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Looking Toward a Better Future

By Emily Taff, president@candlerpark.org

You've heard the quote right? "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is now." This is a good reminder in life, trees alone are the perfect metaphor for planning for the future, but this quote in particular reminds us that despite the fact that we didn't start planning 20 years ago, we can still plant a seed today.

Of course, whether it's with a tree or a college fund, or moving to the "right" neighborhood to get in the "right" schools before a baby has even been dreamed up, we are always planning for the future, and always playing catch up—it never really stops does it? Neighborhoods plan for their future in a number of ways too. By participating in citywide Ordinance rewrites and planning, writing master plans, or investigating options like local historic designation, we have opportunities to define our own vision for future development on various levels.

But, especially in this month, which brings us Earth Day and Arbor Day (April 22 and 29), I like to think of this quote in terms of actually planting trees. Planting a tree is a wonderfully selfless act and a reminder that we have a duty to invest not just in our own interests but in the interests of our community, our children, and the future generations that we may not even know.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over a weekend in March, Trees Atlanta helped do just that at Iverson Park. Getting the trees in the ground at Iverson is one of our Candler Park Decides projects fulfilled! Among the native trees planted are fruit trees including figs, paw paws, and persimmon, which will provide habitats and a food source for local urban wildlife as well as urbanforaging-humans. Maintaining a habitat with a variety of native plant specifies is key to supporting a healthy ecosystem that includes bugs, birds and, yes, squirrels, something that is important even in the middle of a city. Our parks are a great place to bulk up those habitats, but our own yards create the links that tie the ecosystem together in this "city in a forest."

Is there room for a tree in your yard? Trees Atlanta has some excellent resources on choosing the right tree and how to plant it (treesatlanta. org/resources). Looking for cheap trees? I've always been a fan of the 10 free trees for Arbor Day Foundation members, an organization which is another great resource for tree planning and planting (arborday.org).

There is no better time than now to think about laying the groundwork for a more sustainable future.

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.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER Amy Stout externalaffairs@candlerpark.org

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

APRIL

APS Spring Break

Messenger!

CPNO Zoning meeting, 7 pm, Location

CPNO Board meeting, 7 pm, Location 11

Deadline to submit content for The

18

15

CPNO Members Meeting, 7 pm, Location ZOOM

28

NPU-N Meeting, 7pm, Zoom

MAY

CPNO Zoning meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

9

CPNO Board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

15

Deadline to submit content for The

16

CPNO Members Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

26

NPU-N Meeting, 7pm, Zoom

JUNE

6

CPNO Zoning meeting, 7 pm, Location TBD

13

CPNO Board meeting, 7 pm, Location TBD

15

Deadline to submit content for The Messenger!

20

CPNO Members Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

NPU-N Meeting, 7pm, Zoom



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.

2022 Mary Lin Elementary Rocket Run

Sunday, April 24, 2022

5K - 9:00 AM

1 Mile Fun Run - 10:00 AM

LOCATION/COURSE

Coming Soon. It will start and end at Mary Lin!

EVENT SWAG

Commemorative soft triblend Rocket Run Shirt

EVENT DAY SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - Race Day Number Pick-Up & Registration opens



8:40 AM - Race Day Number Pickup & Registration closes

9:00 AM - Rocket Run 5K start

10:00 AM - 1 Mile Fun Run start

10:30 AM - 5K Awards

ONLINE REGISTRATION

CLOSES - Saturday, April 23, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

SIGN-UP - https://runsignup. com/Race/GA/Atlanta/

RocketRun5Kand1MileFunRun

New Georgia State House District Map Splits Candler Park Neighborhood

By Roger Bakeman, membership@candlerpark.org

State House redistricting will affect the Candler Park neighborhood. Until now, the Mary Lin and Epworth precincts (A and B on the precinct map) were included in the same State House district—the 89th (represented by Bee Nguyen).

The precinct map for 2022 shows the changes. What was the 89th is now the 90th and what was the 83rd (represented by Becky Evans) is now the 89th. The 90th has lost the Mary Lin precinct to the 89th, while the 89th has gained two additional precincts (D and E on the map) and has lost another (C).

The new maps were signed into law on December 30 and are effective for this year's upcoming election. However, five lawsuits have been filed by various civil liberties and voting rights advocacy groups, arguing that the maps were drawn unfairly. Nonetheless, Ken Lawler, chairman of Fair Districts Georgia, a nonpartisan group that advocates for fair and transparent redistricting thinks that "Statistically, this map isn't bad" (quoted in an article by Rachel Garbus in the Atlanta Magazine, January 27, 2022).

