

The Messenger

News for Candler Park

Your Intown Hometown

May 2005

MEETINGS*EVENTS

CPNO MEETING MAY 16 @ 7 PM

The Candler Park Neighborhood Organization is for all residents! We meet the third MONDAY of each month at Epworth United Methodist Church at 1561 McLendon Avenue. Please use the Mell Avenue entrance. Membership is FREE!

MAY MEETING AGENDA:

- Vote on April Minutes/Meeting Record
- Financial Update
- Officer, Committee Chair and Rep Reports
- Vote on \$500 to Freedom Park Conservancy
- Update on Dekalb Corridor
- Zoning Variance Vote -- See back page
- Update on Candler Park Brook Project
- New Business
- Old Business

TO SUBMIT AN AGENDA ITEM for the June meeting, contact any CPNO officer (see list on page 2). Deadline is May 26, 2005.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, May 9 * 7 PM

CPNO Executive Board Meeting -- also Dekalb Ave Corridor Study Committee
Epworth United Methodist Church
1561 McLendon -- **Both Open To All**

Thursday, May 12 * 7 PM

CPNO Bylaws Revision Committee Meeting
1291 McLendon -- **Open To All**

Saturday, May 14 * 8 AM - 12 PM

CPNO/FOCP Candler Park Workday
Candler Park (meet at the playground)

Monday, May 16 * 7 PM

CPNO General Meeting
Epworth United Methodist Church
1561 McLendon

Monday, May 23 * 7-9 PM

Dekalb Ave Corridor Study Committee
Epworth United Methodist Church
1561 McLendon -- **Open To All**

Thursday, May 26 * 7 PM

NPU-N Meeting
Epworth United Methodist Church
1561 McLendon

How CPNO Is Organized

In my last article I discussed the many things CPNO does that are important to our neighborhood. Now I turn to our organizational structure that enables what we do.

We are a Georgia non-profit corporation. We do not have federal tax-exempt status as that is not extended to neighborhood organizations. (We hope to have a tax-exempt foundation in place later this year.) As with all corporations we have Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Our Bylaws state how we are organized and operate. At present a committee of Bryan Sells (Chair), Melissa Nelson, and Stewart Alford is working on a Bylaws revision. Their meetings are open to members, and I encourage you to participate in order to have your views heard. We hope to have their report this fall.

Our Executive Board manages the day to day affairs of the organization, seeing that important issues are discussed, followed by action, and that major issues are dealt with by the entire membership at our monthly General Meeting. The Executive Board, whose meetings are open to all members, includes four area Vice Presidents (Safety -- Gregg Reinhardt, Zoning -- Walt Weimar, Environment -- Bryan Sells, and Special Events -- Mark Clement). These Vice Presidents are responsible for broad areas and take considerable initiative to develop programs in their areas. I am very impressed by their competence and accomplishments. We

are discussing adding a fifth area -- Hospitality. We have an active Hospitality Committee chaired by Amy Alford that began in January 2005 and from which we expect great things.

Four other officers complete the Executive Board. Our VP Communications/Secretary, Alonzo Church, is responsible for keeping records of our General and Executive Board Meetings as well as having the record of actions taken by the membership approved at each General Meeting. Our VP Finance/Treasurer, Mike Brandt, is responsible for all financial issues affecting CPNO. You hear his brief Treasurer's report monthly, but his work goes far beyond keeping the books. He prepared and submitted our application for the Candler Park Foundation to provide us with a tax-exempt vehicle for funding neighborhood improvements such as trees, sidewalks, and safety. Our First Vice President, Julia Brooke, holds a position with a fairly open charter. Julia has elected to play a major role in making important information available that otherwise may slip beneath our radar. I am pleased to work with such fine and competent people.

Finally there is the President. A lot depends on the incumbent's style and how they wish to handle the position. I have taken on three major roles: enabling, integration, and foresight. First I want to enable the officers and those in

-- *Continued on pg.3*

The Messenger

The Messenger is published monthly by the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization. Deadline for articles is the 26th of the preceding month. Submit to:

EDITOR/DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Mark Carson 4/524-0634
cpmessenger@earthlink.net

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1 col = 2.5"; 2 col. = 5"; 3 col. = 7.5". Max height = 9.75". Supply camera ready art (laser print OK, electronic - tiff, jpeg, pdf preferred - sent to cpmessenger@earthlink.net).

DEADLINES

26th of the month (prepaid) for publication in the following month's edition. No extensions. Include your name and phone number. Ads may not be phoned in or bought on credit.

