28** Thanksgiving

*In case of cancellations or changes, check CPNO's Upcoming Events list at [candlerpark.org](http://candlerpark.org). All CPNO meetings are open to the public.*



## Get Spooked at the Second Annual Scary Fireside Stories

*By Jyll Thomas, Candler Park Resident*

Monsters hiding in the closet and underneath the stairs are coming out to The Lake Claire Community Land Trust to celebrate Halloween on Saturday, October 26th. Lake Claire resident and Bram Stoker Award nominated writer, Brian Kirk is hosting the second annual Scary Fireside Stories at the Land Trust. Some of Atlanta's best horror and thriller writers will spin tales to make your hair curl like a bad perm from the 1980s.

"The first time I saw the amphitheater at The Land Trust, with its fire pit and quaint stage, I knew it would be the perfect setting for telling stories," Brian said.

In addition to creepy tales, there will be ingredients for making s'mores prior to the readings and perhaps a surprise intermission. Costumes are optional but imaginations are required. I asked Brian if he felt it was harder to entertain kids with campfire tales because of the abundance of technology, "No, just the opposite. Today's kids are less reliant on using their imaginations for entertainment, so they don't have as much experience having their imaginations activated as previous generations.

With storytelling you have to rely on your own experiences and mental imagery to visualize the story being told, which can make it more intimate and scary."

Scary Fireside Stories is geared towards the PG-13 crowd but children as young as 8 years old (like Brian's twin boys) were at last year's event and nobody felt the material was too mature. The readers will be mindful to avoid using vulgar language or graphic depictions of violence. Still the material is meant to be scary, so parent discretion is advised.

This is a free event but donations are welcome to help cover the cost of the event and some of the performers will have copies of their books available for purchase.

Bring your family, friends and come join your neighbors at The Lake Claire Community Land Trust October 26th at 270 Arizona Ave. The fun and frights begin at 6:30pm until 9:30pm.

For more information, search on Facebook for "Scary Fireside Stories for Halloween".

We'll be lurking for you!

## Welcome New Members!

*By Roger Bakeman, [membership@candlerpark.org](mailto:membership@candlerpark.org)*

### CPNO welcomes new members

Jasmine and Tom Atherton  
Andre and Jennifer Verani  
Brandon and Whitney Griggs  
Anne Weinberg  
the Albright family

### CPNO thanks members for their contributions:

Andre and Jennifer Verani  
Anne Weinberg  
Elaine Gale and Randy Pimsler  
Micah Fortson  
...and others who wished to remain anonymous





## Thanks to Hattie B's!

Thanks to Hattie B's for sponsoring the September CPNO membership meeting and providing dinner for CPNO members! Meeting attendees enjoyed no heat and mild fried chicken along with potato salad. As Little 5 Points' newest and very popular restaurant, Hattie B's features fried chicken with varying heat levels from no heat to "shut the cluck up" burn notice! The restaurant also offers wings, traditional Southern sides and beer. Open every day and evening except for Sunday (closes at 4 pm), Hattie B's also has delivery through Uber Eats. When you go to Hattie B's, say THANK YOU to them for supporting CPNO.



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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.

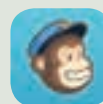
If you have a news tip or story idea, please email relevant information including contacts to [editor@candlerpark.org](mailto:editor@candlerpark.org) or call the editor.

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 & 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.

## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



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)

# BiRacial History Project Seeks Funds for Hooper Street Stories Legacy Marker

By Edi/th Kelman, Project Manager, Early Edgewood-Candler Park BiRacial History Project

We are pleased to let you know that the History Project has just sent off for fabrication our fourth Legacy Marker/interpretive roadside exhibit:

**HOOPER STREET STORIES: 100 Years of African American Family Life**

We invite you to help us reach our goal of \$3,000 to cover the new Legacy Marker expenses.

Grateful for the \$1900 now committed, we ask your support in raising the balance of \$1100.

Please join us in adding the Hooper Street Legacy Marker to the growing set of local African American history guideposts in Candler Park. Over a 14-year project, our research work remains dedicated

to a respectful understanding of our neighborhood's deeply rooted stories.

All History Project donations are tax-deductible through our fiscal sponsor, the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta.

Checks can be made out to:

**First E/ BiRacial History Project  
PO Box 5567**

**Atlanta GA 31107**

on memo line: Hooper Street Marker

For PayPal or Credit Card donations, call the First E office at 404.378.5570.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information, visit [www.biracialhistoryproject.org](http://www.biracialhistoryproject.org)



A group of Candler Park neighbors gather and celebrate the new legacy marker.



Legacy marker sign describes and commemorates African American history of Hooper Street.

## Calling all Artists and Crafters!

KIDS and Parents, it's time to get crafty because the Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair is back!

Do you make jewelry? Or maybe you know how to knit scarves? How about key chains, ornaments, or candles? We want you to have a chance to sell your work!



On Saturday, December 14th, Lake Claire Neighbors and Mary Lin Elementary are hosting the 2019 Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair.

A share of the proceeds will help both organizations support local charities and community work. Mark your calendars: Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9 am - 3 pm at the Atrium in the Frazer Center, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307. FREE admission.

We are looking for local artisans, crafters, photographers, painters, potters, jewelers, and more to sell their original artwork. All items must be handmade - no mass-produced, store-bought, resale, or imported items.

### Details:

- Artists keep 80% of their sales.
- Payment by check, cash or credit card accepted.
- Only hand-made items accepted.
- **Children artists are welcome and encouraged. Exhibit must be supervised by a parent at all times.**
- Artists are asked to stay with their art exhibit during the entire sale period.
- Artists are asked to contribute a baked good or other finger food.
- Volunteers are needed for set up, break down and cashier positions (sign up genius will be posted in November).

