



August 2020

MESSENGER

In Memory of
Rep. John Lewis,
1940 - 2020



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Photo credit: AP News

Rest in Power, Congressman Lewis

By Matt Kirk, president@candlerpark.org

On July 17, 2020, this world, the city of Atlanta, and Candler Park lost a true civil rights icon and human rights advocate. We also lost the Congressman that represented this district since 1987. This issue of The Messenger has been dedicated to the memory of Congressman Lewis.

I'm sure most of you have seen the numerous retrospectives in essentially every publication on the life, success, and toils of John Lewis, from his chairmanship of SNCC, to risking his safety as one of the original Freedom Riders, to acting as one of the "Big Six" that organized the legendary March on Washington, to coordinating the "Mississippi Freedom Summer," and to co-leading the Selma to Montgomery March on Bloody Sunday. Congressman Lewis's actions helped bring about the Voting Rights Act and so much more real change to the racist legacy of the Jim Crow-era South when governmental bodies were sometimes defiant or just too slow to act. In the 55 years since Bloody Sunday, Congressman Lewis never stopped fighting for what he believed was right. He continued to work for voting rights and registration, served on the Atlanta City Council, and most famously, represented the 5th District as our congressperson for the last 33 years.

PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING

For something that hits close to home for all of us, many of you may remember or were involved in the fight to block Interstate 485, Stone Mountain Freeway, and later the Presidential Parkway. The defeat of these projects is one of the great successes of our neighborhood organizations. I have recently been made aware that, as a prominent local figure and in his position as an at-large seat on the Atlanta City Council, John Lewis joined local activists and neighborhood leaders to stop the road construction. Now his name is on the John Lewis Freedom Parkway where a portion of an interstate was almost built, The Bridge sculpture in Poncey-Highland commemorates both his quest for civil and human rights and the work of our community to stop Interstate 485 from decimating our intown neighborhoods, and Freedom Park stands as a community treasure that reminds us of our city's history with the Civil Rights Movement.

Rest in Power, Congressman Lewis. Whomever the 5th District elects as your successor will have some shoes to fill. We are all in your debt.

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.

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Find a complete list of CPNO committee chairs, representatives and other contacts at 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.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Sign up at www.candlerpark.org or mail name, address, and email to

CPNO Membership
PO Box 5418, Atlanta, GA 31107

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST

- 5** CPNO Zoning meeting, 7 pm, The Neighborhood Church, 2nd floor
- 10** CPNO Board meeting, 7 pm, The Neighborhood Church, 2nd floor
- 15** Deadline to submit content for September Messenger!
- 17** CPNO Members Meeting, 7 pm, 1st Existentialist Church

SEPTEMBER

- 2** CPNO Zoning meeting, 7 pm, The Neighborhood Church, 2nd floor
- 14** CPNO Board meeting, 7 pm, The Neighborhood Church, 2nd floor
- 18** Deadline to submit content for October Messenger!
- 21** CPNO Members Meeting, 7 pm, 1st Existentialist Church

Although usual meeting places are listed, COVID-19 pandemic may require meetings to be held by video to abide by social distancing protocols. In case of cancellations or changes, check CPNO's Upcoming Events list at candlerpark.org and watch for membership email notices. All CPNO meetings are open to the public.



2nd Annual Little 5 Points (L5P) Halloween Photo Walk Photo Contest

Little 5 Points Alliance (L5PA) wants you to enter your past L5P Halloween photos. Twenty winning photos will be enlarged and placed on L5P store windows during the month of October.

The window gallery will be included in the Atlanta Celebrates Photography's (ACP) 22nd Annual Festival (<https://acpinfo.org/>) and will be part of an ACP on-line gallery. This festival is the largest annual community-oriented photo festival in the US.

The L5P Halloween Photo Walk will be listed in all ACP festival guides and included in all ACP Facebook/Instagram boosts. There will be a guided tour/opening on October 7, and self-guided tours until Halloween.

Deadline for photo submission is August 15.



Photo installation - Artist Henry Gonzalez.
Photo credit: Christina Hodgen

It's free to enter and all ages and skill levels are welcomed. For more info go to <https://l5pa.com/contest-info>

The 2nd Annual L5P Halloween Photo Walk is made possible by the Little 5 Points Alliance, Atlanta Celebrates Photography and Digital Picture.

APS Returns to School with Digital-Only Platform for First Nine Weeks

By Dana Fowle, CPNO Education Committee

The first major decision by the new Atlanta Public Schools superintendent was a big one. Dr. Lisa Herring says with rising COVID-19 transmission rates, classes will begin in a digital platform only for at least the first nine weeks.

APS students will also see a two-week delayed start to August 24th. This gives families time to make arrangements. School lunch distribution will begin August 10th for students with food insecurity. And, community organizations, she said, are stepping in to help struggling communities meet the temporary demands of virtual education.

According to Dr. Herring, every student learning from home will have access to a school-issued Chromebook or iPad and a hotspot for internet connectivity.

There will also be multiple education platforms used that cater to different learners. Parents will be provided online classes to also learn how to use these platforms.

"We learned quickly with the engagement in March some are not as user-friendly for our youngest of learners whether that be kindergarten, pre-K, first and second, so we've been specific for a more prescriptive platform that helps with engagement" for young learners, she

told me when I met her recently at Beecher Hills Elementary School on the southwest side.