Georgia House Districts - 2022: www.legis. ga.gov

DeKalb precinct map: www.dekalbcountyga. gov/sites/default/files/PrecinctsMap.pdf Atlanta Magazine article: www.atlantamagazine. com/news-culture-articles/heres-howredistricting-changed-georgias-2022-maps-forthe-house-state-senate-and-u-s-house/



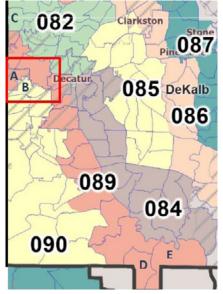


Figure 2



New golf course signs = mixed reations



Welcome and Thanks!

By Roger Bakeman, membership@candlerpark.org

CPNO welcomes new member:

- Patrick Lennon and Becky Stewart
- Susan Hegel and Chris Chaffee
- Joy Osmanski and Corey Brill
- Christina and Sean Wood and family
- ... and three others who wished to remain anonymous

CPNO thanks members for their donation:

- Joy Osmanski and Corey Brill
- Caroline Swartz and Marco Ancheita

- Janice and Patrick Pence
- Carla Roncoli and Tom Painter
- Jennie Ashcraft Berman & Rick Berman
- The Teras Family
- J.R. and Taryn Williford
- ... and ten others who wished to remain anonymous

And remember, membership in CPNO is for the calendar year. It is now time to renew for 2022. Go to our website or enter candelerpark.org/renew.



CONTACT US TODAY 770-623-6220 sales@kda-communications.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

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.

JOIN CPNO TO GET EMAIL BLASTS



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.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



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













NEIGHBORS, LEARN MORE!

The Candler Park Historic **District Working Group** Wants to Hear from YOU

Have you heard? The Candler Park Historic District Working Group is interested in reducing the threat of demolition for historic homes and preserving the historic character of the Candler Park Neighborhood.

Historic District designation from the City of Atlanta can protect what we love about Candler Park while maintaining flexibility in renovation options and design choices.

Neighborhood engagement is a key part of the designation process. So please make your opinion known:

Complete the short survey at or HistoricCandlerPark.org/survey



Email your thoughts and questions to: HistoricCandlerPark@gmail.com

Contribute/Donate/Help us out!

Although the process is primarily a volunteer effort, we have hired a professional planner to help us.

Please help us meet our goal of \$30,000 by making a specified donation here:

HistoricCandlerPark.org/Donate

Learn More:

HistoricCandlerPark.org

Update on the Candler Park Historic District Working Group

Submitted by Mary Shaltis on behalf of Historic Candler Park Working Group

Do you love the historic character of Candler Park? Are you curious why the neighborhood looks like it does? Would you like to have a voice in shaping its future? This is our chance to create a solid plan for the future character of Candler Park but we need your input! Together we get to define what a Candler Park historic district could look like. Check out www.historiccandlerpark.org for more information, to stay informed, and get involved in the process!

As of Monday, March 21, the Working Group is now a special committee of the CPNO tasked with engaging the neighborhood in a conversation about historic district designation and, if there is neighborhood support for it, to pursue designation. As a CPNO special committee we will be better able to keep the neighborhood updated and informed through the CPNO membership. What began as a grassroots effort to guard against accelerating demolition of historic houses and out-of-scale development has evolved into an initiative to create a better framework for neighborhood control in the zoning process.

The Working Group has been active on several fronts including:

- Spreading the word through door-to-door outreach and block
- Making a survey available on the website (over 62 responses so far);
- Talking to representatives from other historic districts like Poncey-Highland for guidance;
- Beginning the task of inventorying the neighborhood's historic resources; and
- Answering questions and creating FAQs that de-mystify the process.

The Working Group has also engaged Aaron Fortner of Canvas Planning to assist in outreach and workshops and if there is neighborhood support to draft the regulations based on community ideas and preferences. Aaron was the lead consultant for the 2012 Candler Park Master Plan and is intimately familiar with the neighborhood's special qualities and challenges. He is uniquely qualified to consult on zoning, having been part of the team that created Atlanta's Quality-Of-Life districts.

We encourage you to get involved and express your thoughts by checking out the website, or heading over to the ad in this Messenger and scanning the QR code to fill out the survey BEFORE April 18th. We are also accepting donations to help with this important work. Donations made at historiccandlerpark.org/donate go through CPNO and are tax deductible. Whether \$25 or \$250, no amount is too small and all funds are tax deductible and go directly to supporting the effort.