Please fill out this online application form to become a vendor: <https://form.jotform.com/82388603894167>

For more information, please contact Julie Roseman ([julioroseman@yahoo.com](mailto:julioroseman@yahoo.com) or Annsley Klehr ([anzoid@yahoo.com](mailto:anzoid@yahoo.com)), Holiday Sales Coordinators, for more details.

**2019 Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair  
December 14, 2019, 9am-3pm  
at the Atrium in the Frazer Center  
1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307**



# Grady Cluster Students Paint New Mural at Candler Park Market

You may notice a fun and colorful new mural on the side of Candler Park Market facing Fellini's. Grady Cluster students including many Mary Lin 4th and 5th grade artists painted the mural over the weekend of September 21 and 22. Mary Lin art teacher Liz Sullivan led the effort to secure the grant and brought the Grady cluster schools together to beautify

our neighborhood village. Thanks to Candler Park Market for engaging the students in this effort and for feeding the young artists as they painted. Watch for news of a Candler Park business block party that will include a special dedication of the new mural!

**Grady Cluster Art teachers (L-R):**  
Liz Sullivan (Mary Lin), Cynthia Campbell (Morningside), Kim Muhlheim (Springdale Park), and John Brandhorst (Grady). Not pictured are Mandy Lebowitz (Inman) and Martta Sareva (Hope Hill). ▼



Photos by Susan Rose





# Mulberry Fields Gone Wylde Was a Blast!

*By Stephanie Van Parys, Executive Director, Wylde Center*

Thank you to everyone who came out on September 7 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Mulberry Fields. We had our best attendance yet and the weather couldn't have been better. Webster kept every one dancing on the dance floor, the Chick-a-billy lit up the night, and folks had their fill of food, drinks, and dessert. We honored Jesse Bathrick for her dedication to making

Mulberry Fields what it is today. We honored Jesse and Richard Bathrick, Betsy Abrams and Matthew Crowther for saving the land from development more than 20 years ago. What a treasure we have here in our neighborhood.

Thank you to our photographers, Carla Roncoli and Allen Broyles, for the great photographs.





# Special Thanks to Fall Fest Sponsors!



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# Working Together to Prevent Suicide

By Jennifer Wilds, Director of Prevention at View Point Health and Chair of the Newton / Rockdale Suicide Prevention Coalition

In Georgia, we lost 47,173 people to suicide in 2017 and every life lost represents someone's child, parent, friend, coworker or classmate. It is estimated that, for each suicide, approximately 135 people are affected or suffer intense grief. This amounts to over SIX MILLION people in Georgia that were affected by a suicide in one year!

The International Society for Suicide Prevention used the theme of Working Together to Prevent Suicide for World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th and throughout Suicide Prevention Month in September. They encouraged that "we all have a role to play and together we can collectively address the challenges presented by suicidal behavior in society today" and noted that there is one suicide approximately every 40 seconds worldwide. Common misconceptions about suicide can make it difficult though for individuals, family members, and medical professionals to accurately identify those who might be at risk and we may hesitate to become involved when we are unsure of what to do for ourselves or others in need of support.

Creating an environment that reduces the risk of even one person dying by suicide takes family, friends, co-workers, community members, educators, religious leaders, healthcare professionals, political officials, neighbors and governments. While policies to support suicide prevention must occur at individual, systems and community levels, research suggests that suicide prevention efforts will be much more effective if they address a spectrum of related issues. We are fortunate to have multiple resources and people working together in this area to assist individuals and offer support. A few tips...

## Be kind to yourself!

- Stay physically healthy by eating right and getting enough rest and exercise

- Practice gratitude and remind yourself that your needs are important
- Find joy in small things like petting a puppy, finding a new hobby or listening to music
- Manage stress through exercise, meditation, prayer or an adult coloring page
- Maintain a work life balance by leaving work on time and setting boundaries on email and phone calls

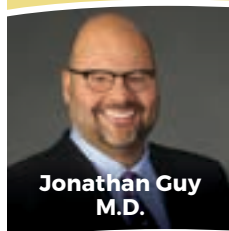
## Warning signs that indicate a need to take immediate action may include:

- Talking about wanting to die or killing oneself
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online, obtaining a gun or storing medications
- Talking about feeling hopeless, feeling like a burden or having no reason to live
- Giving away possessions or pets
- Changes in moods and behaviors, increased anger or irritability or withdrawal from friends or activities
- Engaging in risky behaviors including increased drug or alcohol use
- The recent death or anniversary of a death of a peer, a loved one or celebrity

Whether it is for the person sitting next to you in class, the person you smile at every week in church, your mail carrier, your family members and the people you care about...if you see something, do something to offer your kindness and support and to help get someone toward a place of hope, help and healing. Local resources include:

- The Georgia Crisis and Access Line is available 24 / 7 / 365 for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health diagnoses, drugs or alcohol. Trained behavioral health professionals can provide resource support as well as on site intervention if someone is threatening to hurt themselves, increases alcohol or drug use, engages in reckless behaviors or feels hopeless. They can be reached at 800.715.4225. Download their MyGCAL APP for text and chat capabilities.
- School based mental health services (APEX) are available in schools throughout the state. Contact your school counselor to find out if it is available <https://namiga.org/affiliate-locations/>
- National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) offers hope, help and acceptance through support, education and advocacy. Monthly supports groups and trainings are available statewide (<https://namiga.org/affiliate-locations/>)
- Peers with lived experience may be available for individuals with a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis, for youth and for parents of a youth with behavioral health needs. Contact your local behavioral health provider for more information.
- Education, resources, advocacy and free QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainings for the prevention of suicide are available through the Newton / Rockdale Suicide Prevention Coalition (Jennifer Wilds 770.856.8034).

