



Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CANDLER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Volume 12, Issue 4, April 2000

Property tax refunds in the mail

I never thought I'd see the day.

The City of Atlanta has begun mailing refund checks for overpayment of your 1999 Atlanta property taxes. For more than 30 years Fulton County assessed all Atlanta properties, both those in the Fulton part of Atlanta and those in the DeKalb part of Atlanta. This assured uniformity of assessment within Atlanta. Without any notice to the public in 1999 Atlanta asked DeKalb County to assess Atlanta-in-DeKalb properties. The differences in assessment methods between Fulton and DeKalb led to sudden and unforeseen increases in property taxes for many Atlanta-in-DeKalb homeowners in 1999.

Nine months of work by all the Atlanta-in-DeKalb neighborhoods coordinated by our Councilmember Cathy Woolard and Fair Assessments for Intown Residents (F.A.I.R.) resulted in the city admitting its mistakes and allowing citizens to file for repayment of over-collected property taxes.

The refund checks now being mailed are only for the city portion of our taxes, about a third of the total Atlanta property taxes. The Atlanta School Board is currently suing the city over the city's authority to refund the School Board's portion of the taxes. We don't know how long it will take to resolve the lawsuit about the School Board part of the tax refund, but we will keep you posted.

Checks are being mailed only to homeowners who submit a refund form. To get a refund, you must send in a refund form. To qualify for a refund of overpaid 1999 property taxes, your 1999 assessment by DeKalb must have been higher than the 1998 assessment by Fulton for Atlanta property tax purposes. If you have not yet applied for a refund, see next page for directions.

Lastly and of utmost importance, I strongly urge everyone receiving a refund to give back something to the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization (10-20 percent of your refund is suggested; I am going to give 20 percent.) Even with all our hard work, we could not have done it without our attorney, and we only had an attorney on because CPNO voted \$3000 to hire her. Having given to support to this and other good causes, the CPNO treasury is almost depleted. CPNO was there at a crucial time for homeowners. Now CPNO needs your help.

Please make out a check to C.P.N.O. or to Candler Park Neighborhood Organization and mail to Mike Brandt, CPNO Treasurer, 336 Sterling St., Atlanta, GA 30307.

Questions? Feel free to call me at 404-681-9945 or email me at GsmithMD1@aol.com.

— Greg Smith

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How to get your property tax refund

For those who have not yet applied for a refund:

1. Obtain the 1999 Atlanta/DeKalb Property Tax Refund Request form: (a) E-mail the Clerk's Office at rjohnson@ci.atlanta.ga.us and request a copy be mailed to you, or (b) call the Municipal Clerk's office at 404-330-6034. If you go into the touch-tone menu, do not punch any of the options. Let the message repeat twice, then a real person will pick up. Ask them to mail you a copy.

2. The refund form has problems as constructed. It asks for a photocopy of your cancelled checks for payment of your mortgage. If your mortgage is actually paid by a lender, the Clerk's Office said you could write in your lender's name and phone number. Some lenders are willing to send you a printout or other proof that you paid your taxes. The second problem is that there is no place on the refund form to write in the Atlanta Library line found on the tax forms. Just write this information for each year just above or just below the "Total 1999 DEKALB" and Total 1998 FULTON" lines.

3. If you have further questions about how to complete the form, call Forest Webb 404-330-6031 in the Clerk's Office. (He has been one of the most helpful city people in this whole long process, so tell him thanks.)

4. Find your Final 1998 Fulton bill for Atlanta taxes and your 1999 DeKalb bill for Atlanta taxes to fill out the form. Be sure to use the Final 1998 Fulton bill as many or most people had two bills sent by Fulton for 1998 Atlanta taxes: one in 1998 and an amended bill for 1998 mailed in 1999. The second one is the one you use. It does not say "Final bill" but in the middle right of the paper will have column consisting of: Total billed for 1998/Less amount paid/Atlanta Total Due. (It's a wonder that anyone ever figures out any of this stuff!)

