MEETINGS*EVENTS

CPNO MEETING AUG 14 @ 6:30 PM
The Candler Park Neighborhood Organization is for all residents! We meet the second MONDAY of each month at Epworth United Methodist Church at 1561 McLendon Avenue. Please use the Mel Avenue entrance. Membership is FREE!

AUGUST 14 MEETING AGENDA (IN THE PARK):
6:30 p.m. EARLY MEETING TIME AND SPECIAL TREAT: Pot Luck in the Park plus National Night Out Police Show!
• Officer Reports/Other business
• Vote on Variances: 617 Terrace Avenue;
506 Candler Park Drive
• National Night Out: Police Show

TO SUBMIT AN AGENDA ITEM for the September meeting, contact any CPNO officer (see list on page 2). Deadline is August 21, 2000.

EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST 2000
Monday, August 14 * 7:30 PM CPNO General Meeting – our annual summer meeting and pot luck dinner in Candler Park at the Picnic Pavilion. This year featuring National Night Out, a Zone 6 Police Show kids will love! Includes fire trucks, the K-9 unit dogs, and even a helicopter! Come for food and fun!
Monday, August 21 * 7 PM CPNO Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 24 * 7 PM N.P.U. Monthly Meeting

DECEMBER 2000
Saturday, December 2 * 9 AM - 5 PM Candler Park Holiday Tour of Homes

“Lots” Of Concern In Recent GA-DOT Sale

On July 19th, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GA DOT) sold by sealed bid two lots in Candler Park Special Public Interest (SPI) District 7: Lot 192A on Page Avenue (for $90,900) and Lot 194A on Clifton Terrace Avenue (for $223,000). These lots pose special concern to Candler Park because their potential development cannot be done within the SPI guidelines set up to insure that new construction is in character with our neighborhood. In addition, the development poses concerns to the environment and to future homebuyers due to flooding problems.

Prior to the acquisition of the land for Freedom Parkway by the GA DOT, no houses had ever been built on either of these two lots. The lot on Page Avenue drops precipitously from street level to a creek bed. To make this lot “buildable,” the creek would likely have to be piped and massive fill and re-grading would be needed; mature trees on the lot would likely have to be removed. The lot on Clifton Terrace contains an intermittent (or non-perennial) creek and channels all stormwater runoff for the micro-watershed of Page Avenue. In fact, the lot on Clifton Terrace floods completely after a heavy rain; the stormwater overwheels the sewer and flows over the sidewalk and street. Once the other houses on Page and Terrace Avenues are built, the amount of runoff will increase.

In order to build on either lot, variances from the SPI zoning guidelines would be necessary to substantially change the setback requirements, and a provision in the SPI guidelines allowing only minimal grading would, most likely, have to be tossed aside. This scenario does not suit the interests of the neighborhood, the ecological health of our streams, nor the investment interests of future owners of houses built on these lots.

Even the GA DOT concedes the problems; but they are leaving the decision of whether the lots are “buildable” to the City of Atlanta. In fact, because of the possibility that the City of Atlanta may not grant building permits for these lots, the DOT added a provision to the bid announcement that they would refund the purchase price if the City does not allow their development. Alas, the likelihood of the City disallowing building permits is somewhat remote.

The GA DOT has stated that, if the lot on Page Avenue did not sell or must be re-sold, it would be offered along with the lot immediately adjacent to it as green space. The lot on Clifton Terrace could have been, and could still be, divided and sold to adjacent property owners for green space instead of for development. Keeping these lots green is clearly in the best interest for all parties.

Interested in finding out more about these lots? Please contact one of the CPNO Officers (see listing on page two).

–CPNO Executive Board
Developer Will Colley Presents His Side Of Variance Story

The following is an excerpt from a letter regarding the variance discussion at last month's CPNO meeting. The letter is too long to print in its entirety; if you'd like a copy, contact Zoning officer Walt Weimar.

I am writing in regard to In-Town Development Group's projects on Terrace Avenue... it is important to dispel some misinformation and communicate some relevant facts.