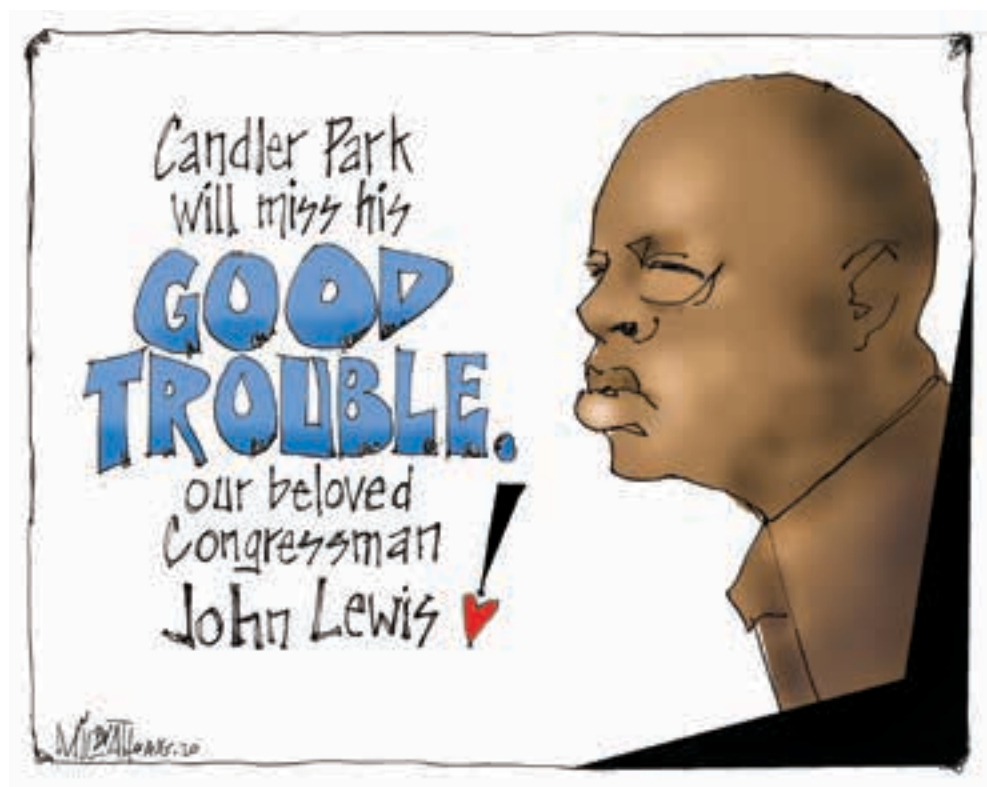
Still, no one denies this will be challenging for parents from every part of the district. The new APS administration hopes to get parents involved early on.

"We are also exploring the idea of having virtual volunteers to manage virtual cohorts," she added.

The first weeks of the fall school year will include heavy assessment to see where children are academically after having to abruptly leave face-to-face learning in March.

When COVID-19 transmission rates reach a moderate level as determined by public health experts, Dr. Herring said students will return to the buildings in a still-to-be-determined hybrid model. Full face-to-face teaching resumes when the virus transmission drops to mild status.

Atlanta Public Schools took the lead and some public relations hits when it announced early that it felt digital learning was the right route for now. DeKalb and Cobb counties soon followed. But Douglas and Gwinnett counties, which initially dragged their feet, reluctantly decided to make it a virtual fall start, too. Most private schools in the immediate metro area will return for face-to-face learning.



Welcome and Thanks!

By Roger Bakeman, membership@candlerpark.org

CPNO thanks all members who have renewed for 2020!

CPNO welcomes new members

Dagmar and Chip Epstein
Devin Zimmerman and Jacob Cynman
Doug and Alison English
Sabrina Smith
Jerry Tillery, Lynn Howard & Spike (the cat)
and others who wished to remain anonymous

CPNO welcomes new members contributions:

Tanya Counter
Frances and Michael Forte
...and others who wished to remain anonymous

A New Candler Park History Webpage

The history page on our web site has been updated—
<https://candlerpark.org/history/>. Check it out. If you see any errors or have other suggestions, please let me know by emailing [roger.bakeman.CPNO@gmail.com](mailto:bakeman.CPNO@gmail.com).

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THE MESSENGER

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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 by the 18th of the month prior to publication.

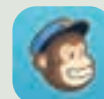
If you have a news tip or story idea, please email relevant information including contacts to editor@candlerpark.org or call the editor.

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. 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.

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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 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.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



Our handle is your handle: twitter.com/CandlerParkATL



Photos credit: Roger Bakeman

In response to these challenging times, a gallery of Equal Justice Art stands in front of Don and Judy Bender's house on "lower" Oakdale Road, north of McLendon. What better place to reflect on peace, justice, and inclusion than here, on a street that until 1960 was named Whitefoord Avenue? When Black families started moving in to houses on Whitefoord Avenue to the south, the white residents to the north requested a name change. Distancing and denial run deep. The times aren't just challenging but deeply frustrating, leaving us feeling helpless. What can we do? Don

Candler Park Messenger 6 August 2020

Plus ça Change, Plus C'est la Même Chose

By Lexa King, safety@candlerpark.org

No, you have not magically been transported to Paris, although that may be fun. But this French saying I have found to be true under many various circumstances over time. Loosely translated, "The more things change, the more they stay the same".

The past few months have brought almost innumerable changes.

- We have all been highly encouraged to stay at home.
- School lessons shifted from in person to online
- Places of business have been shuttered and locked.
- Bars and restaurants closed except for take out.
- Travel has come to a virtual halt.
- Working from home has become common place.
- Gathering in large groups is not only discouraged, but outlawed.
- We are told to wear masks.

The manner in which we do almost everything has changed. Learning, teaching, working, shopping, gathering, meeting, interacting, and being entertained. I wish I would have been smart enough to buy Zoom stock.