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access to providers. These hospitals, now called Emory Decatur Hospital and Emory Hillandale Hospital, have served this community for more than 60 years - and as part of Emory Healthcare, they're now even better equipped to give you the exceptional care you need, right here in your neighborhood. And, it's just beginning.

Find out what's new at emoryhealthcare.org/healthyyou.





Completion of World Peace Pyramid in Candler Park

By Bill Read, Candler Park Resident and First E Member

On March 20th, a sunny first day of Spring, the 2022 World Peace Pyramid was publicly unveiled both to the Candler Park community and to First Existentialist Congregation members and friends during an afternoon of visiting in the R. Lanier Clance Memorial Woodland Sanctuary. Note: The 2022 World Peace Pyramid is also called the Yes Peace Pyramid... because Si is Spanish for Yes and Pax is Latin for Peace (see photo).

Pyramid Process: The 2022 World Peace Pyramid has been built in stages. Assembly of the pyramid base of 1,600 balls was done on Sept. 21, 2021 (World Peace Day). Subsequently three public events were held on Oct. 17, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12 so that Candler Park neighbors and First E members and friends could participate in the pyramid-building process. Their combined efforts built a pyramid core of over 20,000 balls and added two of the four artistic sides of the pyramid. The other two artistic sides were created and added during March, and the pyramid peak was rebuilt with different colors.

Pyramid Completion: The 2022 Peace Pyramid was completed on Sunday morning March 20, 2022 by adding the final few levels of balls to the pyramid top (see photo). The pyramid color levels symbolize the diversity of human colors in the world. The top blue and yellow levels symbolize the Ukraine flag and their struggle for peace. Next are four balls imprinted with Hope and Love, which are essential for world peace. And at the top is a purple ball, which symbolizes that peace is bipartisan; peace is not blue or red...Peace is Purple.

Pyramid Facts: Number of balls is 22,140. Total weight of balls is 2,242 lbs. Pyramid size is 5' 6" wide and tall. All golf balls were played and lost at Candler Park Golf Course. All ball colors are natural.

Guinness Record Status: The 2022 World Peace Pyramid is being submitted as a new Guinness World Record for number of balls used in a pyramid. The current pyramid record of 16,206 golf balls was set in 2014 by a school in Tyler, Texas...using new and donated balls. The Guinness Record approval process is expected to take more than a year, so until then we are in a "pending record approval" status.

If you'd like to view the fully completed World Peace Pyramid with its four artistic sides, the next public viewing date will be on Sunday, May 15 from 1 to 3 pm. Just stop by and follow the pyramid signs.

Meanwhile, Welcome Spring...And May There Be Peace on Earth...

Little 5 Points Alliance Proposes Collaborative Approach to Public Safety

Source: Little 5 Points Alliance

As public safety continues to be a top concern in the City of Atlanta, the Little 5 Points Alliance is taking a comprehensive and collaborative approach to creating a safe and welcoming space in the unique arts and culture district.

Long known for its creative culture, walkable spaces, independent small businesses, and openness toward free expression, Little 5 Points has become a haven for residents and out-of-town visitors looking for a unique community experience. At the same time, the district has struggled with perceptions of safety when dealing with issues like drug use, homelessness, car break-ins, and vagrancy. As a result, the Little 5 Points Alliance created a Public Safety Plan that focuses on a variety of approaches and partners to bring to the

"Little 5 Points wants to continue to be a welcoming space to all, and we certainly don't believe we can arrest our way out of issues like homelessness or drug use," says executive director Lauren Welsh. "We are working with several partners in these efforts including the Atlanta Police Foundation, Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative, Step-Up on Second, Intown Collaborative Ministries, Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, Georgia Works, and others to use a more comprehensive approach toward community safety and support."

Several public safety initiatives are already underway in Little 5 Points including a "Clean Car" campaign in cooperation with APD Zone 6, regular clean-ups with Georgia Works, a lighting study on Seminole Avenue, and research around setting up a temporary public restroom. In addition, thanks to support from the Atlanta Police Foundation and Councilmember Amir Farokhi, the Alliance will be installing a new security camera along Davis Plaza and Seminole Avenue.

"Our small business districts are a critical part of our city, and we need to make sure visitors and employees feel welcome and safe in these areas," says Councilmember Farokhi. "This more collaborative approach to community safety that the Little 5 Points Alliance is focusing on suits the spirit of the area well."