Revised Plans to Include Garage: ...I freely admit that we made a mistake in our attempt to revise our plans. However, it was an honest mistake and not in any way malicious. ...The revised plans did not require any variances and to my knowledge were completely within code and adhered to SPI-7 guidelines.

The Stairs: ...The new stairs [were] in accordance with plans approved by the Urban Design Commission. To meet code, we had to remove the old, existing stairs. This was neither our idea nor our intention...

Laughter in the Park by Deb Milbrath

We were not aware that removing them would violate SPI-7 guidelines... Regardless when Susan Gwinner pointed out the problem, we immediately went through the proper channels to obtain a variance.

Trees: ...For every lot we have developed, we have obtained tree surveys and worked with a city arborist to preserve all "significant trees" (i.e. hardwoods). The homes were designed specific to the lot and tree layout... [For 601 Terrace] we moved the house and driveway to save a white oak that had been approved for removal and only removed two dead trees of significance. On 617 Terrace, we reversed the floor plan to maximize the tree count.

Peavine Watershed: After learning of the concern regarding the watershed, we have developed a plan to minimize runoff from our future houses on Terrace... [and] are working... to install a drainage basin that will eliminate runoff from the three lots.

Architectural Integrity: We have spent nearly $300,000 designing custom homes specific to each lot to conform to the SPI-7 guidelines and the spirit of Candler Park... We have taken countless photos and toured many homes just to understand Candler Park's nuances... to create a product that recreates early 1900s Atlanta.

The people of Candler Park have given us tremendous support during the past year. We have incorporated their suggestions into our new projects... We enjoy working in Candler Park and hope to be there for a long time. ...I encourage our neighbors to call me with any concerns or questions they have. We always listen. Thank you.

—Will Colley
Make The City Play F.A.I.R. – Join The Property Tax Battle With Donations, Attendance At August 15 Meeting

By the time you read this, you’re likely to have received your 2000 Atlanta City property tax bills. While our taxes in Candler Park and other Atlanta-DeKalb neighborhoods increased an average of 33% this year, the rest of Atlanta received only a 3.7% increase. Why the huge difference? The same reason it was last year: DeKalb reassesses our section of Atlanta every year while Fulton reassesses the rest of Atlanta only every three years.

Working for the past year to correct this inequitable situation, F.A.I.R. and Councilwoman Cathy Woolard convinced the City to pass an ordinance to give us refunds for overpayments of taxes for 1999. State Senator Mike Polak crafted a new state law to provide equality between the different sections of Atlanta beginning next year.

We need your help to provide tax relief and equality for this year. We need people to lobby the City Council to pass an ordinance for overpayments of taxes for 2000. We also need contributions. We have only been able to accomplish what we have because we have been able to employ an attorney to write ordinances and consult on the crafting of the state law. She is also defending the 1999 refund ordinance from a lawsuit brought by the School Board, which does not want to pay its share of the 1999 refunds. We need contributions to continue her vital work on our behalf.

We are holding an open meeting on Tuesday, August 15 at 7:30 PM at Epworth Methodist Church (where CPNO meets). For more information, call Greg Smith at 478-681-9945, or e-mail GSmithMD1@aol.com, or look on the Candler Park website at www.candlerpark.org. Checks can be made out to F.A.I.R. and mailed to the F.A.I.R. treasurer:

F.A.I.R.
c/o Cynthia Zauner
411 Candler Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

We know it’s August and it’s too hot to do anything – but you need to do something about this! —Greg Smith

On Your Mark, Get Set, SOLD!!

For Fast Results

Michael Lewis

4/874-6357 Office
7/434-8552 Ext. 208 (voice mail)

National Night Out:
Don’t Miss The August CPNO Potluck Meeting And Police Show!

