Money Wins. We Lose. (At Least for 1999)

The two-year fight to obtain fairness and equality for 1999 property taxes ended last month in Fulton Superior Court. The Atlanta School Board succeeded overturning the city ordinance providing refunds of overpayments for 1999 city and school board property taxes. For all practical purposes, this also stops refunds under a similar 2000 city ordinance.

The City of Atlanta passed an ordinance in 1999 to refund taxpayers in Atlanta/DeKalb based on higher property assessments in Atlanta/DeKalb compared with the rest of Atlanta. The Atlanta School Board did not wish to make these refunds and sued to stop them.

The Atlanta School Board released a letter at one point claiming that they were only seeing if they had to pay their share, that they were not trying to prevent refunds of city taxes. In fact their primary object was to overturn the entire ordinance and in this they succeeded.

After two years of work, it was the school board’s money that made the difference. Try as we might, we could not compete with their multiple attorneys and their multiple paid expert witnesses. I have never taken part in a legal battle before, but I was surprised at what kind of half-truths can be promoted if you have the money to keep pushing them.

The other way that money matters is that even though I would love to appeal what I regard as a faulty ruling, we have no money left to do so.

I wish to thank Councilmember Cathy Woolard for getting the city to enact the refund ordinance and all of you who worked so hard to ensure its passage. Special thanks to Carol Chesnutt who worked so hard with me on the lawsuit. We did everything people without a whole lot of money could do within the political process. Too bad the school board wanted to keep the money so badly.

–Greg Smith

The Tax Fight For 2000 And 2001 Continues

While there will be no refunds of property taxes from the city for 1999 or 2000, there is yet hope for equality for 2000 and 2001. Last year, Senator Mike Polak convinced the legislature to pass Senate Bill 309 which instructs DeKalb and Fulton to equalize Atlanta/DeKalb property assessments with the rest of Atlanta. So far the counties are resisting implementation of this law, but we are working hard to convince them to do so. If we succeed, adjustments to assessments will be made for these years.

–Greg Smith

WHAT’S THE LAW?

Learn more about neighborhood ordinances on page 3
Candler Park 5K A Huge Success!

Over 500 people turned out this year for the 7th annual Candler Park 5K. The race began at 8am with great weather and a new improved “less hilly” course thanks to Gerald Miller and Sam Benedict, a few neighbors from Lake Claire. A special thanks is due to all the volunteers who helped out at the race and made it a great affair for all, with an extra tip of the cap to Eric and Karin Dusenbury for their continued support of the race. After a generous donation from Atlanta Gas Light of $5000.00, the CPNO was able to raise nearly $9,000. Additional business sponsors included The Brew House, Michael Lewis with Fourteen14 West Realty, Tangent Industries, Bond, Sherry Nemeth with Coldwell Banker, The Epworth Church, Prudential Financial Planning Services, and Shea and Carol with Re/Max. Thanks to all the Candler Park neighbors who ran and all the fans cheering them on.

There are some extra T-Shirts from the race and they are currently available for $10. They will be for sale while they last at the next CPNO meeting. —Mike Hyser

A Passing Of Some Torches

Vice President for Safety Austin Wattles and Vice President for Environment Gary Brown have stepped down to have more time for other work. In their place the CPNO Executive Committee, acting under the CPNO Bylaws, elected Greg Reinhardt as Vice President for Safety and George Dusenbury as Vice President for Environment to serve out the remainder of Austin and Gary’s terms of office. We appreciate Austin and Gary’s service to CPNO and are grateful that Greg and George are willing to continue their work. Please thank Austin, Gary, Greg, and George when you see them.

Jan Warner is the new business manager for The Messenger. Vice President for Special Events Mike Hyser was doing this job in addition to his regular office while we sought someone to fill this position. Jan will manage the ads for The Messenger in addition to coordinating distribution. Please thank Jan for taking on this crucial job and Mike for doing it until now. —Greg Smith

Laughter in the Park by Deb Milbrath

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THE MESSENER/CANDLER PARK
PO Box 5418 * Atlanta, GA 31107
www.candlerpark.org
A Letter From The Retailers Of Clifton At McLendon

To our Candler Park and Lake Claire Neighbors:

A healthy business district is a vital part of any neighborhood, and we at Clifton at McLendon would like to think that we are an important part of our surrounding neighborhoods.