But at the heart of things, much remains the same. Children must still learn, we must be physically and mentally nourished, and it is important to us to have community. This is especially important and difficult for our senior residents, many of whom live alone. In calling many of our seniors, it is reassuring to hear that many have neighbors who have reached out and are helping them manage the situation. Offering to pick up groceries or prescriptions may be a small act for you, but it can make all the difference in the world to that senior. Thank you to all who are reaching out to help those around you in these times. Please continue this excellent practice.

Candler Park Forever has created a series of Zoom gatherings to connect seniors and provide a new form of community. Our Coffee Chats are held on Thursday mornings at 11 o'clock. We have had various topics including books and film recommendations and various aspects of food from shopping to take out. We are open to suggestions for topics. This week we will discuss our heroes. Given the passing of our dear John Lewis, and the unrest in our country, discussing what we admire and who we choose to lead should take us at least an hour.

It is easy to join us and we would welcome you with open virtual arms. Please contact Lexa King at safety@candlerpark.org to receive the link and to make suggestions for topics. All you will need is the Zoom app or you can join us by dialing in from your phone. See you on the internet!



Youth Launch Candle Hut Business in Candler Park

By Sadie Teras, Annabelle Huebner & Oliver Huebner

What have all the kids been doing during quarantine? They can't swim in the Lake Claire Pool or go to summer camps with their friends. So what are they doing to keep themselves occupied? My cousins (age 12) and I (age 11) have limited options because we can't hang with friends or babysit. So we thought not only to keep ourselves occupied, but also to make a little money is to create our own business.

We call ourselves Candle Hut, and as you can tell, we sell candles! We have 15 different scents, such as dozen roses, apple pie, vanilla pudding, café mocha (for all you coffee lovers), mint leaf, lavender, and even baseball glove. We will continue to grow our collection of scents and colors as our business grows. The candles are made from all-natural, vegan ingredients. They are all individually homemade, and we kids do it on our own. That means our business is completely run by kids!

Our business is a great way to keep us busy during quarantine and even after quarantine ends. It teaches us about business in a fun way! This venture has kept us occupied for weeks as we have done all the work, including researching scents, ordering supplies, advertising to potential clients, sales, and finances. We love making our candles and having our own business.



The candles also smell really good! We will be donating 10% of all of our income to important causes, starting with the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

This is what my cousins and I have been doing during quarantine. We are also planning to open our own Etsy shop. Please support us by getting in touch with us to buy candles using the email below!

email: candlehutofficial20@gmail.com

TikTok: @Candle_hut_official

My Journey To The Music House

By Rex Hussmann, Candler Park Resident

I grew up in Candler Park from 1978 to 1997 on Iverson St. When I left home I moved to Boston and earned my B.M. at Berklee College of Music to focus on piano.

Looking for work, I started teaching piano lessons and lo and behold, one of my new students was a 68 year old blind woman named Anne Marie who had a thick Boston accent and swore like a sailor.

I remember at our first lesson she plopped herself down on the piano bench, and she said "I wanna learn Rhapsody In Blue by George Gershwin".

Without warning she launched into a fiery, mangled version of the 32 page piece and in less than 1 minute I was lost.

"Okay," she said after about six pages. "What's next?"

When I explained that I lost my place in the book, she sighed in disgust and started cussing under her breath. Then she started from the VERY BEGINNING.

We tried again. Once again I got lost. "Where are we?" she demanded.

"I...don't...know."

"Jesus and Mary Joseph!" she cried. "Aren't you a @\$% teacher?"

I managed to calm her down and keep my dignity intact. Needless to say it was a hard lesson. I'd also never been cussed out by a 68 year old blind woman before. But after the lesson she kind of paused and then asked "So...how did I do?"

I wasn't sure if I had failed her. "You did great," I said.

She seemed to relax.

"Okay," she said. "I'll see you next week."

And with that I became Anne Marie Leonard's piano teacher for the next 4 years.

Over the years I improved at teaching. I taught kids and adults. I hosted recitals. I gained confidence and all the while I kept teaching Anne Marie. We learned a lot of songs, but we always kept working on Rhapsody In Blue. We became a little bit like family. For instance, when I told her I was interested in learning accordion she gave me one as a gift. And I even dropped by one New Year's Eve to make a toast with some soda and wish her a happy new year. When she moved into an assisted living home, I took the hour long subway ride out to her place to continue lessons.

One day I had the sad realization that instead of moving forward in the Rhapsody In Blue book, we were actually moving backwards. Anne Marie was starting to lose her memory. I was so sad for her, but I also questioned my role as a teacher. Was I helpful to Anne Marie anymore? As a teacher was I helping her move forward?

I made the important decision to hang in there and continue teaching her. Piano lessons were more than a means to an end for her. They eased her stress and made her happy. And she wanted them. That's what counted.

We had this ritual after every lesson Anne Marie would ask me how she played.

"You did great," I'd say. And she'd smile.

I moved to NYC in 2009 but I made sure to call every so often and check in on her. She passed away a few years later.

I moved back to Atlanta in 2011 and continued working as a professional musician and teacher. I came full circle and started my own teaching business in Candler Park called The Music House where I teach private piano lessons. Thanks to Candler Park Messenger for allowing me to write this article and to let people know that I'm back in my old neighborhood and am still looking to teach music here. My main goal as a teacher is to introduce people to a world they can enjoy for the rest of their lives. Anne Marie definitely helped me learn that.