SEND AD AND CHECK (PAYABLE TO CPNO) TO:

M. Carson, 1358 Iverson St., NE

CPNO Officers 2005

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frossini@mindspring.com

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THE MESSENGER / CANDLER PARK

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CP Traffic Calming Update

On Friday, April 1, residents from Candler Park and Lake Claire met with the city of Atlanta's Traffic and Transportation Department to discuss the impact of the bulbouts and other traffic calming on McLendon Avenue. There has been a great deal of controversy about the traffic calming, and the City agreed to study speed and accident data to determine the validity of claims that the structural changes were unsafe and did not slow traffic.

The city conducted speed surveys on December 27, 2004 and January 5, 2005 in Lake Claire and Candler Park, respectively. The standard that the city uses to evaluate safe and unsafe speed is to determine what speed constitutes the 85th percentile (85% of drivers are slower, 15% are faster) speed. In Lake Claire, which has 7' bulbouts, the 85th percentile speeds were 42 and 44 miles per hour (west-bound and eastbound). In Candler Park, which has 10' bulbouts, the 85th percentile speeds were 38 and 37 miles per hour, 4-7 miles per hour slower than in Lake Claire.

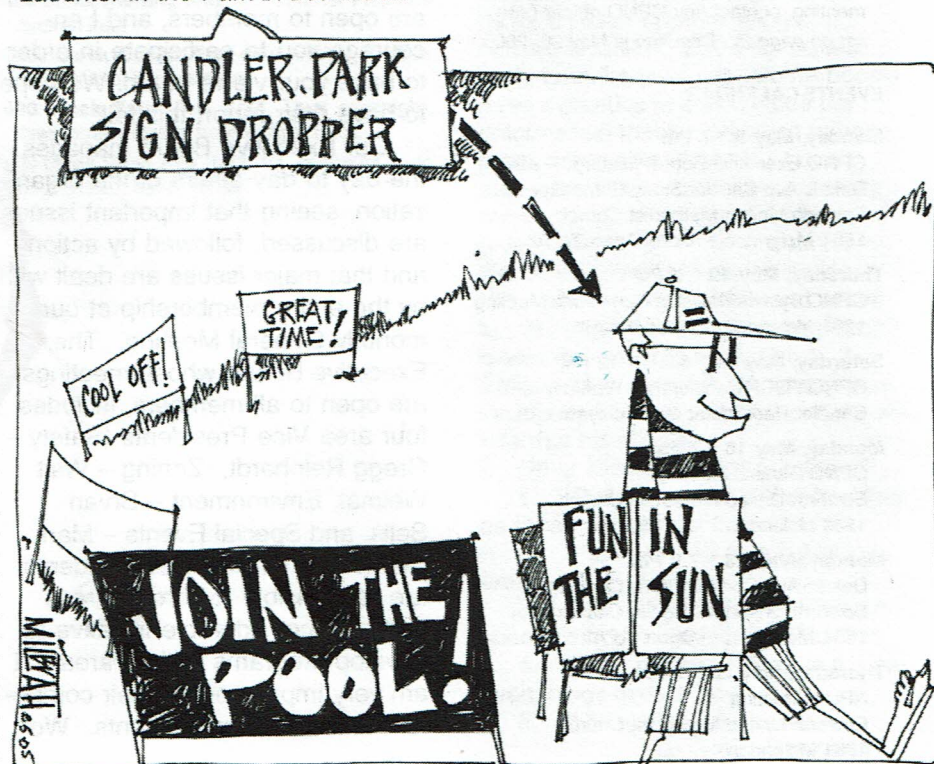
The City also examined reported traffic accidents for 2005 and compared them with 2000, 2003 and 2004.

This data reflects accidents reported to the police, so it does not include accidents nor reported to the police (though it is consistent for each year). In 2000 and 2003, there were 29 and 23 total accidents. In 2004, when the bulbouts were first implemented, there were 5 accidents reported in Candler Park and none in Lake Claire. In 2005, there have been no reported accidents in Candler Park, and one in Lake Claire. In addition, those in the room (including opponents of the traffic calming) could recall no incident over the past five months where an automobile ran into a bulbout.

The City provided those in the meeting a memo which concluded that the 10' bulbouts were safe and slowed traffic, as they were intended to do. In light of the steep drop in accidents and the significantly higher speeds on McLendon with 7' as compared to 10' bulbouts, the City recommended that the bulbouts remain. Due to protests from those who oppose the bulbouts that the data is insufficient to reach such a conclusion, the city agreed to study the problem for six more months.