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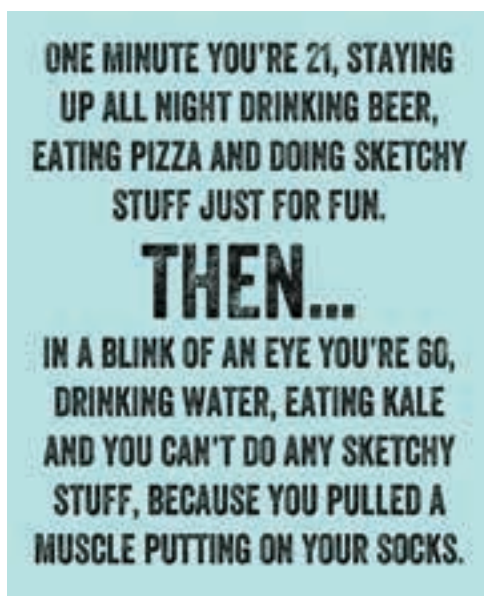
# Candler Park Forever Debuts at Fall Fest

By Lexa King, CPNO Safety Officer, [safety@candlerpark.org](mailto:safety@candlerpark.org)

At the time of this writing, Fall Fest is still a future event. At the time of your reading, we hope it is a happy, successful memory. Candler Park Forever will have made its first public appearance. We will have gathered tons of names to serve as both volunteers and as neighbors in need of all manner of services.

As a group, we are making huge progress. We introduced our Mission Statement and Logo at the Festival. Our meeting on October 10th at 7:00 is going to feature a special guest from Kirkwood who is going to share information from a group in their community who is further down the road than we are with their support group. I imagine that the tips and information that we garner from him will save us many frustrating hours and attempts at reinventing the wheel. If you are interested in attending, call me for the location.

It seems that since this group has started I have been forced to deal with some issues that I hope we can help people with. I shared with you my fall a few weeks ago. A new issue came up recently. I



have a couple of minor health issues. An arthritic hip and a persistent asthma-related cough are minor inconveniences at most. But sometimes they

gang up on me. At times the pain in my hip keeps me awake into early morning when some folks are already rising. Then the lack of sleep exacerbates my cough. So the other day I actually got to feeling sorry for myself. Then I thought about people who have much more debilitating illness and challenges and realized that this is one of the situations we would like to help people with. Some folks need to see a friendly face or have some company once a week or so. Some have trouble taking their trash cans to the curb weekly. Some will be needing help with the incessant deluge of leaves the next few months. We don't want anyone to fall on a leaf covered walkway. Some need a few groceries or a prescription picked up from time to time. Don't be shy! Let us know who you are. Or tell us about a neighbor who you think could use some assistance. We already have a team of people ready to help! Email me at [safety@candlerpark.org](mailto:safety@candlerpark.org) or call at 404-452-9898. All information will remain confidential. Stay tuned for more updates soon!!

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# APS Did Not Renew Superintendent Meria Carstarphen's Contract

*By Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair  
and Mary Lin Representative to the Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS)*

*Editor's Note: This article was submitted prior to the CPNO Members meeting on September 16. Atlanta Board of Education representatives spoke at the members meeting and answered neighbors' questions. See president's column on page 3. The ABOE remarks at the CPNO meeting are not represented in this article*

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) has been known for it's less than perfect school system where cheating scandals reigned, many of the schools were low performing, and change in leadership constantly disrupted its reputation. Most people sighed a sigh of relief when Meria Carstarphen was hired five years ago as the APS superintendent, APS' latest solution. It seemed like a perfect fit. Carstarphen dazzled us all with her wit and wisdom; She connected with the Grady Cluster, and we felt we were heard. The years of no transparency were over, though scars of redistricting had yet to fade. When Carstarphen talked, little by little, these scars faded, and the Grady Cluster had hope and promise of a better future, a future of which we were to be a part.

Carstarphen was plucked out of Austin, Texas after three years trying to turn their schools around; her contract had not been renewed. And three years before that, she had another stint with the St. Paul schools in Minnesota. Again her contract was not renewed. APS whisked her away, feeling lucky and proud of this young, determined woman with grace, out-spoken, yet refreshingly honest discourse, strength, and political savviness, who also made in-roads with Atlanta Businesses.

So on Monday, September 9th, when the Atlanta Board of Education (ABOE) did not renew Carstarphen's contract, many people were shocked, disappointed, and outraged, while others were relieved. How could this situation have two polar opposite responses?

## A Brief History

The previous ABOE voted twice to extend Carstarphen's contract. The first time, in 2015, it was unanimous. The second time, in 2017, the nine-person board voted 7-0 to renew the contract with 2 members absent, extending it until June 30, 2019. Then, on

June 4, 2018, with a 6-3 vote, her contract was extended until June 30, 2020. Therefore, by July of 2019, Carstarphen knew that her contract would not be renewed again.