We like being in a small, friendly area of town and we like our neighbors. Unfortunately, there is a down side to those small retail businesses, in that many people do not know that we exist!

While it may appear busy on the weekends, there are many days that we struggle to get people into our shops. We would like to enlist your support so that we may retain what we think is one of the best mixtures of retail and restaurants in the city.

Please shop here, eat here. Please tell all your friends who live elsewhere that we have an array of retail establishments that regularly win BEST OF ATLANTA awards and it is worth their time to check us out. With help we can continue to do our part to show the world what great places Candler Park and Lake Claire are to live. Thank you.

Frock of Ages • Full Moon Records
Atlanta Hemp • A Girl and Her Dog
Opulent Creations
Donna Van Gogh’s Artists Market

The Epworth Church
at Candler Park

Multiplying God’s Love
at the corner of Mell and McLendon
An Inclusive Church
What’s The Law? Check Out This City Of Atlanta Code Enforcement Information!

Ever wondered what the city laws are regarding everything from construction permits to vacant lots? Major Carlos Banda of the 6th Zone Police shared this information with us at a neighborhood meeting. If you’d like to know more, call the phone number listed next to the heading of the area you’re interested in.

**HOUSING CODES - (404) 330-6190**
All houses, apartment, condos, and other living units should meet minimum standards set by the Atlanta Housing Code. These standards are in place to help protect the health, safety and property values of the citizens and property owners of Atlanta. Violations include:
- open and vacant buildings
- fire damaged buildings
- dilapidated buildings (roof caving in, walls leaning, etc.)
- general housing problems (structural, electrical, plumbing, heating)
- Yard violations (overgrown grass/weeds, old furniture, appliances, junk, trash).

**JUNK VEHICLES - (404) 330-6190**
Any car, truck or other automobile stored outside of a building in a residential neighborhood, is not operable and does not have a current tag, is a junk vehicle.

**COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS - (404) 330-6195**
These buildings should be properly maintained and be free of any hazards, including leaky roofs, broken glass, loose or missing siding, broken light fixtures, tripping hazards, etc. The grounds should be clean and safe; including the landscaped area and parking lot.

**VACANT LOTS - (404) 330-6190**
All vacant lots should be properly maintained: there should be no overgrowth of grass, weeds, including kudzu and other poisonous plants; nor any trash, junk and debris allowed on the property.

**SIGNS - (404) 330-6175**
Only one sign per residence is permissible in residential zoning districts. The size of the sign should not exceed 1 x 2 feet.

**CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING REPAIRS - (404) 330-6152**
It is unlawful to construct, renovate, repair or demolish any building without first obtaining a building permit. A permit is also required for the installation or replacement of heating and air conditioning systems, electrical and plumbing equipment. No permit fee is required with work of less than $2,500.

**AUTO REPAIR SHOPS - (404) 330-6175**
Auto repair shops, including “shade tree mechanics” are illegal in residential zoning districts. Auto repair shops are only allowed in non-residential zoning districts and must be located in a fully enclosed building.

**ROOMING HOUSING - (404) 330-6175**
It is illegal for houses to be changed to roominghouses without a proper license and building permit. Roominghouses are not allowed in single-family residential districts, unless the use is “non-conforming,” that is, the roominghouse was there before the ordinance was enacted. A rooming house must be licensed from the Police Department, a permit from Business Licenses and meet the applicable Building and Fire and Housing Code requirements.

**PARKING OF LARGE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES - (404) 330-6175**
In residential neighborhoods, parking large commercial vehicles is prohibited.

**GARBAGE SERVICE - (404) 330-6236**
Solid waste services are provided for residential neighborhoods. Service is composed of regular household garbage service with “Herbie Curbies,” yard trimmings service, and recycling service with separate black bins for newspapers, glass bottles/jars, #1 and #2 plastic containers, and aluminum and steel cans.

**SCRAP TIRES - (404) 330-6190**
Scrap tires should not be stored in any yards or on any streets or sidewalks. Used tires should be properly disposed of at a landfill or recycling facility.

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-Austin Wattles

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Chris M. Christian
No nonsense real estate service from your Intown neighbor.
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404.377.0080
#1 Individual Agent - Intown Office - 2000
Charis Circle Yard Sale

A July 14 yard sale will benefit the educational and cultural programs offered by Charis Circle, the non-profit ‘arm’ of Charis Books and More in Little Five Points.