-- George Dusenbury

Laughter in the Park by Deb Milbrath



From pg.2 --

How CPNO is organized.

other CPNO positions to carry out their responsibilities effectively. Then I want to make sure that the organization works together with good communication to achieve its goals, and that differing views are represented and discussed. Finally, I want to assure that CPNO anticipates important issues that affect Candler Park and deals with them promptly (e.g., DeKalb Avenue Corridor). Also important to me is identifying organizational opportunities and issues that will lead to modifications in the way we operate (e.g., Bylaws Committee, Hospitality Committee).

There are other important CPNO positions. Very obvious to our members are the important work done by the Messenger Editor, Mark Carson, and our webmaster, Issel Cunarro-Carson. Not as obvious but quite important are our representatives to other organizations that we have connections with. Our NPU-N Representative is Amy Stout. Through NPU-N CPNO has a formal role in many zoning decisions in the City of Atlanta. Sarah Cook is our Representative to the Freedom Park Conservancy which works with the City to maintain and improve Freedom Park which is a major asset to our neighborhood. Another neighborhood asset is the Candler Park Pool managed by the Candler Park Pool Association. Mark Clement is our representative on the CPPA Board and Don Bender is involved as well. Walt Weimar is our liaison to the Candler Park Brook Project. Ideally these folks communicate closely with the Executive Board and the membership. As our neighborhood and its issues become more complex, more liaison opportunities will present themselves.

In the future I hope to discuss how we communicate within CPNO and with city-wide bodies and then suggest some opportunities for the future of CPNO. Please contact me with your questions and suggestions.

Fred Rossini

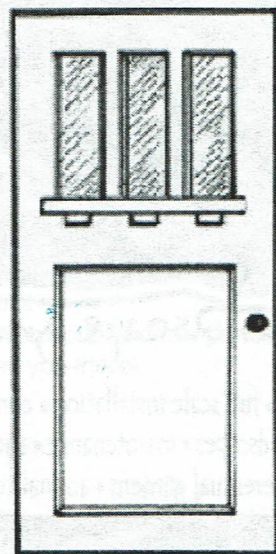
Dekalb Avenue Corridor Redevelopment Study

Recent zoning and comprehensive development/land use plan amendments were proposed among recommendations of the Ponce / Moreland corridor and DeKalb LCI (Livable Communities Initiative) studies presented to CPNO by Tunnell-Spangler-Walsh earlier this year. If approved by City Council later this year, the proposed zoning changes will strongly influence how city planning and building officials, along with municipal and regional transportation agencies, work to balance the competing residential, commercial and transportation uses expected to soon intensify along Candler Park's southern edge. Municipal and regional capital improvements funding priorities and resource availability are guided by reference to these long-term planning objectives.

In response to some Candler Park residents' concern for adequate participation and consensus regarding these changes within our neighborhood, a group of volunteers was formed after CPNO's March 21st meeting to study and offer recommendations that would encourage redevelopment of DeKalb Avenue's industrial, commercial and residential parcels in harmony with existing primarily residential adjacent land uses to the north. Led by several long-time residents including Walter Brown, David Green, Randy Pimsler, Mark Carson, Nancy Nethery, Colleen Heflin, Frank Andre', Walt Weimar and others, a variety of factors are being considered in the group's attempts to define a comprehensive view of economically-viable, pedestrian-friendly redevelopment. A series of community participation meetings tentatively

scheduled for 7-9 PM on Monday May 9th and Monday May 23rd at Epworth United Methodist Church are expected to further enhance the working group's final recommendations to CPNO, which it's hoped can be offered at the June general meeting.

All Candler Park residents are encouraged to join in this effort, and share their comments and concerns at our community participation meetings. Your suggestions on topics ranging from the fragile balance between pedestrian safety and transportation efficiency, to aesthetics of blending residential with office or retail structures, are welcome and essential. Preserving the best elements of our neighborhood requires involvement by everyone with a stake in the future of Candler Park. We owe it to ourselves to take this critical opportunity to build a common vision with City officials on how best to manage the future of both our personal and shared investments in this wonderfully unique and historic part of Atlanta.