In the 2018 vote, those three that did not want to renew her contract expressed concerns around:

- District 5 constituents worried about school culture, safety, and its teachers (Erica Collins)
- Fiscal accountability and responsibility – “Dysfunctional” spending habits that are not meeting the needs of addressing the students most vulnerable to educate

## Areas of Strengths/Achievements

- APS Graduation rates are at an all time high. (The rates fall short of the state average and are not satisfactory for all student populations.)
- Less leadership turnover
- Relationships with Atlanta businesses
- Public Speaking
- Risk Taking
- Energy, passion, and perseverance

## Areas of Controversy

- Fiscal Accountability – APS gets the second largest per pupil funding in the state, but there is concern that the money is not reaching the schools
- Grady Cluster, with a growing population, does not have the physical space to educate and accommodate the growing numbers. Carstarphen promised at each town hall to discuss the matter before decisions have to be made. So far, no discussions have taken place. (Thankfully, the Grady Cluster Advisory Team has developed a long-term planning committee, and the ABOE has embarked on a facilities plan being facilitated by the Sizemore Group).
- Carstarphen contracted charter operators to run seven of the district's lowest performing schools

- Reports that Carstarphen's temperament did not align with her social-emotional learning (SEL) initiatives
- The closure and merging of schools in low enrolled communities without adequate rationale of purpose or outcome
- Lack of Transparency on district Milestones Outcomes
- Relationships with necessary collaborators
- Systemic district issues that are still unresolved, i.e. Bus driver/routes, potential success in the most recent food service contract

## What is Carstarphen Saying?

To quote a paragraph in her statement given after the decision to not to renew her contract:

The disparity in educational outcomes for Atlanta's children has been intergenerational and systemic. The solutions are not easy, which is why I so passionately wanted to stay and finish the job I was hired to do.

The Atlanta community entrusts its children and its hard-earned tax dollars to us. We owe it to our community to continue to get up each day and show up for our children. I am incredibly humbled by the support and grateful for our community of students, caregivers, principals, teachers, staff, alumni and partners who have been so supportive of the work we have done.

I've said many times: I love Atlanta ... I believe in Atlanta. I believe in you, and I believe our team will continue to get the job done for children. Despite progress and gains, this work is not done.

## What is Carstarphen Not Saying?

Rumors say that over the past 5 years she has applied for multiple jobs across the nation including Los Angeles; however, she has never been a finalist.



## What is the APS community saying?

In the community, the opinion spans the gamut from those that are incredibly irate about the decision to general surprise, to those that expressed pleasure about the decision. Where schools have been doing well, there seems to be more disappointment and anger surrounding the decision, whereas in school districts underperforming, the general sentiment is one of relief.

A teacher in the Jackson Cluster expressed that, "Like principals and teachers . . . [Carstarphen] would talk a good game, but not necessarily listen to us little folks." She believes that the little struggling schools would get overlooked unless something made the news.

The Washington Cluster has struggled no less. A Community leader of that cluster explained how Washington High does not even have money to buy books, and yet the ABOE and Carstarphen created a charter school, Grove Park Academy, on the Westside. Not only were several properties acquired through eminent domain, but also APS agreed to put \$18,000,000 into the project with matching funds from Chick-Fil-A, diverting of funds away from the non-charter cluster schools in dire need. According to this Community Leader, "Carstarphen is a great manipulator and great orator when it comes to spinning the truth . . . We have got to demand equity for resources across the district. Black people do not envy what you advocate for in your schools; we're just saying let it be equitable."

An involved parent in both the Mays Cluster and an involved community member of the Jackson Cluster echoed this view. "We really were neglected, and we tried to get her help to turn us around," explained the Mays Cluster advocate. She went on to describe how the data has gone down whether it be SAT/ACT scores, enrollment, CCRPI overall, content mastery, and gifted children. After pleading for help from Carstarphen, which was ignored, she believes that "in any area you can look at in her five-year reign, we [the Mays Cluster] are worse off under her leadership than before her leadership."

The Jackson Cluster Community Member also spoke about the empirical evidence not matching Carstarphen's views on progress. He described the cluster as being "flat" or "stagnant," neither growing nor weakening. Graduation rates, he noted, were based on some complicated formula, but back in the 1980s, he explained that a student had to take a proficiency exam to graduate high

school. Today if you are socially promoted, that is all it takes to graduate. "I understand people's shock, but this is an elected board, and we want to trust the people we elected." He paralleled this current situation to the politics around Carstarphen's end days as Superintendent in Austin, an inability to "naturally align with our [APS] partners."

There are also those in the clusters that feel as though the board was not transparent about the non-renewal of the contract and expressing anger. On Facebook Grady Cluster parents have written anything from:

"There is zero justification for this. It is purely a political move."

" . . . the deciding factor was personality conflict."

Quite opposite to what was expressed by members of the Jackson and Mays Cluster, a Grady Cluster parent believes Carstarphen to have made significant progress from "basically zero." She criticizes the school board for not being able to point to "ONE piece of data that shows anything." Some political officials and legendary Atlanta leaders have come out in support of Carstarphen, and "and yet the BOE completely disregarded their advice and Dr. Carstarphen's actual record of success." The solution this Grady parent sees is for the ABOE and the Superintendent to collaborate to solve financial issues, and does not believe that one person can solve the ". . . systemic issues such as income disparity, food insecurity, lack of early childhood education, homelessness and other challenges that get in the way of their learning."

There are also those stakeholders that just felt surprised, and did not feel like they knew enough, but what they knew seemed good. "I was surprised that her contract wasn't renewed, because she seemed like she was doing a great job," stated a parent in the North Atlanta Cluster.

There are many sides surrounding the ABOE not renewing Carstarphen's contract. There is no right answer; hopefully we can engage in thoughtful discourse around this topic.