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Freedom Park Conservancy Announces SWA Group as Master Planner

Source: Freedom Park Conservancy Press Release

The Freedom Park Conservancy announces the selection of the Houston-based studio of SWA Group for development of a master plan of Freedom Park, a 200+ acre public park adjacent to downtown Atlanta. It has been almost 30 years since the park's original master plan forged this park from the remnants of a freeway right-of-way, along with The Carter Center and The King Center, into a vision of a cohesive open space for Atlanta. Now is the time to continue the vision and expand the potential of Freedom Park for the 21st century.

"As we imagine the next generation of Freedom Park, we sought a consulting firm that offered both broad experience and an exciting vision commensurate with the richness of this singular place," says David Hamilton, Master Plan Coordinator. "SWA Group was clearly that firm." The award-winning landscape architecture consultancy is known for the design of bespoke parks and opens spaces all over the world, from New York to California to China. Tapping into a site's particular history and possibility is a hallmark of SWA's design. Their design for Houston's Buffalo Bayou Park transformed what had been an abandoned waterway into an iconic urban park that integrates art and recreation, links the city's neighborhoods and all the while doubles as part of the city's flood protection. Today, the park is a defining aspect of Houston's identity.

In speaking about Atlanta and Freedom Park, SWA principal and designer Natalia Beard expressed her excitement in working on such a culturally important site in the center of a city characterized by rolling topography and a lush arboreal cover. "Atlanta's Freedom Park is more about a 'state of mind' than a spatial concept, like the Beltline," offers Beard about the site, whose historical underpinnings tie



Freedom Park Conservancy

to important events and people from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement and whose physical form resulted from coalesced strips of land once intended for a freeway. "Public reclamation is central to this place. How can the park better connect the surrounding neighborhoods? How can this 'art park' find contemporary expression? How can design offer different perceptions of the land and the history that has shaped it? How to tap into residents' hopes and dreams for this place? We are excited to engage with the Conservancy and the City of Atlanta, and the full range of stakeholders, to answer these questions in the master plan."

The master plan process for Freedom Park, will launch in the next few months with a focus on broad-reaching public participation and consensus building. Input from the community will be foundational to how the master plan evolves. Both Freedom Park Conservancy and SWA look forward to developing a full range of tools and opportunities for citizen engagement and input towards realizing this important plan for the future of Freedom Park.

About Freedom Park Conservancy:

Freedom Park Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the improvement and preservation of the park for the benefit of a diverse public. Born out of formidable citizen activism linking the movements of environmentalism, urbanism, historic preservationism and more, Freedom Park is now one of Atlanta's largest public green spaces. Our vision is for Freedom Park to be Atlanta's most innovative green space, celebrated for its inspiring origin and beauty. Learn more about us at www.freedompark.org

About SWA

SWA is a world-renowned landscape architecture, planning, and urban design firm celebrated for its creativity, responsiveness, and design excellence. Our work gives new life to outdoor spaces at multiple scales – from public plazas to waterfronts to entire city districts – harnessing natural systems while enhancing the unique characteristics of each setting. SWA has studios in Dallas, Houston, Laguna Beach, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Sausalito and Shanghai. For more information, please visit www.swagroup.com.

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Atlanta's Hero: John Lewis (1940-2020)

By Jennifer J. Richardson, Candler Park Resident

I first saw John Lewis on television—in one of those grainy black and white films that used to be the norm. There he was, leading the student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; then later lying on his side in a raincoat being bludgeoned by the Billy club of a police officer. Another time, an impossibly young Lewis stepped up to the microphone at the 1963 March on Washington, surrounded by Civil Rights icons. He was 23 years old when he made his speech there. Another time, I saw him in a television head shot: a huge bandage covering the place where the Billy club had shattered his skull. I was not yet a teenager when all this was going on, but Lewis, and Dr. King and others made an impact on me. At that time, I secretly went against everything my family believed and sent Dr. King a letter, supporting his work. His return letter to me is one I treasure. I was twelve years old, proving that the acorn can fall miles away from the tree.

I saw John Lewis sitting in back of a convertible in a Little Five Points parade. I can't recall if it was the Inman Park Festival or the Little Five Points Hallowe'en Parade. He was waving and shouting, "I needja hep." He must have been running for Atlanta City Council. Later on, of course, he represented this District for over 30 years in the House of Representatives.

You probably have already read about John's life of service, integrity and standing up for what is right. He was a giant in Civil Rights. His role in the in-town neighborhoods was no different than how he lived the rest of his life. Jimmy Carter wanted his presidential library on Copenhill, a public park where General Sherman watched Atlanta burn during the Civil War, and later the site of an orphanage for children left behind after the war. The Georgia Department of Transportation wanted an expressway through many in-town neighborhoods, including Lake Claire, Druid Hills, Candler Park, Poncey Highland, Inman Park and Old Fourth Ward. This expressway, called "Stone Mountain Expressway", "Stone Mountain Tollway", "Presidential Parkway" and later still "Freedom Parkway" had been planned in 1946. Its purpose was to connect two stubs of highway—at Stone Mountain and at Boulevard/Glen Iris downtown. It was planned as a four lane commuter road so folks out there could get in here to their jobs.

When John Lewis served on Atlanta City Council, beginning in 1982, he put forth a resolution that the city would never support the four lane highway. It passed unanimously. Later on, Council members began receiving pressure from powerful forces that wanted the highway. One was Mayor



Jennifer Richardson with Congressman John Lewis

Andrew Young, who perhaps had a commitment to support the road and to support Jimmy Carter's desire to have the road serve his library. Whatever the reason, Mayor Young and several City Council members changed their tune and began supporting the road. In June, Lewis was invited to a breakfast meeting with several council members and Mayor Young, (who had run on his promise to neighborhoods that he would never support the road). Young tried to convince Lewis to support the road. Lewis felt he needed to support the citizens who elected him to Council—and refused to change his anti-road vote because he accurately believed that his constituents were dead set against the highway.