Example: 1920's Craftsman Style Entry

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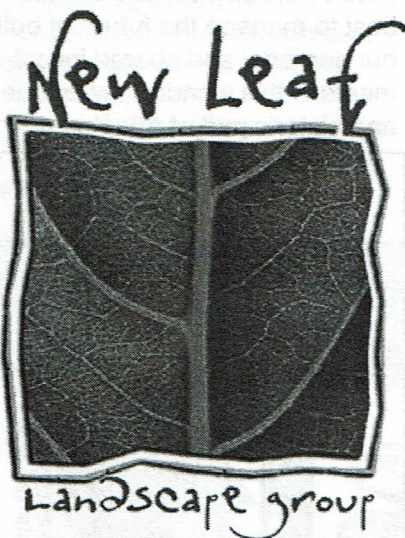
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An Announcement?

We would like to regularly include an Announcements section in the Messenger to welcome new neighbors and help celebrate weddings, births, adoptions, etc. If you have great news to share about your family or a neighbor, please pass the information on to cpmessenger@earthlink.net.

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Candler Park Workday

The next Candler Park Workday, sponsored by the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization and the Friends of Candler Park, is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Volunteers young and old are welcome to come for as much or as little of that time as they want. We will meet at the Candler Park playground and head out from there. Gloves are recommended, and you are welcome to bring pruners, loppers and other garden gear.

-- Bryan Sells

Candler Park Brook Restoration Update

During the May CPNO meeting we will view brief video footage about the creek restoration, including an interview with Mayor Shirley Franklin, and review draft design schematics with wetlands expert Steve Jones of Environmental Services, Inc. We will also solicit feedback from meeting attendees and others regarding design priorities for the \$875,000 project to benefit our park. Limited information about the project is being posted to the Candler Park website at www.candlerpark.org until more detailed information can be made available on our new website with the City of Atlanta. Stay tuned for this address!

-- Susan Montgomery

Bylaws Revision Committee

The fourth meeting of the ad-hoc Bylaws Revision Committee will be on Thursday, May 12, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at Bryan Sells' house at 1291 McLendon. Articles VI-VIII of the existing bylaws will be discussed.

All residents of Candler Park are welcome to attend, but please email bryansells@mindspring.com informing that you intend to be there. If more people want to participate than can be accommodated in his house, a larger venue will be arranged.

-- Bryan Sells

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Dogs, Dogs and more Dogs

Who, who, who let the dogs out? That was question that more than likely crossed the minds of anyone near Candler Park on Saturday morning, April 2nd. More than 175 canines and their 2 legged friends got out of the house early to take part in the 1st annual Candler Bark K9 Fun Run. The dogs had a choice of leading their masters on a 2mile run or a 1 mile walk. At precisely 9 a.m. our official starter, counsel member Anne Farvor gave the signal and the dogs high- tailed it with their humans in tow. Shortly after, there was a constant stream of happy finishers.

After the race, there was plenty to do for everyone. There was a fastest tail wagging contest, a costume contest and a K9 Talent Contest. Human participants got chances to win all kinds of neat stuff, such as- gift certificates from The Flying Biscuit, Front Page News, Manuals Tavern, Java Vino, Candler Park Flower Market, Cold Cream and Piercing Experience.

After a morning of "woofing it up" with canine pals from all over the city, the tired but happy dogs went home for a long nap.

-- Mark Clement



Tour The Atlanta 911 Call Facility

The Atlanta Police Department is going to conduct a tour of the 911 Call Center at City Hall East on Monday May 23 at 7:00 PM for citizens of Candler Park. City Hall East is the old building across from the Home Depot shopping center on Ponce. The address is 675 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, 30308.

The tour is very interesting and lasts about 1 hour. In that time, we'll see how the calls are answered, routed, and prioritized. We'll be edified as to what types of information the 911 operator asks for and why. The tour is educational for young people and anyone who is interested in how 911 calls are handled by the Atlanta Police Department.

Attendance is limited, so please make your reservation as soon as possible. Please contact Gregg Reinhardt by phone at home at 404-584-6622, or by e-mail at gareinha@gapac.com. Please provide your name, number of attendees, and contact information. I will contact you when the day draws near to provide further information.

-- Gregg Reinhardt

New This Month..... Book Club

The Candler Park Hospitality Committee has been reestablished to plan fun activities and social events around the neighborhood. We have received many suggestions. Since we have so many new activities to start in the neighborhood, we decided to unveil one activity a month until we run out of ideas or until our social calendars are completely booked (whichever comes first!).