Monday, August 14th
6:30 to 8:30 pm
Candler Park Picnic Pavilion
Pot Luck Dinner
(CPNO provides drinks and serving utensils)

Please bring a dish to share!
The City of Atlanta is outdoing itself in demonstrating various units of the Police and other services to Candler Park citizens – come out and see the show! Eat potluck with your neighbors and explore the many exhibits, including:

POLICE SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS:
• K-9 Unit, Drug Dog demonstrations
• SWAT (highly trained tactical unit) equipment display
• Mounted Patrol (police on horseback)
• Helicopter (complete with highly skilled helicopter pilot)
• Skilled Bike Unit

ATLANTA FIRE DEPARTMENT:
• Fire Safety House: a hands-on fire escape exhibit for youth
• How to get out of a house fire: another hands-on experience for youth.
• Fire Engine with Ladder

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY
• Electric Vehicle display
• Block Captains appreciated.

Don’t miss this fantastic event! And, just in case, a rain date has been set for one week later on the 21st of August.

Thanks go to Councilmember Cathy Woolard and the 6th Zone Police for a great organizing job.

—Austin Wattles

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NSavage@aol.com

Candler Park Resident
New! Earlier, Shorter CPNO Meetings!

Tired of CPNO meetings that last until 10:00 p.m.? So are we! The CPNO Executive Committee has decided to begin the general meetings at 7:00 p.m. (sharp) and work diligently to end by 8:30 p.m. Snacks will still be provided.

We will also begin publishing some officer reports in The Messenger to give us more time for other agenda items.

If you haven’t come to a meeting in awhile, please check it out... see you in September at 7:00! (The August meeting is National Night Out in the Candler Park Picnic Pavilion: 6:30 start time; see article sidebar, page 2.)

Have An Agenda Item?

Have an issue you would like placed on a monthly meeting agenda? Just contact any CPNO officer and discuss the issue with them before the third Monday of each month (Executive Committee Meeting). This will allow the officers to plan the agenda and its order for the next month’s general meeting. To keep to a reasonable length, some topics may need to be postponed to the following month; we will contact you if rescheduling is required.

It’s Time To Play! Playground Fundraising Begins Now

We’re excited to announce the official kickoff of our fundraising efforts to buy new playground equipment for Candler Park!

And not a moment too soon — playground visitors have no doubt noticed that most of the playground’s original equipment has been missing since mid-July. The City of Atlanta’s Bureau of Parks recently examined the equipment and found that many pieces did not meet current safety regulations, so the dangerous items were removed.

Because of this, the Candler Park Playground Task Force has significantly shortened our timeframe for raising funds. Our goal is now to raise the $50,000 by the end of 2000. You can help by making your contribution now! Early contributions have two benefits:

- We’re hoping to buy equipment on a piece-by-piece basis, as the funds become available. Early donations mean more playground equipment sooner.
- Corporations and foundations are often more open to giving grants to projects that already have some funds in the coffers. In other words, by demonstrating to these potentially large donors that this project is legitimate and is supported by the community, we have a better chance of securing additional funds.

Please see the “coupon” below for more information about how you can help — and how you can have your personal message become a permanent part of the new playground! We’ve also enclosed a landscape drawing of the most up-to-date playground plan, as well as photographs of the new equipment that we’re funding (see right).

A side note... it seems like every time I chat with a neighbor at the pool or at a backyard barbecue, I talk to people with great fundraising ideas or people who work for large employers that have Community Affairs departments that regularly contribute to causes such as ours. If you can help us out with your ideas, your time, or by contacting the company you work for to see if they’ll make a donation, we’d really appreciate it.

Finally, be sure to come to August’s CPNO meeting/potluck in the Park. We’ll have poster-sized versions of the plan and photos for you to look at, and we’ll be happy to answer any questions. If you’d like, you can even make your contribution at that time. If you have questions or need more information, you can call me at 478-5564 or email stacywms@aol.com. Thank you in advance for your help!