## What Questions Can We be Asking?

Of the ABOE, Leslie Grant, Michelle Olympiadas, Erika Mitchell, Cynthia Briscoe-Brown, Jason Esteves, was this a political decision by the board members?

What's at stake personally for this vote?

Are the board members being transparent?

Do we have all the facts?

Do we reach out to our board members to understand more?

How transparent was the process, and how can it be improved?

How navigable and how forgiving was the ABOE's work environment?

How much of the graduation rate is due to gentrification and upturn in the Social Economic Status (SES)?

Are things improving at a rate that they should given the financial support, board support, and community support Carstarphen has received during her tenure?

What will a new superintendent decide to do if renovations at Grady High School have not begun yet?

There is no perfect superintendent, and the job is far from easy. Will we be able to find another good one? It takes someone strong, with sometimes definitive views to make changes happen. A leader cannot please all. During the process of letting Carstarphen's contract lapse, the ABOE stated that they are looking for a future superintendent who will help maintain "a spirit of continuous collaboration".

## To read more about APS in the recent news, check out:

<http://gradingatlanta.blogspot.com>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/local-education/divided-atlanta-school-board-meets-today-discuss-superintendent-future/udqiT86GLYtGnEpXUCQPJL/#>

<https://thesoutherneronline.com/72689/news/atlanta-school-board-to-begin-search-for-new-superintendent/>

<https://decaturish.com/2019/09/school-board-member-michelle-olympiadis-discusses-superintendents-contract-at-kirkwood-meeting/>

Feel free to contact Leslie Grant at: [lgrant@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:lgrant@atlanta.k12.ga.us) or Michelle Olympiadas at: [michelle.olympiadis@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:michelle.olympiadis@atlanta.k12.ga.us) if you have questions or would like to understand more.

A special thanks to all of those anonymous interviews that helped give perspective to this difficult decision.

# You Eat Clean. Why Shouldn't Your Cleaning Routine Be Clean Too?

*By Gail Turner-Cooper, Candler Park Resident and Certified Health Coach*

When we talk about “clean” in regards to our food or beauty products, we mean that it’s free of pesticides or artificial hormones that could harm us. So when we use cleaning products all around our homes and on the surfaces we interact with every day, why shouldn’t the same rules apply?

Let’s walk through a few guidelines to making your home cleaning routines as clean as possible.

## 1. **Open the windows**

Air pollution can get trapped inside the home and harm your lungs while cleaning. Opening the windows and doors will ventilate the house and keep you breathing well.

## 2. **Less is more**

It’s no secret that most cleaning supplies are pretty harsh. Save yourself the exposure to harshness by diluting your cleaning supplies according to instructions and use only what’s needed to get the job done.

## 3. **Always wear gloves**

Even when you’re using natural cleaning supplies, you’re dealing with products meant to clean products other than your skin. Protect your delicate epidermis with protective gloves and other precautions, such as a mask over your face if you’re dusting.

## 4. **Be careful with mixing**

Never mix bleach with ammonia, vinegar or other acids. These combinations can produce deadly gases.

## 5. **Send the kids outside**

Kids are especially vulnerable to toxins in the air or on surfaces when cleaning, and they are more likely to get into things. Send them outside to play while cleaning. If they do want to help, provide them simple soap and water rather than harsher cleaners.

## 6. **Buy certified green products**

Don’t be fooled by labels, which aren’t



always true as you know. Look for cleaning supplies certified by Green Seal or EcoLogo.

## 7. **Opt for natural cleaning alternatives**

Nontoxic options like vinegar, baking soda, or lemon can make for excellent cleaning supplies. Some basic essential oils, like tea tree oil, can be used to make your own natural cleaning supplies as well.

## 8. **Be careful with pine and citrus oil**

These cleaners can react with ozone to produce cancer-causing formaldehyde on smoggy days, so use them sparingly or only when you must.

## 9. **Avoid anything “Antibacterial”**

For families that are generally healthy, “antibacterial” products are

unnecessary and potentially toxic. Wash your hands with plain soap and water and you’ll be good to go, according to the American Medical Association.

## 10. **Say no to air fresheners**

They’re filled with fake chemicals that cloud the air you breathe. Instead, opt for open windows and natural scents like an essential oil diffuser.

Gail Turner-Cooper is a certified health coach and the founder of Align Health Coaching based in Atlanta. You can learn more about her and Align Health at [www.alignhealthcoaching.com](http://www.alignhealthcoaching.com).



# September 16 CPNO Members Meeting - draft minutes

*These minutes are presented for review. They may be amended before being considered for official adoption at the October members meeting.*

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Dana Fowle, President. New residents were welcomed. Thank you to Hattie B's restaurant for providing dinner. Michelle, Membership Committee, encouraged Members to not only patronize businesses that have donated dinners, but also to 'thank' them. Membership Committee is having difficulty getting dinner donations and is looking for suggestions. Motion to adopt the amended agenda passed. Motion to approve the August minutes passed.

## Guest Speakers:

- Atlanta Police Zone 6 Sgt. Jones reviewed the Clean Car concept. Sgt. Jones encouraged residents to send videos to [zone6cid@atlantaga.gov](mailto:zone6cid@atlantaga.gov).
- Bee Nguyen, House District 89, spoke on the need for an audit of election procedure in DeKalb County; joint effort of GDOT and neighborhoods concerning safety of/on state roads; death penalty eliminated in the state of Georgia; rules for solitary confinement not the same for all prisons in Georgia.
- Jamar Robinson, "playhrd,train hrd", announced the creation of free boot camps to be held in the Candler Park portion of Freedom Park. Contact Information: [2581 Gresham Rd SE, (404) 916-1357, [www.playhrdtrainhrd.com](http://www.playhrdtrainhrd.com), Atlanta, Georgia 30316.
- Nina Gentry, representing owners of 1270 Euclid Avenue, answered questions about this zoning application.
- Sheila Ross, who was to discuss desire to put a Flock camera, connected to APD in the CP business area, was deferred until October meeting.