This month we will be kicking off the Candler Park Book Club. The Book Club will meet once a month at a neighbor's home, and we will discuss a different book each month. This month, we will be deciding on the best days and times for the book club to meet and selecting books to read for the next several months. Questions/ Comments? Contact Amy Alford at 404-610-5220 or amy.alford@emory.edu.

Book Club

Thursday, May 12th at 7:00

Amy & Stewart Alford's House

1215 McLendon Ave

Please bring book ideas

Show Me The Freedom Park!

As Freedom Park's steward, the financial health of the Freedom Park Conservancy is important to our neighborhood. At the May meeting, I will propose that the CPNO pledge its annual membership contribution to the Conservancy in the amount of \$500.00 with \$250 to be paid now, and \$250 to be paid after Fall Fest. Inman Park Neighborhood Association has offered to match member neighborhood associations' contributions up to a total of \$10,000. With IPNA's match, the total CPNO contribution would be \$1,000.

-- Sarah Cook

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Wild About Vacation Bible School!



Epworth UMC will be holding Vacation Bible School this summer from June 9th-12th. All children ages 3 years through 5th grade are welcome to attend.

Thursday and Friday, June 9th and 10th, a light supper will be served at 5:30 for kids in the program. The program will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 11th, the program will run 9 a.m.-noon. A snack will be provided. On Sunday, June 12th, we will celebrate VBS during morning worship at 11 a.m. and follow up with a party for all our participants and their families.

Please pre-register by calling the church office at 404-525-4746 or e-mailing vbs@epworthcandlerpark.org. Hope to see you there!



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Marco Polo To Make Candler Park Appearance



Okay, the real Marco Polo isn't coming here (or anywhere). But the sound of his name is very much the sound of summer, and it won't be long before you hear those familiar words reverberating from the Candler Park Pool.

But water games and swimming are only part of the picture. Our pool is more than just a cement watering hole – it is the center of summer in Candler Park – it is the spirit of our neighborhood. Families gather here weekly for Sundays Pizza at the Pool. Neighbors share stories over a delicious plate of shrimp or barbecue, or burgers. Kids learn to swim and play in the water (safely!) with old friends and new. And there are always new friends – because the diversity of our patrons brings families from

Candler Park, Lake Claire, Kirkwood, Edgewood, Decatur, Virginia Highlands, Inman Park, Poncey Highlands, Druid Hills, and more.

Candler Park Pool is about coming together to enjoy the community, the warm summer breezes, and (for many) the swimming. Of course it is a pool, but it is so much more. Even if you never swim you will still enjoy our special evenings at the pool.

This season is shaping up to be our best. We have changed our subscriber hours, extended our season, and added more fun things to do. The best part is that the cost remains the same!

New Hours for This Summer

Our new hours will be:

Mon-Fri

- 9:00-9:30 Subscribers Only
- 9:30-12:30 Free Swim
- 12:45-4:00 Pay Swim
- 4:15-8:30 Subscribers Only

Sat

- 10:00-4:30 Pay Swim
- 4:45-8:30 Subscribers Only

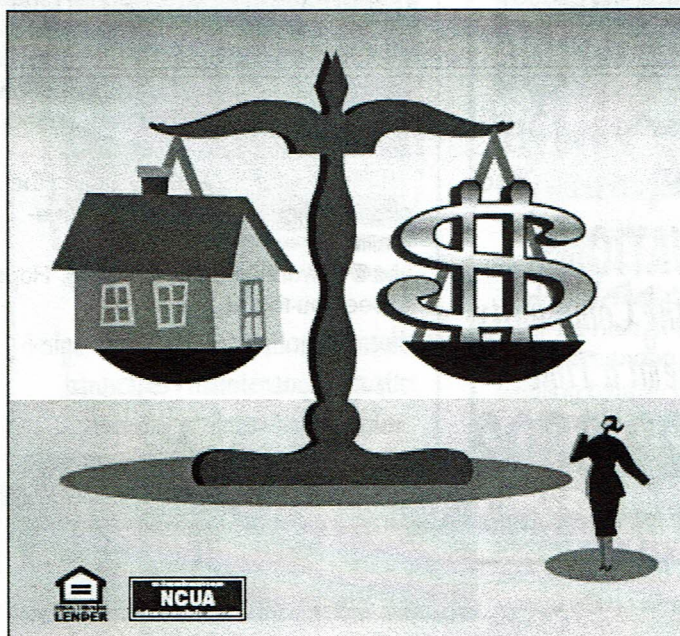
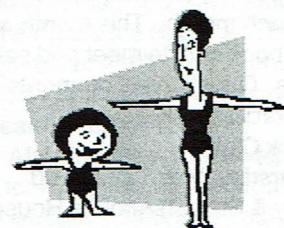
Sun

- 12:00-5:00 Pay Swim
- 5:00-8:30 Subscribers Only

Summer 2005 Events

This year's special events will include our famous Shrimp Boil, a return of our Old Fashioned Barbeque, a new Southern Barbecue night, a Margaritaville Party, Concerts at the Pool, a Dive In Movie, Sunday Pizza at the Pool night, a Pet Party for canines, the debut of the Candler Park Synchronized Swimming Troupe, and much more.