—Stacy Williams

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<th>Help Us Rebuild The Candler Park Playground!</th>
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**Your Donation Choice:**
- [ ] $ __________ (any amount is welcome and tax-deductible!)
- [ ] $75 engraved brick (individuals and families only)
- [ ] $150 engraved brick (businesses only)
- [ ] My employer will match my contribution: Employer name

**Your Brick Message (Choose only ONE option):**

**Option 1:**
- 14 large characters

**Option 2:**
- Two lines of 14 small characters

**NOTE:** Spaces between words DO count as characters.

Make checks payable to Park Pride and mail c/o James Johnson, 344 Josephine St., Atlanta, GA 30307. Please write 'Candler Park Playground' in the memo area!
Crime Notes: News From Around The Neighborhood

As you can see from our Crime Report this month (see back page), a number of arrests were made this month. Also note a witness helped in having a suspect arrested... great job!

Calling 911: Not included in our Crime Report is an incident that occurred in Candler Park in a gulch across from the pool. A woman was harassed by males, a bottle broken, and she was threatened. She said that when she got to her car she called 911 and was put on hold for over three minutes. She then decided to hang up and left.

In discussing this later, Major Banda said he could get the 911 tape if he knew the time the call was made. Often, he said, victims are nervous (as one would expect), and think they have explained the situation adequately; however, you have to be sure the 911 operator understands if you are asking for immediate or emergency assistance.

In a visit I made to the Communications Center, I was told that some 911 operators are trainees and mistakes of judgement can be made. At any rate, Major Banda said he would be glad to evaluate the problem.

When you call in, and are able, note the time, and the number of the operator. If you are not satisfied, ask for the supervisor. Some operators are very skilled; in my experience, most calls are quite well done.

They have a high burn out rate for these workers. Would you like a job? You have to remember and juggle at times a large amount of information. It is exciting work but not easy.

Be On The Lookout: If you see a black 1994 Mercury Capri Convertible (looks like a Mazda Miata), license 593-MN, please call the police. One of our neighborhood contributors had it stolen.

—Austin Wattles
Neighborhood Update: Success And New Opportunities!

**Creek Cleanup A Big Success**
Thanks to 30 or more Candler Park and area residents, PWA had an excellent turnout on July 15 for our third annual creek cleanup. Special thanks to friends at Paideia and at Sevananda, Starbucks-Emory Village and Virginia-Highland Bagel for donating refreshments.

Volunteers gathered debris from the creekbed, but most of the pickup focused on trash generated by the homeless. If you are interested in participating in a multi-neighborhood effort to address the homeless' impact on parks, contact any CPNO Board member or Susan Grider at 4/573-2026.

— Susan Grider

**Childcare Options Expand At Druid Hills Child Development Center**
On September 5th, Druid Hills Child Development Center will be opening a new room, creating 11 new spaces for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This expansion follows last spring's installation of a new playground — one of the most fun and well-shaded in the city.

DHDC has been serving intown neighborhoods for more than 30 years, providing quality childcare for ages 6 weeks to 12 years old, with low teacher/child ratios, loving staff and affordable tuition.

If you are looking for a warm and wonderful care option for your child, please consider Druid Hills. If you would like more information, please visit the center at 1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue (across from the Majestic Diner), or call 4/875-5019.

— Karin Dusenbury

**Deadline For NPU Bylaws**
September 30th is the deadline for NPU by-laws for year 2001 to be submitted to the City of Atlanta. NPU-N bylaws were finalized during a July 27th workshop with other constituent neighborhoods, and will be presented for adoption at a general meeting of all NPU-N residents no later than September 28th. For more information on results of the workshop, please contact me or John Rick.

— Walt Weimar

**Candler Park Pool Offers Pro-Rated Subscriptions; Seeks Board Members For 2001 Pool Season**
Summer is fast slipping away, but you can still get in on the fun at the pool with a pro-rated subscription. Still not sure? Come be our guest for a day! Just bring this article for a free one-day admission, and see what you've been missing.

We're also now seeking people interested in serving on the pool board for the 2001 season. If you've been part of the pool this year, you've seen how much fun it can be! For more information, call Bert Bellinson at 4/551-8000, or email bert@tangentindustries.com

— Candler Park Pool Association

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**Environmental Events and Happenings Calendar**

8/3: **Adopt-a-Stream Workshop**. Thurs., 10 am-3 pm. Contact PWA at 4/508-7603.