## Announcements:

- Safety- Lexa King requested that neighbors fill out "Candler Park Forever" questionnaire, the aging in place initiative for our neighborhood.
- Little 5 Points Alliance- Christina Hodge announced a walking tour of Little Five Points, Oct. 9. On Monday, September 23rd, 10:30 am-12:00 pm neighbors can give input to Ga. Tech students at Ga. Tech Architectural Dept regarding Little Five Points changes.
- FallFest- Festival still needs volunteers; sign up <https://fallfestcandlerpark.org>.
- NPU N- The new Tree Ordinance will be ready in November.
- Nominating Committee- Contact Jay Sandhaus ([jaysandhaus@gmail.com](mailto:jaysandhaus@gmail.com)) if interested in serving on the voluntary Board. Emily Taff has consented to run for Zoning Chair. Still need nominees for President and Fund Raising.
- Zoning Committee-
  - The variance application for 1270 Euclid Avenue was deferred until October.
  - 1349 McLendon Avenue- Motion to support the variance application V-19-190 "with provision that the applicant appear before the NPU N and the project be built based on the site plan filed with City" passed.

- Z-19-76- The motion to support the Ordinance Z-19-76 passed.
- Atlanta Board of Education- Three members of the Atlanta Board of Education (Jason Esteves, Leslie Grant, and Michelle Olympiadis) were present to answer questions concerning the non-renewal/extension of the APS Superintendent, Dr. Meria Cartarphen's, contract.

The meeting was adjourned 9:15 pm.

Submitted by Bonnie Palter, Secretary

September 16, 2019

## 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)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Business applicants

Name of business: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**If sending by mail, please address to:**  
**CPNO Membership**  
**P.O. Box 5418, Atlanta GA 31107**

# CPNO Officer and Committee Report for September

## FallFest 2019 - Ken Edelstein

Candler Park Conservancy volunteers, led by Perry Smith and Doug Wetzell, have been working hard in partnership with the CPNO Fall Fest Committee to produce the Fall Fest 5K and Fun Run. The 5K starts at 10 am on Oct. 5 at the corner of Marlbrook and Terrace Ave., with a new, improved route. The Fun Run begins at 10:45. Sign up now at Active.com (search for "Candler Park").

## Development - Emily Taff

Development committee is working on putting together a report for CPNO based on the results of the survey.

## Zoning - Bill Morris

The zoning committee meeting was held on September 4 with four members in attendance. The agenda included zoning the following items for votes: variance V-19-156, 1270 Euclid Ave. (deferred from August); V-19-190, 1349 McLendon Ave. and zoning ordinance Z-19-76 for committee votes. One neighbor from Euclid Avenue also attended to discuss the application for 1270 Euclid. One new committee member also attended (not eligible to vote at the meeting).

1. V-19-156: Based on revised drawings and referral certificate provided for the meeting, the applicant is seeking variances to reduce the front yard setback from 35 feet to 18.5 feet, reduction of the west side yard setback from 7ft to 5 ft, rear yard variance from 15 feet to 10.5 feet and to exceed the allowed lot coverage from 50% to 75% for construction of a new home on a vacant R4 zoned lot located at 1270 Euclid Ave. The lot is non-conforming at 4,236 sq.ft of area w/ 50 ft. street frontage (R4 conforming: 9000 sq.ft. with 70 ft. street frontage) and has unique shape and topography. Under the revised plans approximately 59% of the lot coverage will be captured by a cistern system to allow water to be used for irrigation purposes and 30% is in pervious pavers for the driveway and garage turnaround. In addition, the revised 18.5 ft front yard set back for the front porch results in better alignment with neighboring properties on the north side of Euclid with setbacks ranging from 18 to 27.5 ft.

The August deferral included the request for the applicant to address follow-up items listed below (results in parentheses):

- Research the former tree removal to bring evidence that all trees removed had been approved through DDH approval; (yes)
- Look into the size of the tree proposed to be removed and find a tree larger than 3" caliber to replace it with; (larger tree proposed, also a second tree will be planted)
- Confirm that the current proposed cistern meets or exceeds Watershed Management regulations; (yes)
- Look into the potential of relocating the utilities, currently shown in an area between the west side of driveway & dwelling, as close to the dwelling as possible or more into the front yard to allow a larger area for landscaping; (yes)
- Look into moving the driveway to create space for landscaping along the east side of the lot to create a green screen between 1270 and 1280 Euclid Avenue; (driveway not be moved)
- Confirm whether or not additional setback reductions, rear yard and front yard, will be required; (Rear yard setback was necessary due to the shift of the house footprint toward the rear of the lot)
- Look into reducing the size of the rear patio and decks above to allow more pervious surface on the property; and (yes)
- Confirm whether or not the basement conditioned space should be included in the FAR. (Is not included – more than 50% of the basement wall is below grade)