Watch as we transform the front of the pool house into a wonderful meeting place and patio and make this year the best one yet. Join your cruise directors Bert and Curt and first officer Heather as we sail into a summer of neighborly utopia. The only thing missing... is you! Grab the application from this issue of *The Messenger*, and join now, so you won't miss a drop of the fun. Have questions? Email bert@tangentindustries.com today!



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To: The Lake Claire Clarion
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NPU Representatives &
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Title: HUMMER HOUSES ON HAROLD

We have resided at 622 Harold Avenue in Lake Claire for over 15 years. We are active volunteers in community, school, church and neighborhood issues. It is our understanding that developers are currently targeting our close neighborhood with the goal of demolishing existing homes and replacing with "Hummer" houses, also known as "McMansions".

We are not adverse to new home construction nor change per se, but strongly oppose the disturbing trend to build out of scale, super sized houses that are grossly disproportional to the existing homes of our lovely wooded urban neighborhood. It is regrettable that modest homes in excellent condition may be demolished and replaced with new structures on steroids. Just as Hummer vehicles have come to symbolize wasteful consumption, boastful greed and super ego, so too do the Hummer houses which stand as distorted mismatches and exploitations of what is reasonable for our mutual well being. This practice is strongly opposed by many existing neighborhood residents and under current review by the Atlanta City Council.

Maxing out lot coverage in this fashion results in, with few exceptions, old growth tree removal and distress, habitat elimination and watershed

drainage problems for the surrounding dwellings. It creates ill will and alienation amongst neighbors. Several recently built homes on South Harold Ave. with this approach have resulted in complete tree loss, extensive water damage to adjacent homes and litigation between neighbors. Short of the quick and substantial profit for developers and realty agents, most will concur that there appears to be absolutely no upside for our community.

We are hopeful and optimistic that our neighborhood properties can be profitably and reasonably developed with sensitivity to the surrounding neighbors for the benefit of all who live here! From the onset, we recommend adjoining property owners establish a dialogue with developers to avoid potential conflict of interests. However, just as the sellers and buyers have rights, so do we as affected surrounding residents.

We must and will exercise our rights in monitoring adherence to all applicable codes, enforcement and fees involving, but not limited to, proper site development, demolition, tree removal/impact/recompense, grading/elevation, watershed/drainage, building permit, height restrictions, lot coverage/impervious surfaces, noise ordinances and of course any direct damage to our property.

As they say, we all live downstream.

We look forward to and welcome sensible development in our neighborhood, our home. And.....to developers that can still sleep at night.

-- Roger and Megan Swift

Green Space

May is the 49th Annual National Bike Month. National Bike-to-Work Week is May 16-20, and National Bike-to-Work Day is May 20. Candler Park is an excellent neighborhood for cycling and is close enough to downtown to make for an easy cycle commute.

Just in time for National Bike Month, the Georgia Department of Transportation has published a wonderful guide for cyclists and motorists. It's called "Bike Sense," and it's available on the web through the Department's website: <<http://www.dot.state.ga.us>>. It covers everything from choosing the right gear to riding in traffic to cycling with kids.

Here are just a few of the guide's tips for cyclists:

* Bikes are vehicles in Georgia.

Except when ridden by children under the age of 13, bikes belong on the road—not the sidewalk—and are subject to the same traffic laws as motor vehicles.

* Ride to the right with the flow of traffic. When sharing a lane with automobiles, you should be two feet from the curb. Never ride against traffic.

* Take the lane when it is too narrow to share safely with a vehicle. This will discourage vehicles from passing you unless they can safely move into the other lane.

The guide also has some excellent tips for motorists:

* Allow at least three feet between your vehicle and the bicycle. Just as the wind produced by a passing tractor-trailer can pull a car off course, so too can a passing car cause a cyclist to swerve out of control. Be patient and wait until it is safe to pass.