5. The form along with the supporting paperwork should be returned in person or by certified mail to:

Rhonda Dauphin Johnson
City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Suite 2700
Atlanta, GA 30335

Kingfisher Academy registration opens

Candler Park parents who miss the co-op have found some spaces at nearby childcare centers, but have to contend with traffic going west of the community. April is the month for school registration at Kingfisher Academy in nearby Grant Park, located at 575 Boulevard. Moving into their second year means planning some new trips and adding to the current program.

"Day trips and going out into our community are integral parts of our program," said Debbie Gathmann, co-director.

Kingfisher works with the Multiple Intelligences theory to enhance and develop every child's gifts. The classes next year will be set up in three multi-age clusters with an extremely low student-teacher ratio of 12 to 1.

"We believe that group size is a critical issue. Parents who pay for private school should expect small group sizes. We don't have to run a capital campaign for building right now, so our tuition can be reasonable and our group size can be small. Even with the two teachers, a group size of 20 is simply too large to provide the kind of hands-on, individual attention that kids need to do their best work," said Gathmann.

Kingfisher is also planning to collaborate with several local environmental groups to do some service learning next spring.

Parents in the BOND community are lucky to have a choice between several really good programs for their children next year. Kingfisher is one of the new choices that will offer an extended day at no extra cost.

For information, call 404-627-8258.

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Neighborhood Update

Moreland Gateway traffic study

There will be a presentation and vote at this month's CPNO meeting regarding proposed changes to Moreland Avenue where the bike path crosses at Freedom Parkway. The changes are intended to improve non-vehicular access across Moreland Avenue and would be incorporated into the design of the Moreland Gateway project that will make improvements to Freedom Park. Please plan on attending the April meeting so your voice can be heard.

— Eric Dusenbury

Candler Park 5K

The sixth annual Candler Park 5K run is rapidly approaching. This year's race will be held on Saturday, June 17 and hopefully will surpass last year's total of over 500 runners. The course will be the same as last year and will include parts of North, Euclid, Moreland, Oakdale, Terrace, Page and Clifton Terrace (a map of the course and race applications are available on the neighborhood website). We are currently looking for volunteers to help distribute flyers prior to the race and to help with race day activities such as registration, course monitoring and results. Please contact Eric or Karin Dusenbury at 404/522-7130 or ericandkarin@msn.com if you would be willing to help out.

Candler Park Pool scoop

Mother Nature can't seem to decide, but, according to the calendar, summer is coming! This means it's time for Candler Park pool subscriptions!

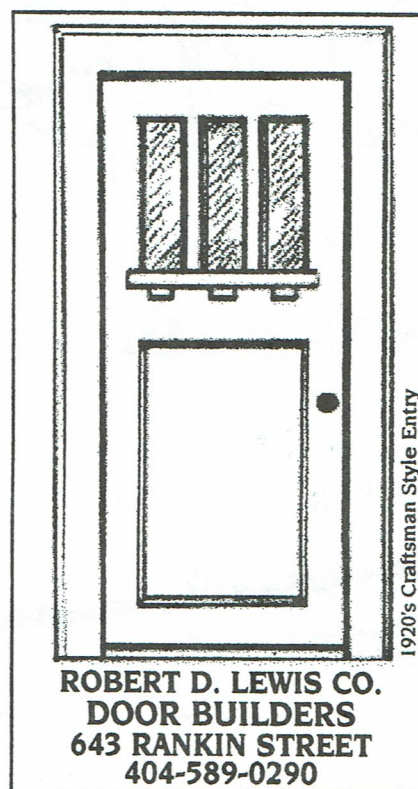
We've got the first year of neighborhood management under our belt, and we're looking forward to making the pool even better. There will be some facility improvements — a new look to the concession stands, cleaner locker rooms and more fun! We're planning Dive-In Movie nights, cook-outs, and the pool will be available for rental before or after regular

hours for parties.