Still later, Lewis received a phone call from former President Jimmy Carter who told Lewis he wanted him to vote in favor of the road. Lewis said he couldn't do that, resulting in a riff between the former president and Lewis. City Council ultimately voted for a four lane expressway known as the Presidential Parkway. It would satisfy Carter because it provided access to his library, and it satisfied the DOT's desire for a commuter road. But in-town activists were inflamed and began to protest and to file lawsuits. John Lewis came to many protests, including a memorable one in the Dellwood segment of the linear park. At that rally, Lewis said, "We are standing up for the best of the American tradition. This land is your land; this land is my land; this is not the land of Atlanta City Council, or Jimmy Carter, or Andrew Young or Tom

Moreland (head of the GADOT). This land is your land!!!" Lewis received overwhelming applause for his speech.

Twenty-five years, thousands of dollars spent on lawsuits, and too many protests and acts of civil disobedience to count, the road was finally stopped at Ponce de Leon—and never went through the in-town neighborhoods it would have destroyed. The road was defeated using the peaceful tactics of John Lewis.

Lewis was honored in many ways: schools were named for him, Invictus Academy was named for him, and the "Hero" mural on Auburn Avenue honored him. Inman Park activist Ruth Wall and others brought Thornton Dial's sculpture, "The Bridge" to Atlanta to sit in the center of John Lewis Plaza. The sculpture depicted the life of John Lewis and is located at the corner of John Lewis Freedom Parkway and Ponce de Leon Avenue. On August 22, 2018, Freedom Parkway was re-named John Lewis Freedom Parkway in honor of the man who did so much, including saving Atlanta's in-town neighborhoods.

This land is my land, this land is your land,
From California to the New York Island

From the redwood forest, to the Gulf stream water,

This land was made for you and me.

--Woody Guthrie

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Candler Park Remembers Congressman John Lewis

By Susan Rose, editor@candlerpark.org

Through the photos and stories shared by neighbors on these pages, you will see that Congressman John Lewis was engaged with us and supported us in both small and large ways. To name a few, he showed up to multiple events at Mary Lin Elementary, joined us in protests and marches and parades, pushed to save our neighborhood and land from a highway that would have devastated Candler Park, and took the time to talk with us, eye to eye with a warm handshake and authentic engagement whenever and wherever – on a plane, on the street, and at the US Capitol. He was a humble, principled, and unparalleled leader and legend. We will miss Congressman John Lewis.



▲ Kelly Jordan greets Congressman Lewis at the Inman Park parade.



▲ Congressman Lewis with Cub Scouts Pack 586.



▲ Barbara Marston with daughters Emma and Sarah Slutsker with Congressman Lewis during the outdoor classroom dedication in 2009.



▲ Congressman Lewis with Mary Lin teacher and Candler Park resident Michelle Partridge at the dedication of the Mary Lin Elementary outdoor classroom in the habitat in 2009. Photo courtesy of Peggy Edwards



▲ Congressman Lewis leaves his handprint on the board in the outdoor classroom. Photo courtesy of Peggy Edwards.

▶ Congressman Lewis at Mary Lin greeting Rebecca Tolmach who was in the 5th grade and principal Adelia Hall is on the left. The students prepared for his visit by learning about government and John Lewis' life. They made art work about civil rights and sung to him an original song written by the music teacher. He was very gracious and approachable. Photo courtesy of Sally Ferguson.





Remembering Citizen John Lewis

*By Edi/th Kelman,
Candler Park Resident*

Sometime around 2015 - among the years I was frequently flying up to New York to be with my one-hundred-year-old Mom, and to help with historic research on my TriRacial hometown whaling village of Sag Harbor - I was energized to see that Congressman John Lewis was seated on my Delta flight.

He was a people magnet! While we waited to leave the gate, I watched other passengers go up to him with outstretched hands and words of thanks. I was compelled to pull from my satchel one of my traveling fixtures, an Early Edgewood-Candler Park BiRacial History Project Walking Tour Map. I felt the need to approach Rep. Lewis with an offering and was excited to share our neighborhood's decade of healing justice work in his 5th District.

When the flurry of attentive travelers abated, I took my turn to stand by his seat, map in hand, with a flushed, melanin-deficient face. There was an immediate aura of calm and patience about him. His soft, welcoming voice invited connection, open. He kindly took in my gratitude for his work and then handled the map with care and interest, offering me his card, inviting me to keep him informed about our work in the community.

The contact with Citizen Lewis was brief, but I stayed flushed for some time from the transfusion of his humane and peaceful, powerful presence.

"You're in Trouble Now"

By Ken Edelstein, Candler Park Resident

I was a bit nervous when I ran into John Lewis somewhere outdoors in Atlanta, probably in the late 1990s. I can't remember exactly where it was.

I was a reporter at the time, and I knew Lewis from interviews and press conferences. But this time, I couldn't arm myself with the professional role I was comfortable playing. I wasn't pestering an elected official with questions. This time, I was just a guy shaking hands with someone I idolized.

So after he greeted me with a cheery "hello," I awkwardly reminded him where we'd met.

"I know who you are, Ken," he answered. Then, he said something along the lines of "you're in trouble now."

For a moment, he had me. I thought he was about to unload about being upset over a story. An awkward feeling crept up. I didn't want to think that the great John Lewis would turn out to be one

of those thin-skinned politicians who think it's the reporter's job to make them look good.