These programs include writing, mentoring and other workshops and events for girls, young women and adults.

Any donations will be welcomed — toys, recycled gifts, appliances, dishes, decorative items, etc. Donations will be accepted at Epworth on Wed.-Fri., 7/11-13 from 3-9 pm.

TIME: 8 am to 3 pm
PLACE: Epworth United Methodist Church on McLendon
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call 404-378-2247 with questions.

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Eleanor’s Errands, Etc.
Take the time you deserve for yourself.
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Prepared by: Michael Hyser
Financial Planner

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Professional advice gives you a financial planning edge. Financial planning can be complicated. Which is why it makes sense to take advantage of what a Prudential Financial Planner has to offer. Insight to help make sense of it all. Knowledge to help make you a better investor. Practical advice to help you make smart decisions.

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Call me today for an initial planning consultation.

Michael R. Hyser
Financial Planner
3495 Piedmont Road
Building 12, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 262-2600 ext. 3823
Candler Park Resident

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Investment advisory services offered through Prudential Financial Planning Services, which is a division of Prudential Securities Corporation, a subsidiary of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, both located at 751 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102-3777. IFS19990816:4045266
CRIME REPORT

Crimes reported May 9-June 21 in Zone 6 police records.

400 block Moreland, 5/9, 4 am, men refused to leave business.
Mansfield & Moreland, 5/26, 7:30 pm, stolen electronics and damage to vehicle
1200 block Druid Place, 5/26, 1:49, vehicle break-in
1200 block Dekalb Ave, 5/27, 2:27 am, male struck male in face, broke glasses
1200 block Euclid Ave, 5/28, 1:30 am, vehicle broken into; items stolen
1200 block Mansfield, 5/28, 10:26 pm, damage to vehicle—convertible roof cut.
1200 block McLendon, 5/31, 12:20 am, vehicle window broken; items taken
300 block Josephine, 6/1, 6:17 pm, home burglary
400 block Candler St., 5/27, 9:00 pm, items taken out of vehicle
400 block Moreland, 6/2, 4:00 pm, items stolen
300 block Josephine, 6/2, 11:00 am, home burglary
1600 block Dekalb Ave, 6/2, 11:00 am, vending machine broken into; change stolen
1300 block North Ave, 6/2, 11:45 pm, suspect threatened victim; attempted to enter house
300 block Moreland, 6/3, 7:45 am, suspect had fake ID
300 block Josephine, 6/4, 6:00 pm, person entered vacant house and took expensive tools
Benning PI, 6/7, stolen vehicle found
400 block Candler Park Dr., 6/8, 9:30 pm, vehicle stolen; driver heard alarm; saw suspect driving away
500 block Candler Park Dr., 6/8, 6:30 pm, man robbed at gunpoint in front of Mary Lin; victim lives in Candler Park
1300 block Euclid, 6/10, 2:55 pm, subject attacked victim with knife in apartment; subject arrested
1200 block Euclid, 6/9, 1:45 pm, front door kicked in; items taken
1100 block Dekalb Ave, 6/12, forced entry; expensive jewelry taken
1500 block McLendon, 6/8, 5:30 pm, man and woman struggled in workplace
1600 block McLendon, 6/21, 9:55 pm, vehicle window broken; nothing missing.

ZONE 6 POLICE: CALL 911 FIRST!
Individual Officers: 404-371-5002

CLASSIFIED ADS

ABOVE THE HEDGES! – Spring's -a-poppin! Wake up your yard with our "curb appeal" services. Weekly or biweekly. We do the gardening chores you want, and give you the satisfaction (guaranteed)! Blend in or stand out. Reasonable prices. Free consultations. Experienced owner-operator. Call Dennis at 770-621-YARD (9273).

FOR PERSONALIZED RELIABLE CLEANING SERVICE – with 10 years experience, call Pat Gefty, 404-822-8043. From a neighborhood near and with neighborhood references.


JOHN THE LAWNBOY – Mowing, gutters cleaned, etc. Free est. 404-653-0839.


MURPHY'S YARD SERVICE – General yardwork, mowing, cleanup. FREE estimates. 404-622-1822.


VARIANCE REQUESTS

There are NO variance requests pending for the July CPNO meeting! Discussion and voting on newly submitted variance requests will be held at the August CPNO meeting.

WHEN THE WEATHER IS HOT, YOU NEED A REALTOR WHO CAN STAY COOL.

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