* Tooting your horn is not recommended when passing cyclists. You could startle cyclists, and they might veer into your path.

There is much more to the guide, and to cycling in general, than will fit in this column. I encourage everyone to download and read the entire booklet.

For more information on National Bike Month and cycling in general, check out these resources:

- National Bike Month
www.bikemonth.com
- League of American Bicyclists
www.bikeleague.org
- Atlanta Bicycle Campaign
www.atlantabike.org
- Georgia Bikes! www.georgiabikes.org
- Pedestrian and Bicycling Info Center
www.bicyclinginfo.org

-- Bryan Sells

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LAND USE ISSUES

The following land use issues are scheduled to be heard and voted on at the May CPNO meeting. Land use issues to be voted on at the June meeting must be submitted prior to May 26.

1250 Euclid Avenue - (V-05-75) - Kendal
Fulbright, agent for Cornerstone Missions, Inc., owner of a multi-family residential structure located at 1250 Euclid Avenue, currently zoned R-4, seeks a special exception to expand a legal non-conforming use (quadriplex) to allow to remain a recently-constructed deck; and also seeks a variance from zoning regulations to reduce the northwest side yard setback from 7 feet (required) to 1 foot to allow to remain certain deck additions to a legal non-conforming quadriplex. These matters are scheduled for subsequent hearings before Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU)-"N" at 7PM on Thursday May 26th at Epworth United Methodist Church; and by the Atlanta Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) at 1PM on Friday, June 3rd at Atlanta City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers. This applicant, deferred at the April 28th NPU-N and May 6th BZA hearings, missed the deadline for earlier publication in the April Messenger.

NPU-N ISSUES

NPU-N meetings are held at 7PM, on the 4th Thursday of every month at Epworth Methodist Church. Candler Park residents are welcome to attend. Contact NPU-N representative Amy Stout at 404-371-0505 regarding any regularly-scheduled voting or agenda matters.

There are no NPU issues for discussion at the CPNO meeting this month.

CRIME REPORT

Reported 3/20-4/15, 2005, Zone 6 police records. Compiled by Gregg Reinhardt.

300 block Elmira Pl, 3/29, Tue. overnight, auto stolen with tools, 2002 Subaru Forester wagon.

300 block Elmira Pl, 3/29, Tue overnight, auto broken into, items stolen.

1300 block McLendon Ave, 3/31, Thur. evening, auto stolen, Honda Accord.

1400 block McLendon Ave, 3/31, Thur. overnight, auto broken into, tools stolen.

1300 block McLendon Ave, 3/31, Thur. evening, auto stolen, 2003 Jeep Cherokee.

300 block Moreland Ave, 4/1, Thur. night, auto broken into, items stolen.

500 block Oakdale Rd, 4/1, Fri. overnight, auto entered, items stolen.

400 block Sterling Ave, 4/1, Fri. overnight, auto broken into, items stolen.

400 block Candler St, 4/1, Fri. overnight, auto broken into, credit cards stolen and used.

1300 block Miller Ave, 4/1, Fri. evening, auto broken into, items stolen.

1300 block Euclid Ave, 4/2, Sat. night, home entered, items stolen.

400 block Page Ave, 4/5, Tue. afternoon, bicycle stolen.

300 block Moreland Ave, 4/6, Wed afternoon, auto stolen, 1986 Chevrolet Caprice.

1400 block McLendon Ave, 4/6, Wed. overnight, auto broken into, items stolen.

400 block Oakdale Rd, 4/7, Thur. early morning, auto entered, items stolen.

1300 block Euclid Ave, 4/7, Thur. or Fri., apartment entered, items stolen.

400 block Sterling Ave, 4/7, Thur. or Fri., auto broken into.

1300 block Euclid Ave, date unknown, office broken into, items stolen.

400 block Page Ave, 4/14, Thur. overnight, lawnmower stolen from pickup truck.

500 block Page Ave, 4/14, Fri. overnight, auto broken into, items stolen.

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Thefts On The Rise

Thefts from autos in Candler Park have increased in recent months. There was an arrest of an individual on April 8 who was walking down the road and pulling on door handles as he went. The charges were for loitering and prowling based on witness information. This may have an effect but based on the number of incidents, there may be several people involved with the break-ins.