The Alliance launched a fundraising campaign for the Public Safety Plan in late January and is halfway toward its \$10,000 goal to help pay for these new projects. The nonprofit is also looking for additional volunteers who would like to help support public safety efforts. Please consider a financial contribution by donating at I5pa.com or consider volunteering by contacting the Alliance via info@l5pa.com.

The Little 5 Points Alliance hopes to expand partnerships for those experiencing homelessness, work with local businesses on regular Narcan trainings for drug overdose, partner with nearby neighborhoods to add supplemental security patrols, improve accessibility and lighting in public spaces, and activate both Findley and Davis Plazas with public art and programming.



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Candler Park Gets Needed Upgrades and Playground Renovation is Being Planned

By Jonathan Flack, Candler Park Conservancy Board Member and CPNO Liaison

Have you noticed the changes to Candler Park lately? The 55-acre greenspace and recreation hub at the center of our neighborhood is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Several upgrades across the park were completed in the last few months, and more improvements are on the way-most notably a renovation to the playground!

Recent Upgrades

The bathrooms at the pool house have been renovated, cleaned, and are now open to the public! Long closed, the bathrooms now have new sinks,

automatic hand-dryers, new lights, new mirrors, and new countertops; the partitions have been cleaned and painted; security lighting on the outside has been installed; and the doors automatically lock at night. In addition, Candler Park Conservancy has partnered with the City of Atlanta and hired a cleaning company to regularly maintain and clean the bathrooms. The bathroom renovation



was jumpstarted with a portion of the \$45,000 provided by City Councilmember Amir Farokhi's participatory budgeting project i.e., Candler Park Decides. That money, plus matching donations from CPC and Trees Atlanta, also paid for the following additional improvements to our beloved park:

Benches have been installed next to the active lawn;

- Bike racks were installed near the active lawn and the playground;
- Fruit trees have been planted near the walkway behind the pool; and
- Kudzu removal is taking place on the westernmost hillside next to the active
- And more improvements are coming, including new pool furniture and public art!



Benches on active lawn



Bike racks



Fruit Trees



Kudzu removal underway



The Planned Playground Renovation and Hillside Reconstruction

You may have noticed that the current playground structures are showing their age; or maybe you've noticed the severe drainage issues near the picnic table next to the playground. What you probably haven't noticed is the severe soil erosion at the top of the hill behind the playground, leading up to the tennis courts. This un-landscaped hillside, which is currently unused space, is largely to blame for these drainage issues and soil erosion problems—as shown in the photos below.



Erosion of retaining wall, undermining tennis courts' foundation



Standing water at bottom of hillside

Candler Park Conservancy has hired landscape architects at Perkins & Will to design a new playground and hillside that will fix these environmental issues and create a modern play scape with fun and unique play structures for our

The new playground renovation will address these problems by (1) installing boulders on the hillside to buttress the tennis court retaining wall, mitigate soil



erosion, and promote better storm water management; and (2) installing three slides on the hillside for kids to play. In addition, the playground renovation will include several new play structures including an iconic primary play structure, along with other potential additions such as a sand pit, an artificial turf rope climb on the hillside, and other new play structures for kids to enjoy. The details will be finalized after community input sessions, which are in the process of being scheduled.

To date, Candler Park Conservancy ("CPC") has raised \$328,000 for this project. CPC has requested \$100,000 in total from the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization, \$50,000 of which has already been accounted for in the 2022 CPNO Budget (a vote to allocate this money specifically for the playground renovation is scheduled to occur at the April 2022 CPNO monthly Zoom meeting). CPC is hopeful that CPNO will contribute an additional \$50,000, which would mean we need to raise an additional \$225,000 to fully fund this playground renovation. Under the current timeline, construction will begin in late-2022 and there will be opportunities for community input before the plans are finalized. Please consider making a donation at https://www. candlerparkconservancy.org/play, and encourage your friends to donate as well. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

If you haven't visited Candler Park in a while-get out there, enjoy the new amenities, take a look at the playground hillside, and envision these new improvements. And consider making a donation to Candler Park Conservancy to help bring this vision into reality!