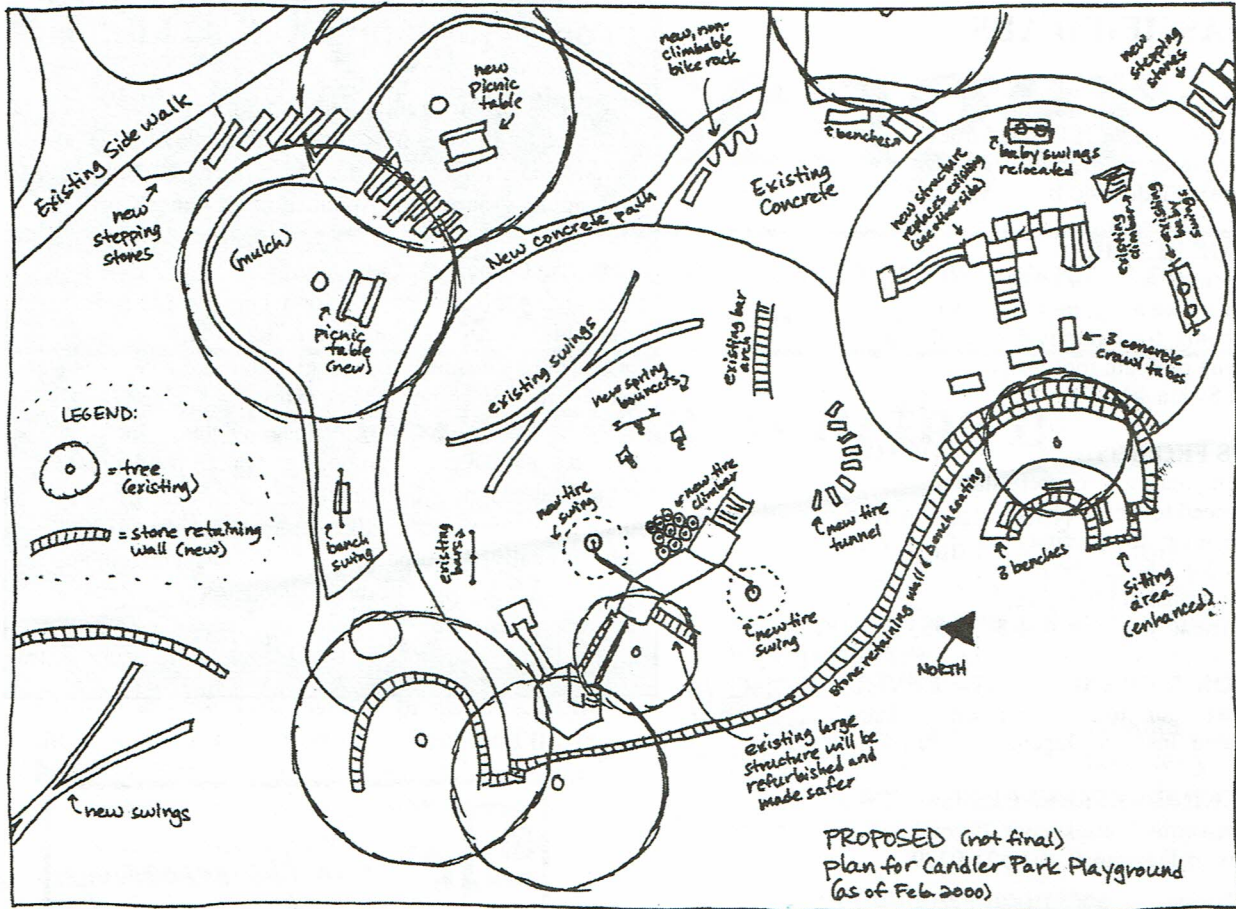
And now for the best news of all: due to the great response last summer, the rates for Summer 2000 will remain the same — from \$50 for individual children (over 12 only) to a maximum of \$200 for a family of four or more. This is truly a great bargain for summer recreation. Please send in your subscriptions now. Your early subscription is a vote of confidence in our accomplishments and will help us plan for the long range goals of renovating the bathhouse, adding a kiddie pool and expanding the deck.