Then, I could see something in his eye or at the edge of his mouth that let on to the fact he was deadpanning. This "living legend," this "icon," actually was playfully teasing me in his own gentle way.

I'm sure there are hundreds of Atlantans who've had interactions with this side of Lewis. I was nobody special. And he had me forever after that interaction, much as I'm sure he'd charmed countless other people with an unassuming manner throughout his life.

It's one thing to be a courageous civil rights hero, to have helped to change the world for the better, to have spoken truth to power even after he himself had become powerful. It's another to have such an impish sense of humor at the same time.

An Extra Special Tour of the US Capitol

By Julia Melkers, Candler Park Resident

I have been lucky enough to have met John Lewis a few times. Back in 2009 we went to John Lewis' DC office to get a tour of the Capitol. We expected a staff person, but no, John Lewis insisted on taking us around. He took the girls onto the House floor and let them push the button. He took us behind the scenes, past the signs that said "no public allowed." Wherever we went people stopped and spoke with him. I recall someone saying, "wow, I

wonder who those people are," meaning us -- it was indeed a special day. We knew he had to get back to important work, but he insisted on going outside to the place where most Congressional photos are taken. The last time I saw John Lewis was on a flight back from DC in Fall 2019. I waited until he got off the plane, and had the opportunity to thank him for all he does and did.



Dignity, Integrity, Love and Respect

By Ted Pettus, Candler Park Resident

A few presidents ago, I marched from the Braves stadium to the Ga State Capitol. After a rally at the Capitol, folks walked back to the Braves stadium to their cars. By complete coincidence, I ended up walking right next to John Lewis. I think we looked an interesting pair walking and talking – I tall, lanky, goofy, not so well groomed white guy, him – shorter, stocky, well groomed, dignified. I am not sure I have ever interacted with anyone who radiated such magnitude of dignity and love – how I would imagine the Buddha. I walked with my congressional representative for about 10 minutes. I have no idea what we talked about, probably the politics of the day, but what I do know is the natural ease and comfort in his face and eyes (see Buddha above). As our walk came to an end I did what my daddy taught me, I faced him, held my hand out for a firm handshake and looked him in the eye. He told me his name (as if I did not know), and I told him mine. As my last name was halfway out of my mouth I remembered...the Edmond Pettus Bridge.

In 1965, Lewis and his non-violent civil colleagues were kneeling and praying on the Edmund Pettus Bridge when state sanctioned violence unleashed upon them – tear gas, bully clubs, kicking people on the ground, horses – children, women and men severely injured, in some cases unconscious lying on the ground. Rep. John Lewis' skull was fractured. How could that not be traumatic?

All of that ran through my mind in an instant. I am sure my expression changed from overwhelming goofy excitement/joy to confusion/grave concern. I was staring right into his buddha eyes, and I saw for an instant, a flicker- like the expression of love was not 100% for just a moment. But that was only for an instant. In milliseconds he seemed to process it all, and then I saw his face melt back to his loving smile and his eyes returned to their sparkle. I felt reassured, and my feelings followed his. I don't know what I understood, but I understood something, something he did, went through, or processed, and it was strong, and dignified, and loving. It was an exemplary.

There is more to leadership than I can ever explain, but I do believe dignity, integrity, love and respect for others make leadership sustainable. They help leaders last. They don't cost money, but they are hard work. John Lewis had no shortage of hard work, dignity, integrity, or love and respect.



Congressman John Lewis and the Champion Tree Celebration 2012

By Darlene Mashman, Former President (2011-2012), Lullwater Garden Club

The day was beautiful, sunny and so very special. A large white tent provided shade for tables presenting sweet treats and nibbles. Tables outfitted with a flower arrangement and chairs provided comfort for attendees. Everyone contributed to the success of the day!

Several trees growing in Lullwater Conservation Garden were nominated to Trees Atlanta by a local expert. Six were awarded champion status. It was and still is quite remarkable that such a diverse collection of champions stand in one location! Lullwater Conservation Garden is a rare, 6 acre Old Growth Forest in the middle of the city. It has never been farmed or cultivated and it is encircled by a barrier (Lullwater Road and Lullwater Parkway).

Representative John Lewis joined us in the Lullwater Conservation Garden for the celebration of our champion trees in 2012. We were delighted that several city dignitaries and about 95 attendees

were there. All would agree that the celebration took on a whole new meaning when Representative Lewis arrived! Though invited, we did not know he would be able to attend. He arrived in time to walk the trail with our group. He stood with us as each tree was introduced, discussed and dedicated to the community as a champion. Representative Lewis was kind, humble and delightful. He was in no hurry and spent a great deal of time with us. I cherish the memory of meeting him. I cherish our conversation about his childhood and the importance of maintaining green space for future generations.

Walks along our trails brings back fond memories and is very special to me. Today, only four of our Champion Trees remain: The Tulip Poplar, The Black Tupelo, The Yellowwood and The Silverbell. The Mountain Laurel and American Beech (State Champion) are no longer with us.

A Humble Giant of a Man

By Gail King, Druid Hills Resident

When our grandchildren visited D.C. ten years ago, they asked to visit John Lewis at his office. John took time to meet with them and listen to their many questions. They were immensely moved by his stories and thanked him for everything he had done to help all Americans live in a better world. They continued to write papers in school explaining who he was and how brave his was and how proud they were to have met with him and to have talked about their personal concerns about how their black and brown friends were treated. When they learned he was sick with pancreatic cancer, they all three wrote to him and told him they loved him and were praying he would get well.

How proud I am. And how proud I am that my grandchildren had the opportunity to know and appreciate such a humble giant of a man. John took every opportunity to touch lives no matter how young or old.