Candler Park Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and improving Candler Park. You can read more online at candlerparkconservancy.org





The Lake Claire Community Land Trust Celebrates 40 Years in the Neighborhood

By Stephen Wing

Shhh! It's a secret. The Lake Claire Community Land Trust has been named "Best of Family Fun" by Atlanta Parent magazine and "Best Off-the-Beaten-Path Tourist Attraction" by Creative Loafing. We have been featured in Communities, the magazine of the intentional communities movement, and in the book Secret Atlanta: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure. We have over 1,500 "Friends" on Facebook, and almost 6,000 "Likes" and "Follows." But please keep all that to yourself; we don't want anyone to find out how marvelous, fabulous, and stupendous our modest little patch of greenspace at the dead-end of Arizona Ave. actually is.

If you're already on to our secret, you're very likely one of the undercover agents who have been passing the word-of-mouth about the Land Trust since its founding 40 years ago. Generations of high-schoolers have met their friends here for unsupervised shenanigans, come back with a date for the Drum Circle, then returned to introduce their toddlers to the playground and Big Lou, the

But are you ready to take the conspiracy to the next level? Don't let this get around, but the Land Trust is not as miraculous as it appears. The rumor that the land is protected by a mystical force-field spun by hippie magicians to preserve the spirit

of the Sixties is just a smokescreen. Behind it, we're just an ordinary community nonprofit. What makes the Land Trust so magical is the fact that the committee members and work-day volunteers and financial donors who keep it going are all extraordinary people . . . people pretty much like

Any urban greenspace is a miracle, given the forces of development and the pressures of finance. What makes ours especially remarkable is that word community in our name - the community of extraordinary people who have adopted it into their families and made it part of their lives, starting with the original founders. Community is an organic extension of nature, the secret of human survival since tribal times, and has been part of the Land Trust vision since the beginning. And just as a tribe can only survive by passing its legacy on as the older generations age, the Land Trust community can only thrive if younger people who enjoy coming here see its value, and decide it's worth giving something back.

Maybe you've attended our Drum Circle on the first Saturday every month, rented a garden plot, or soaked in a sunset over the skyline at the Sunset Overlook. You are invited to learn more about a unique community experience. Whether sitting quietly alone to commune with nature or in front

of your computer at an online meeting, whether joining other volunteers for the monthly work day or setting up a monthly Paypal donation, here's a chance to take part in the natural ecology of an urban wonderland. Regardless of age, race, or gender, anyone and everyone is welcome to step into the dance and become the hands and hearts that make the Land Trust such a rare resource.

There are so many rewarding ways to get involved: getting your hands in the dirt, organizing outdoor workshops and classes, helping out with the Children's Garden, plugging into social media and communications, sharing your perspective in a board or committee meeting. Contact us at info@ LCCLT.org to learn more about how you can help make a positive impact in our community. But don't spread it around. It's a secret, just between you and me and 1,500 friends.

The Land Trust is located at 270 Arizona Ave. in Lake Claire, at the dead-end of Arizona Ave. (off McLendon), and in cyberspace at LCCLT.org. You can check our calendar, join our email list, or make a donation there. Drum Circles are the first Saturday every month, 8:00-11:00 pm. Community Work Days are the third Saturdays, currently 1:00-4:00 pm. Music festivals in our amphitheater will resume in the fall.

February Neighborhood Crime Reports

By Kerry Dobson, safety@candlerpark.org

The information for Candler Park for February, extracted from an Atlanta Police Department online file, shows that 83% of crimes in our neighborhood are larceny from vehicles. Maintain a clean car – leave nothing visible – and remind your visitors to do the same to avoid being a victim of these crimes.

FEBRUARY CRIME REPORT, CANDLER PARK					
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description	
2/3/2022	Thursday	18:30	1500 BLOCK DEKALB AVE NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/8/2022	Tuesday	0:32	400 BLOCK MORELAND AVE NE	BURGLARY	
2/12/2022	Saturday	17:01	300 BLOCK JOSEPHINE ST NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/12/2022	Saturday	19:46	1300 BLOCK BENNING PL NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/16/2022	Wednesday	19:49	300 BLOCK MORELAND AVE NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/17/2022	Thursday	19:00	200 BLOCK ELMIRA PL NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/18/2022	Friday	20:48	1600 BLOCK MCLENDON AVE NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/19/2022	Saturday	23:34	300 BLOCK MORELAND AVE NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/23/2022	Wednesday	23:00	400 BLOCK PAGE AVE NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/24/2022	Thursday	15:00	300 BLOCK MORELAND AVE NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	
2/28/2022	Monday	10:00	DEKALB AVE/ MORELAND AVE	AUTO THEFT	
2/27/2022	Sunday	16:00	400 BLOCK OAKDALE RD NE	LARCENY-FROM VEHICLE	





An Ugly American

By Lexa King, Candler Park Forever

In the late 50s a book called *The Ugly American* was released and became a best seller. One of the messages conveyed the idea that Americans can be ignorant and arrogant. I never read the book, but one of the contexts where I heard the title phrase applied was to American tourists in foreign lands. Can't you just picture the middle aged American male in Bermuda shorts and golf shirt and baseball cap complaining about restaurant service in a European cafe and telling anyone who will listen how much better things are run back in the good ole USA?