Based on updated plans provided for the meeting, the applicant changed the needed variances by reducing overall lot coverage from 81% to 75%, adjusted the front porch setback to be more in alignment with neighboring properties, reduced the depth of the front porch to 8 ft. and width of the rear deck, the house also was moved back 5 ft toward the rear of the property to preserve site lines for the neighbor to the east and to better align with neighboring homes. Water/sewer lines were relocated from the side of the house to the front to allow space for additional landscaping area for a second tree planting. Concerns expressed at the meeting related to the late submittal of the revised plans which allowed insufficient review time by the Committee to less than 24 hours. Based on the progress made by the applicant to address concerns discussed in August and to obtain neighbor support signatures that were needed (or was working to obtain), the

Committee voted 2 in support, 0 opposed and 2 abstaining in favor of a motion to support the application with standard provisions regarding the application, that the owner obtain the support signatures from the adjoining and facing neighbors (1280 Euclid and 1241 Mansfield on the East and North sides of the property) and that the owner investigate potential to use a rain garden to help control run-off impacts. Subsequent to the Zoning Committee meeting, CPNO became aware of additional concerns related to run-off from the property, potential impact to ongoing flooding issues occurring on a rear adjoining property and that the owner of the adjoining property did not have the opportunity to see the complete details of the proposal. To allow more time for discussion of these issues and concerns with neighbors and to give the Committee additional time to fully consider the application and the revised information, the applicant requested a second deferral of the application prior to the CPNO meeting. The Committee voted 3 in favor 0 opposed for a motion supporting deferral of the application to the October zoning meeting.

2. V-19-190, 1349 McLendon Avenue: The applicant seeks variance to reduce the ½ depth front yard set-back from 17.5 ft. to 3.8 ft for a second floor addition, rear deck/porch and gates. Proposed lot coverage is 3699 square feet of 7500 sq.ft. (49.3%). The property is a corner lot located on the west side of the intersection at Ferguson St. and McLendon Ave. Because it is a corner lot with the half depth front yard setback requirement for the yard facing Ferguson St., buildable area of the lot is severely reduced. The proposed addition will add 994 ft of living space above the rear portion of the existing house and a two level deck/screen porch addition to the rear. The porch and deck will be built above an existing concrete pad and allow for better connection to the rear yard, play area, etc which is currently fenced off from the house. Parking under the deck may also be provided in the future. The addition does not increase existing lot coverage - 49.3% and the floor area ratio of the house after the addition will be 0.32 (0.50 allowed). The applicant obtained support signatures for adjoining and rear properties and one facing property in time for the meeting. The Committee vote 3 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention to support the application with the standard conditions and that the applicant continue the effort



# CPNO Officer and Committee Report for September

to collect support signatures from owners of facing properties – apartments and three vacant properties.

3. Z-19-76: Purpose of the ordinance is to prohibit use of a single family, two family or multi-family dwelling unit as a party house in residential zoning districts (R1-R5, RG, I-1 & I-2) for the purpose of hosting a commercial event (where a fee is charged for the use of the dwelling).

Commercial Events will be allowed in the following zoning districts with special permits:

- Districts where allowed: R-LC, C1-C5, I-Mix, NC & MRC
- For R-LC or NC, the owner must obtain a Special Use Permit
- For C1-C5, I-Mix or MRC, the owner must obtain a Special Administrative Permit

Exemptions are included in the Ordinance for organizations that fall under IRS code (501-530) – generally charitable organizations, etc. The Committee voted 4 in favor 0 opposed to support Z-19-76.

## Little Five Points Alliance - Christine Hodgen

LITTLE 5 POINTS ALLIANCE PRESENTS: L5P HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL AND PARADE WINDOW EXHIBIT

Wednesday October 9, 2019 from 5:30-7:00pm

Meet @ L5P Pharmacy 484 Moreland Ave NE

Free Walking Tour of 20 local photographers

Larger than life on L5P Merchant Windows

Window Exhibit up the entire month of October as part of Atlanta Celebrates Photography

Thank you to Digital Picture for sponsoring the printing of the photos!!! digital picture.com

MONTHLY EVENT COMING TO L5P ON 2ND WEDNESDAYS: WEIRD WEDNESDAYS STARTING OCTOBER 9TH!

- A monthly event to bring our residents from Candler Park, Inman Park, Reynoldstown, Edgewood, Poncey Highlands, Old Fourth Ward, Grant Park, Cabbagetown, Virginia Highland back to L5P and experience our amazing businesses and community. More info in August!
- Once a quarter will be a larger event with lots of ways for you to get involved! Launching with ACP Walking Art Tour on October 9th!

## Mobility Committee UPDATE

ARC Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Supplemental Grant

- September 18: RFP out for bid.
- RFP will be posted on L5PA.com
- Friday October 11, 2019 by 5:00pm: Bids are due to mobility@l5pa.com
- Thursday, September 26, 2019-5:00pm: Questions regarding RFP due
- Monday, October 4, 2019-5:00pm: Responses to Questions sent
- October 11-18: Review of bids will be done by the mobility committee via online forms.
- October 22-28: Interviews of top 3 to 5 consultant firms by RFP Committee

- November 1: Final consultant recommendation to ARC

## GA Tech Studio: L5P Studio: OPEN MEETING

Monday, September 23, 2019

10:30am-Noon

Architecture East on the Georgia Tech campus  
245 4th St NW, Atlanta, GA 30313  
Room 214

- The purpose of this meeting is to take stock:
- What we have learned and synthesized from all the work that has already been done
- What we need to know going forward (and what we don't know that we don't know)
- The beginnings of focusing in on how to prioritize the issues and locations for greater analysis, along with emerging ideas that might be useful to evaluate and pursue.
- I see this not so much as a presentation as a conversation where students can interact with community folk around where we've come so far.