The pool will open this year on May 26, and will close Labor Day, Sept. 4. The expanded hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday - Saturday, and noon - 8:30 p.m. Sundays.

To subscribe, you can get a form online at www.candlerpark.org. Thanks for your support, and we'll see you at the pool!



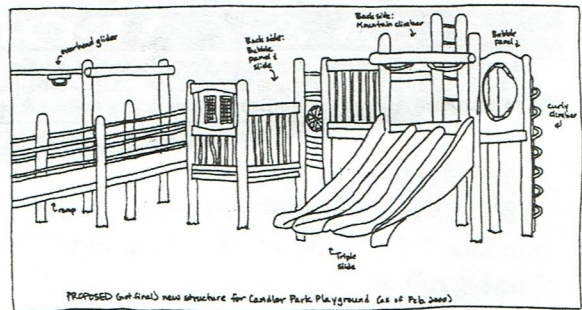
CANDLER PARK MESSENGER



In last month's Messenger, you read a comprehensive description of the renovations the city of Atlanta's Bureau of Parks is proposing for the Candler Park Playground. This month, please see a rough sketch of the layout as well as the large new structure that's been proposed. My next door neighbor, Claire Pate, has volunteered to head up our fundraising efforts so we can ensure we get everything in the proposed plan. Anyone interested in volunteering (for the task force as a whole, to help install the playground, or to help raise funds) or donating funds, please contact me. Thank you!

— Stacy Williams
stacywms@aol.com
404.378.5564

Candler Park playground renovations



PROPOSED (not final) new structure for Candler Park Playground (as of Feb 2000)

Material: primarily wood with some plastic. We've requested the plastic be earth-toned.

CANDLER PARK MESSENGER

Crime Report

Crimes reported between Feb.2 and March 21, 2000 in Zone 6. Block numbers are rounded off to the closest hundredths.

Benning Place, 2/24, 11:59 p.m. Suspect with gun took video; chased by victim but escaped.

300 Candler Park Drive, 2/25, 7:30 am. Auto parts taken.

300 Candler Park Drive, 3/21. Vehicle broken into, CD player and sunglasses stolen.

500 Clifton Road, 3/14, 12:30 p.m. Victim bitten on face by a dog. Victim taken to the hospital.

1200 DeKalb Ave., 3/13, 10 pm. Subject's friend took stereo, TV, and radio.

1200 Euclid Ave., 3/10, 8 a.m. Truck damaged. Utility room damaged.

3/21, 3 pm. Cellar burglarized; ladder, building materials and one antique taken.

500 Euclid Terrace, 3/18, 4:15 pm. Friend stole electrical equipment, CD and cordless phone.

300 Oakdale Rd., 3/1, night. Vehicle entered, tapes taken.

500 Oakdale Rd., 3/17, 4 p.m. Vehicle stolen from parking lot.

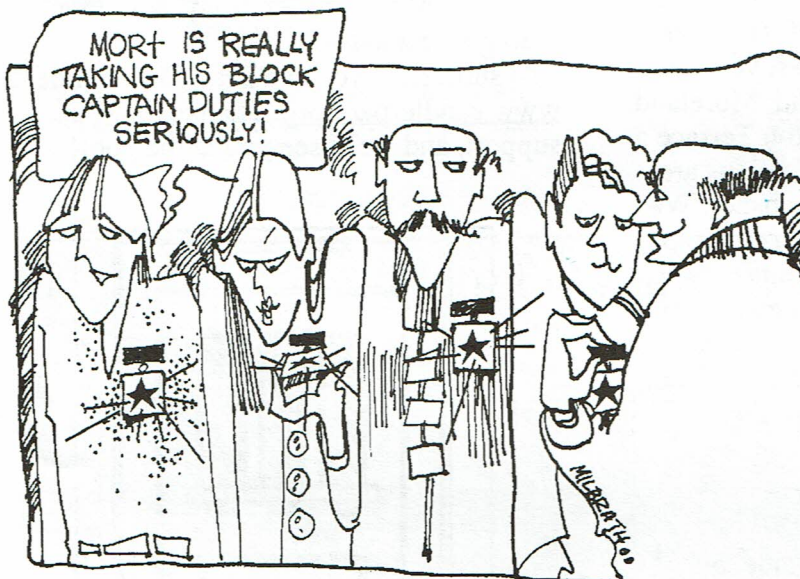
500 Oakdale Rd., 3/21, 3:00 pm Car and leather jacket taken.