8/4: **Adopt-a-Stream Workshop**. Friday, 10 am-3 pm. Contact PWA at 4/508-7603.


9/00: **Non-Point Source Pollution Prevention Collaborative Grant-Writing effort**. Interested in participating? Call 4/373-2026.

9/16: **Freedom Park Cleanup**. Help clean up Freedom Park and the Bike Path! Look for more details in the September Messenger. Sponsored by City Councilperson Cathy Woolard.
Development Plan “Blueprint” Accepted By City

City of Atlanta’s 2001 Comprehensive Development Plan, which was reviewed by a CDP subcommittee of NPU-N representative John Rick and other CPNO members, was recently adopted by city officials. While CDP represents an ideal “blueprint” tool for municipal planners in considering a variety of rezoning and other matters affecting Candler Park and NPU-N, its annual review by the City is an opportunity to promote current initiatives.

CPNO and NPU-N comments included recognition that the proposed plan shows large areas of usage more intense (e.g., Low-Density Multi-Family instead of Single-Family Residential) than currently exist between McLendon and DeKalb Avenues. However, municipal planners have advised that any specific changes to CDP map designations of such areas will require formal municipal planning processes, including formal notification of affected residents.

Problem “Number Two”: Watch Your Step!

Children aren’t the only ones who love parks and playgrounds. Unfortunately, dogs “doo” too... a problem the Playground Task Force has been discussing.

Quite a lot of dog waste does tend to accumulate in the park. Fortunately, there is something we can do about it! Dispensers with plastic bags, similar to those used in Inman Park, can be posted at strategic locations around the park. This often works best when signs reminding park visitors of regulations regarding cleaning up after their dogs are also posted.

We need a volunteer to head up this project, which shouldn’t take a lot of time. It entails determining where bag dispensers and signs should go, getting pricing information (I do have vendor information), working with CPNO to determine funding and timing, and finding volunteers to keep the bags and ensure the dispensers are kept full. I’m willing to fill a dispenser across the street from my house (grass field at corner of Candler Park Drive and McLendon Avenue), but don’t have the time to head up this project. If you’re interested, please contact me: stacywms@aol.com or 404.378.5564.

---Stacy Williams

New Charter School

The Wagner Preparatory School will be submitting its charter proposal to the Atlanta Board of Education this fall, and plans to open in the fall of 2001. The founder of the school will be at our CPNO meeting on September 11 to answer questions; look for more details in the September issue of The Messenger.
Classified Ads

BRIGITTE BARNES, PRIVATE CHEF — Available for catering, parties, advice. Food and wine expert. 678-613-4425.

CHILD CARE — Need loving, experienced person to care for infant in my home, part-time, days; non-smoker. 404-378-2811.


HOME REPAIRS — Carpentry, tile, roof repairs, stucco, plumbing, welding, masonry, trash removed. B.Z. Swain, 404-373-3953.

LOOKING FOR A ONE (1) ROOM SPACE — to run my one-man company out of. Ideally requires minor typing availability — 4 hours worth a week. Call Steve, 770-987-0699.


TIPS FROM THE HOUSE DOCTOR — Most contractors have more work than they can do. If you have an emergency, state that in your call. If a contractor hasn’t returned your call, please call again. Free and friendly advice. B.Z. Swain, 404-373-3953.

Variance Requests

Voting on the following requests for variance will be held at the August CPNO meeting.

617 Terrace Avenue

Variance to requirement for paved walkway. Will Colley, 6/b/a Buckhead Real Estate Group, developer, seeks a variance from SPI District 7 zoning, which requires a paved walkway from front sidewalk to front residential entry, to allow a newly-constructed sidewalk to remain. A Type III Certificate of Appropriateness is to allow revision to plans for the walkway will be considered by NPU-N on August 3rd.

506 Candler Park Drive

Variance to setback requirements. Kirk Marchisen, owner/resident, seeks variances under R-4 zoning for construction of a non-enclosed porch on an existing patio, by reducing the minimum front-yard setback from 35 feet to 27 feet, and by increasing the maximum setback incursion width from 12.5 feet to 31 feet.

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