Spencer King with his grandchildren and Congressman Lewis around 2010.

Memories of John Lewis, Principled and Pacifist

By Don Bender, Candler Park Resident

Editor's note: I captured these memories in a phone call with Don Bender

In 1977, we founded the Little Five Points Community Pub, and John Lewis would come to benefits held there like the ACLU. And, he would come into the room and he was not like a typical politician, not glad handing and not holding court.... I also remember him being at a banquet table, and he would greet those doing the serving -- by standing up to greet them -- just the same as he would greet an official dignitary. He had humility and showed no sense of self-importance.

When a dozen of us stood in front of road equipment in 1983 (in protest of the Presidential Parkway), John Lewis was the at-large city council person. Mary Davis was our district council person. They both showed up with the purpose of bailing us out of jail. As we sat in the reception room of the jail, they were there. It was clear they didn't see us as villains even though Mayor Andrew Young at the time was for the road. They supported us in our efforts.

John Lewis always operated out of principle so when things weren't right, he spoke up and acted. He was very principled, and he was not afraid to work with people who didn't share his ideology. He was a pacifist, not just as a strategy.... I heard him say that it was based on the teachings of Jesus.... His pacifism was based on his deeply held spiritual beliefs.

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July 20 CPNO Members Meeting – draft minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Matt Kirk, President. The motion to adopt the amended agenda passed. The motion to approve the June minutes passed.

Guest Speaker(s):

Matt Kirk, President, will attempt to reengage the Atlanta Police Department representative to attend the Members' Meeting via Zoom.

Unfinished Business:

- DeKalb Cycle Track Extension -- Phase 1 call for the track to end at Elmira Place. Atlanta Bicycle Coalition requesting the track to end at Candler Park MARTA Station.

New Business:

- Candler Park Golf Course- A Trial period of 8 Mondays, beginning July 13th, of closing the Golf Course to golfers so the general public can use the area for general recreation, was initiated by the City of Atlanta and the Candler Park Conservancy.

Announcements:

- Treasurer Report- Karin Mack, Treasurer, announced donations were over \$500 this month.
- Little Five Points Alliance- Christine Hodgen, CPNO Representative
 - Bids for Findley Plaza are open again
 - Halloween Photo Contest- Call for photos of past Halloween Festivities (L5PA.com/photo-contest)
 - Signal Box Art- public art project in which each artist

was paid \$600 for their work.

4. Safety initiatives

- Matt Hanson, Fundraising Officer, FallFest has been cancelled. The City of Atlanta is not issuing any permits for this type of event. Other alternatives are being considered to raise money for the neighborhood. Ideas include: Food Trucks and a Musician once a month; Expand Merchandising; Dog Costume Contest; Virtual 5k
- Messenger- Susan Rose, Editor, planning to dedicate the next issue to John Lewis, Congressman, and requesting people to submit personal reminiscences and photos by Wednesday, July 22nd.
- Candler Park Forever- Lexa King, Safety Officer, announced weekly coffee chat via Zoom every Thursday at 11 am. Requesting any volunteers who would like to be a pen pal for other 'shut-in' people. There will be a Facebook page established soon.
- Nominating Committee- need people who are interested in serving on the Committee.

Zoning: Emily Taff, Zoning Officer

- Z-20-42- NPU N voted to support the ordinance June 25th; NPU O is interested.
- Legislation for the 4 way stop at Ferguson and Iverson has been initiated.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Submitted by Bonnie Palter,
Secretary

July 20, 2020

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 or renew candlerpark.org

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Optional contributions

Membership in CPNO is free, but we welcome optional contributions. To contribute, please visit our website candlerpark.org/donate-to-cpno 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 Reports for July

Zoning- Emily Taff, Zoning Officer

Five committee members and CPNO NPU Rep Amy Stout were in attendance.

There were no voting items on the Agenda.

Updated the committee on Z-20-42 - Ordinance to rezone to R-5-C

- Z-20-42 was presented for review and comment at NPU-O on July 23, comments from NPU-O: "Based on an informal vote and various conversations, NPU-O overwhelmingly supports this new ordinance/ zoning change for Candler Park. There is a R5 area within NPU-O (Edgewood) that may consider a similar change in the future. We thank Candler Park for their work and diligence."
- Z-20-42 was presented at NPU-N for a vote and was unanimously supported.
- In general people outside of Candler Park have also been very supportive and interested in this Ordinance.
- Next Step: Zoning Review Board (no meeting dates set yet)

Amy Stout brought up a question about when the R-5-C zoning will begin.

- It is official after the mayor signs off on it (date unknown)
- Building Permits submitted BEFORE R-5-C zoning is official will abide by the existing regulations in R-5.

CPNO Officer and Committee Reports for July Continued

Update on the DeKalb Cycletrack

Further discussion with Stephen Spring at the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition (ABC) and Cary Beams, Chief Bicycle Officer, has helped clear up a few questions expressed at the June CPNO member meeting. In short, plans are underway at the City to install the cycletrack between Hurt St. and Elmira Place where DeKalb is wide enough to accommodate east/west vehicular traffic, turn lanes, and a 2-way cycletrack which is recommended to be included along the north side of DeKalb between Hurt St and Elmira Pl. Left turns would be allowed at all side streets with no changes to vehicular circulation. The plans are currently being finalized as such and moving towards implementation with that design.