800 Oakdale Rd., 3/20, 11 p.m. Cell phone missing from car.

900 Oakdale Rd., 3/14, 12:30 p.m. Threatening letters left on car.

400 Moreland Ave., 3/2, 7 p.m. Credit card found.

500 Terrace, 3/7, 9 p.m. Checks forged and cashed.



— DEB MILBRATH

Family arrested in Candler Park crimes

Atlanta Police's Zone 6 report a family was arrested in connection with some crime in Candler Park. A mother and three of her adult children, who live in a housing project outside Candler Park, were implicated.

An eyewitness and pawned items

led to the arrest. Items have been returned to residents on McLendon and Hardendorf in Lake Claire.

This kind of arrest can make a difference in reducing our crime problems. Atlanta police are to be congratulated.

—Austin Wattles

CPNO Meeting

April 10

The Candler Park Neighborhood Organization meets on the second MONDAY of the month at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1561 McLendon Ave. Please use the Mell Ave. entrance.

This month's agenda

7:00 p.m. Refreshments
7:30 p.m. *Officer reports
*Presentation by Amnesty International about its festival June 17 in Candler Park.
* Presentation of process for asking for donations from CPNO.
* Presentation and vote on Moreland Gateway traffic study.

Calendar

Mon, 4/10 — CPNO general meeting, 7 p.m. refreshments, 7:30 p.m. monthly meeting
Mon., 4/17 — CPNO Exec. Committee, 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church
Thurs., 4/27 — N.P.U. monthly meeting

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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT

Wet saw, C. tile, H.D. hand truck,
garden tiller, pressure washer,
extension ladder 40 ft.

HOME REPAIRS

Carpentry, tile, roof repairs, painting,
pressure washing, masonry, welding,
plumbing, trash removal, specialist in
solving problem roof leaks.
B.Z. Swain 404-373-3953.

TIPS FROM THE HOUSE DOCTOR

When pouring a concrete slab
you need to wet it down
twice a day for the first four
days don't forget the control
and expansion joints, free
and friendly advice. 404-373-3953.

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RE MAX Metro Atlanta-each office independently owned & operated

Process for tapping CPNO funds

The CPNO Board met in March and approved implementing a system for disbursing funds from CPNO fundraising efforts (e.g., Tour of Homes and the 5K) to community groups. An "Application for Funds" form is currently being drafted that will be distributed to groups who wish to apply for funds.

Designing this new process for asking for money is a result of discussions regarding the lack of an organization, business or financial plan and any guidance for distribution of money. For many years, CPNO has acted on donation requests on an ad hoc basis; the Board believes that the neighborhood can benefit from a more organized and thoughtful method of distributing money that will also be more equitable to groups in need.

Additionally, this process should help us maintain a better budget. I will introduce this plan in more detail at the April 10 meeting.

— Debra Snell

Tea in the garden
with Two Artists

Artistic, jewelry paintings
and sculpture sale!

Date: Saturday, April 15,

Time: 11-3:00pm

Location: 344 Josephine St.

Candler Park

bridal jewelry consultation welcome,
home and office shows available

Iyabo Shabazz 404.869.4320
iyajoe@bellsouth.net

Kelly Karim 404.525.4835
<http://people.atl.mediaone.net/kellykarim>