The police recommend that we don't leave any items in the car. Thieves have been known to break windows for pocket change on the dash, a jacket or other things. If nothing is visible, they may be less likely to strike your car. Some people have a practice of leaving their car unlocked so that a thief won't have to break something to get in. I don't subscribe to this practice personally, but if you do, please report any unlawful entry you may encounter to the police. This is how the police know where the activity is and where to put the patrol cars. The perpetrator wants the crime to be 1. Quick, 2. Easy, and 3. Low risk. Anything you can do to interfere with that pattern will interrupt his efforts.

Other recommended practices:

1. Pull your car into the driveway as far as possible or behind a gate.
2. Park your car in a lighted area.
3. Mark tools with your name or special mark to help in identification.
4. Don't leave anything in the car even things of little value.
5. Use a club on the car.

-- Gregg Reinhardt

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When describing criminal suspects, be as specific as possible about their appearance and behavior. Avoid identifying people by race or ethnicity because these descriptions victimize all people of that background, including residents.

For example, the following description would really help residents look for a particular individual: "a male, short hair, about 40 years old, no facial hair, with dark complexion, tall and thin, wearing jeans, a yellow t-shirt, and a baseball cap, peering into parked cars in driveways."

Use this test to help decide if behavior witnessed in a neighborhood is suspicious. Ask, "Would this behavior be suspicious if a white person was acting in this way?" For instance, a white person riding a bike through a white neighborhood would not be suspicious, but one who was trying the open doors on several cars would be.

Read more about stereotypes at the following web sites:

<http://www.thepeopleinstitute.org>

<http://www.tolerance.org>

<http://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

For more information call 404-377-2474. Ask to leave a message for "ORAIARH" (Our Roles As Individuals In America's Racial History).

About the Authors

A discussion group of the Atlanta Friends Meeting, most of whom are white, wrote this brochure in response to a growing concern about racist behavior witnessed in predominantly white neighborhoods.

For instance, in the neighborhood of two of our members, an e-mail list identified a suspect only as an African American male. We became concerned about the consequences for Black people living in, working in, or walking through the neighborhood.

Many people live in multi-ethnic communities, yet very few are equipped with the experience and background necessary to live without racism in such a community. This is especially true for white people in the US who frequently have not lived, worked or worshiped with those of another racial or ethnic heritage.

We hope neighborhoods will find these ideas helpful. This is a work in progress and we are interested in your responses.

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Neighborhood Safety and Stereotypes

**How can a community be
safe for ALL neighbors,
friends and visitors?**

Imagine that you are reading a report in your neighborhood newsletter about a suspected car thief. As the words jump off the page, you realize, with horror, that the description fits you –

“African American male.”

That’s all the information provided. Not only does it describe you, but also your sons and some of your neighbors.

You feel imprisoned now in your own neighborhood.

Vulnerable

Scared

Angry

How can you feel safe working in your yard? Walking the dog? Jogging for exercise?

You remember the beating of Rodney King and the killing of Amadou Diallo while police considered them “suspects.”

You are now considered a suspect in your own yard, on your own street, in your neighborhood business.

Your African American friends and relatives who may come to visit are also suspects.

Or the African Americans who may walk through the neighborhood to get to school, work or the store.

Stereotype Danger

The previous section describes a situation from the perspective of an African American male. African American women also fear for the safety of their husbands, sons and themselves. The rest of this brochure will describe ways in which whites can make a difference.

In a neighborhood, residents often mistrust someone they don’t know, especially if the person looks different from themselves.

In neighborhoods where most of the residents look the same, there is a strong tendency to make assumptions about who is and isn’t a neighbor. Yet, neighborhoods are becoming increasingly pluralistic.

Neighbors can take steps to be inclusive of all, and most importantly, can acknowledge and undo personal racism that often sets neighbors apart.

Historically, the fear of black men and exploitation of black women has led to the reality of racism in our neighborhoods today. These behaviors continue despite decades of laws meant to extend equality to all.

What can white people DO?

What can a neighborhood DO?

White people can do a lot to eliminate these stereotypes.

Acknowledge that people of many racial and ethnic backgrounds live in the neighborhood.

Acknowledge that white skin color is not the norm.

Examine your own racial prejudices and stereotypes. Intentionally work to change your racial biases.

Begin a conversation with neighbors about racial stereotyping.

Share leadership with your neighbors of differing ethnicities and plan social gatherings for the neighborhood. Extend invitations to all members of the community, following up by speaking personally to everyone.

Plan activities that are inclusive of people of different backgrounds, for instance, a welcoming dinner for new residents, a potluck with foods from each individual’s heritage, a multi-cultural festival or a book discussion featuring multi-cultural authors.