A second phase will address the gaps in bike and pedestrian connections and other larger needs along the corridor. This is where ABC's proposal to extend the cycle track to provide safe bike access to and from the CP/Edgewood MARTA station comes in:

- Additional engagement WOULD be needed to extend the cycletrack further on DeKalb due to vehicular changes.
- If it went through the neighborhood, what would the bike route look like on neighborhood streets? Based on roadway width, parking utilization, speeds, and volumes, the treatment would be some combination of shared lane markings, "bikes may use full lane" signs, and/or directional signage.
- If the cycle track were to be extended from Elmira Pl to Candler or Ferguson, left turns would need to be prohibited both into and out of Candler/Ferguson. Most of the traffic on Candler St is local traffic and drivers would need to use any other street to access the neighborhood. Right turns in and out would still be possible.
- ABC position on extending the cycle track along DeKalb: www.atlantabike.org/2020dekabave and for CPNO: bit.ly/3h8NWZd

The Committee felt that there is nothing yet to vote on regarding a cycle track extension and would like to invite ABC to come to a CPNO Membership meeting in order to better and more accurately present the proposal.

Stop sign at Ferguson-Iverson: We should reach out to Josh Rowan, Atlanta DOT Commissioner, to have an on-site discussion about this stop sign and the potential of a cycle track extension and bike route along these streets.

Freedom Park Conservancy Christina Moore

It has been almost 30 years since the park's original master plan forged this park from the remnant of a freeway right-of-way along with The Carter Center and The King Center, into a vision of a cohesive open space for Atlanta. Now is the time to continue the vision and expand the potential of Freedom Park for the 21st century.

Freedom Park Conservancy announces SWA Group as Master Planner for Freedom Park. SWA Group is a world renowned firm selected for its visionary ideas. The master plan process for Freedom Park, will launch in the next few months with a focus on broad-reaching public participation and consensus building. Input from the community will be foundational to how the master plan evolves. Both Freedom Park Conservancy and SWA look forward to developing a full range of tools and opportunities for citizen engagement and input towards realizing this important plan for the future of Freedom Park.

External Affairs - Amy Stout

The NPU-N board voted unanimously to support Ordinance Z-20-42 (the legislation introduced by Councilmember Amir Farokhi to rezone certain properties in Candler Park from R-5 [Two Family Residential] to R-5-C [Two Family Residential Conditional]), consistent with vote of support by the CPNO membership.

The proposed amendments to the NPU-N bylaws (drafted primarily to allow online meetings) were approved with all board representatives in attendance reporting unanimous approval by their respective organizations.

We were informed that City is exploring how to resume having meetings of the BZA (Board of Zoning Adjustment) and ZRB (Zoning Review Board).

Candler Park Conservancy- Ken Edelstein, CPNO Representative

Annual Meeting: All are welcome to participate Wednesday evening in the Conservancy's virtual annual meeting. This is a great way to learn more about the Conservancy's ongoing projects and programs to protect and enhance the park.

While the general public is welcome to attend, we encourage you to take this opportunity join the Conservancy at the same time. Like many other nonprofits, we're seeking additional member and donor support as we face fundraising challenges during the pandemic.

It goes without saying we welcome all perspectives on this wonderful park. The broader the membership,

the better we can serve in our role to enhance our "natural place to play."

The annual meeting, which normally takes place in March, was postponed on account of the pandemic. You may register for this open event by clicking on the events tab at candlerparkconservancy.org.

Golf Course: The golf course continues to open six days a week, while the city tries for eight weeks allowing open access to the course on Mondays only.

We're about halfway through that trial period. From what we've heard, visitors of all kinds have been respectful of one another. Golfers (naturally) will know when the course is closed. But we urge non-golfers to be mindful on Tuesday through Sunday -- and to stay off the course! Also: Non-golfers should stay off the greens and tee-boxes and shouldn't engage in any activities that might damage the fairways. If you have an opinion on this shared-use experiment, please contact City Council Member Amir Farokhi at arfarokhi@atlantaga.gov, who represents the neighborhood. Whatever your viewpoint, we encourage you to be civil in your comments.

Please keep an eye out for any information regarding whether this shared-use experiment will continue in the fall.

Amy Erwin Garden: We anticipate completion of this privately funded improvement in the underused southeastern section of the park. The woodland garden, designed by landscape architect Jacob Lange of Starr Whitehouse, will provide a site for meditation and reflection overlooking one of the small ravine that form the top of the watershed. Friends and relatives of Amy, a neighborhood activist and founding Conservancy board member, contributed 100 percent of the funds for this project; the Conservancy has facilitated the process with the city Parks & Recreation Department.

Education - Dana Fowle

Atlanta Public School superintendent Dr. Lisa Herring has taken over the helm. Her first major decision was to announce that the fall school year will begin with an all-digital format for the first nine weeks.

The start date of the school year is delayed until August 24, but children with food insecurity will have access to school lunches by August 10.

Every child will have access to Chromebook and a hotspot if needed to access the internet from their homes. The school year will move to a hybrid form (some children in-person, some at home) only when the health department determines the transmission level of COVID-19 is lowered to a moderate level. Face-to-face instruction will return, she says, when the transmission rate drops to low.

Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties made the same decision to start school virtually in August.

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COMPASS

FOR SALE

431 Candler Street NE

3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,935 Sq Ft

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Great location on one of Candler Park's finest streets

Traditional: Craftsman Large Covered Front Porch

Unusual: 2-Car Garage + Storage

Contemporary: White Kitchen w/ Quartz Counters

Surprising: Heated Bathroom floor

Bonus: Important Recent Improvements

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GIPSON AND
COMPANY

**BUSINESS AS
UNUSUAL.**

Even in the current environment, we're still here for you.

We love Atlanta, and are passionate about helping our clients navigate the business of real estate to an exceptional outcome. Let our family help yours.

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