## R. LAND L5P LOGO LICENSE IN PROGRESS

Little 5 Points Alliance is currently working with artist Ronnie Land to license his iconic L5P logo for the use of neighborhood branding. This logo will also be a sculpture in the new Findley Plaza!

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We post a lot of L5P events and City of Atlanta news on our FACEBOOK Page

Instagram and Twitter @ L5Palliance! #l5patl #lovel5p #l5palliance

ALWAYS UP TO DATE ON OUR BLOG!!



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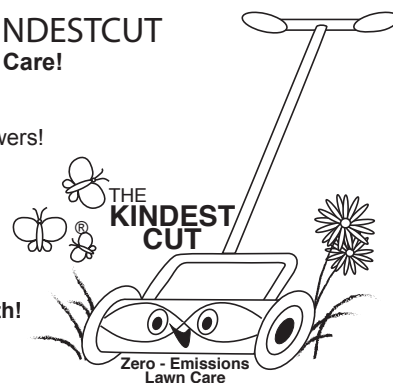
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Esthetic Dental Solutions	678-352-1333
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### Fireplaces

<b>Firewood Atlanta</b>	404-838-7144
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### Fitness Centers

Premiere Team Fitness	678-575-1528
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### Flooring

BCAL Flooring Consultants	770-652-6948
Dust Free Wood Floor Solutions	678-770-3360
Gregory's Paint & Flooring-Johns Creek	770-476-9651

### Garage Doors

Platinum Overhead Door	678-329-3100
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### Golf Courses

Club Corp Golf Clubs	770-389-2000
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### Golf Equipment & Supplies

Action Specialty Carts	770-888-0892
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### Gutters

Painting Plus - Gutters	404-382-9988
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### Handyman

Shumate Handyman Services	678-584-0880
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### Hardware Stores

Ace Hardware of Toco Hills	404-325-8000
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### Home Builder

Horizon at Laurel Canyon	770-254-5357
Stonecrest Homes GA, LLC	404-734-8881
Treetop Residential	770-592-2404

### Home Furnishings

ARIANA Home Furnishings & Design	678-807-7422
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### Home Improvements

Exovations	770-205-2995
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GHIR Construction	404-922-7379
Renovation Remedies, LLC	404-444-6898
Roswell Paint Center (in.SIDE.out)	770-702-8888

### Hospital

Gwinnett Medical Center	678-312-8400
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### Insurance

Allstate Insurance-Tevis Upton	770-917-1111
State Farm-Matt Cresap	770-982-0064

### Landscape Lighting

Georgia LightScapes	404-369-0199
Landscape Lighting Systems, Inc.	678-331-3060

### Landscaping

Stone Edge Landscapes	678-421-4763
United Landscapes LLC	770-286-3818

### Medical Clinic

<b>Atlanta Stress Center</b>	470-296-1636
Northside Spine & Pain Specialists	404-459-1838
Village Podiatry Center-Dr.Mike Laur	678-403-7000

### Painting

Chris Brown Painting & Home Repair	770-323-3148
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
Jasper Painting Company	770-893-3257
Mendez Painting Specialist LLC	770-772-9677
Painting Plus	404-382-9988

### Performing Arts

Schwartz Center For Performing Arts	404-727-8769
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### Pest Control

Hole-In-One Pest Solutions	770-708-2945
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### Physicians

Morrow Family Medicine	770-781-8004
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### Plumbing

Bryan Plumbing Services	770-826-5277
My Georgia Plumber	770-592-0081
Quick-Pro Plumbing	678-478-1534
Serv'all Plumbing & Rooter Service	770-917-1852
Shumate Plumbing Services	678-584-0880
T.K. & Sons Plumbing	800-955-5134
Water Source Plumbing Service, Inc.	678-423-8640

### Pre-Schools & Kindergarten

Omega Learning Center-Acworth	770-792-7431
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### Propane Service

Gas Incorporated	770-720-1378
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### Real Estate

Atlanta Communities-Carl Hawthorne	404-403-1789
Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates	770-529-7780
Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's-Leigh Hays	404-874-0300
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services-Blumer	678-493-9354
<b>Coldwell Banker-Sherry Warner</b>	404-784-8848
Collett Creek Cabins	404-934-6135
<b>Compass Realty-Gipson and Co.</b>	404-405-5363
Compass Realty-Natalie Gregory Team	404-550-5113
<b>Compass Realty-Patter Byrne</b>	404-604-3800
Executive Home Sales	770-374-7900
Harry Norman Realtors-Pam Hughes	404-250-9900
Harry Norman-Morton	678-461-8700
JW Collection Brokers LLC	770-809-6013
Keller Williams Realty-Sharon Bowers	404-642-1829
<b>Park Realty-John Morgan</b>	770-655-9423
Remax Around Atlanta-Falkin	770-330-2374
Russ Robinson Atlanta Communities	770-335-7677
The Listing Brothers	678-789-5119

### Remodeling

GCI Basements	404-569-8794
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### Restaurants

Luna Maya	770-720-4999
Sankranti Indian Restaurant	770-242-6899

### Retirement Community

Celebration Village-The Reserve	678-646-6777
Soleil Laurel Canyon	678-880-3071

### Roofing

Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
Generation Roofing	770-733-3517

### Schools-Private

McGinnis Woods Country Day School	770-664-7764
Montessori Academy at SS & Vickery	770-205-6277
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School	770-419-8601

### Siding

Painting Plus - Siding	404-474-3464
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### Tree Service

Green Fern Tree Service	770-881-1712
LTRC-Landscape Tree Removal Company	404-288-5872
The Davey Tree Expert Company	770-451-7911



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