In the 60s when my parents and I were preparing for our first European vacation, my dad explained the concept to me of The Ugly American. At the time, European vacations were not as common place as they are today. And American exceptionalism was certainly a common mindset. Americans were not particularly popular as tourists. Our ways are not old world ways. We are all about speed, efficiency, effectiveness and making money. We don't close businesses in the afternoon for a Siesta. We don't take a couple of hours to linger over our evening meal. How many Americans do you think, if given a choice, would take the scenic route instead of the fastest, most direct path?

So before we left for our trip, Dad explained to me that I was not to make comparisons between what we were seeing "over there" to anything back home. Especially in a loud enough voice for anyone to overhear. I marvel, now, at his sensitivity and wisdom. Given that we were actually in the role of American Ambassadors, he wanted us to make a good impression. At the very least, he made an impression on me.

I didn't think it would ever cross my mind to make such insulting comparisons until I found myself doing just that pertaining to a tourist experience in Cambodia. One of the most popular sights in the Siem Reap area is the temple complex of Angkor Wat.

It was built thousands of years ago and remains the largest religious monument in the world. To be there for sunrise is one of the most popular ways of experiencing the sight.

We had been in the country for a few days by the time our visit there was scheduled. As we toured other locations in the preceding days, we drove past the complex several times before our tour. The moat was visible as were the entrance gates and even some of the towers could be seen in the distance. With the instructions for our trip, we had been told to pack a small flashlight. In passing the bridge over the moat, I could see there were no street lights along the sides of the wide entry way. I kept thinking how foolish it was to not have solar powered lights along the sides.

Finally, it was our turn to have our Angkor Wat experience. Some people are early risers and are perky from the minute they open their eyes. Not only is that not me, but I must admit a resentment of those folks. In my world, that is not reasonable nor even acceptable. So that morning I grabbed my clothes, brushed my teeth and met the others in my group by our van. The hotel had packed each of us a breakfast box with fruit, toast and goodies.

Because of my half-awake state, I had forgotten to bring my flashlight. I wanted to save my phone battery for photos, so David, our minister and leader, offered to walk me in with him. I willingly grabbed his arm, and we joined the others from dozens of busloads of pilgrims. Hundreds of people were sharing this experience, but the crowd was hushed and reverent. The stone path which had been trodden by millions over the centuries was uneven and required concentration to negotiate. I was happy to have someone to lean on. Shortly after entering the gate, our guide instructed us to leave the path and veer to the right. We passed the ruins of what had been the library of the complex and found a group of boulders

where we could sit and have our breakfasts. It was pitch black. We ate in silence. Then we waited. As the tiniest bit of light started to reveal outlines and shadows nearby, I noticed a large silhouette a couple of hundred feet to my right. Unbeknownst to us, a horse was tethered, munching grass. This large critter was so close, yet remained unknown to us until more light illuminated it. It made me wonder, immediately, how many things in my life that horse represented. How many things, sizeable in their nature, were in my life that never hit my awareness?

One of the things the hotel had not packed in our boxes was coffee. As it started getting light, some enterprising young Cambodian women circulated the crowd and were taking coffee orders. Please!!! It was chilly, and I needed caffeine. Pure joy was present when she returned. I take cream and sugar. There was no cream. There also were no insulated cups. In lieu of styrofoam or heavy cardboard cups, all they had were thin plastic cups like we would use for cold drinks. To compensate, they used 2 cups. It was a little tricky to hold that cup, but the atmosphere, environment and energy made it the best cup of coffee I have had to this day.

Slowly the sun rose. As the light appeared, the people disbursed and started exploring the complex. Our group wandered for several hours. For about an hour I sat in a window like opening and observed some of the travelers including a group of monks, one on his cell phone, which seemed such a contrast. And I laughed to myself at the thought of

solar lights ruining this

unforgettable day and all that it had revealed. Sometimes darkness is enlightening. And Americans, for all of their competitiveness and "superiority" do not always know best.

We can't promise you lifetime memories at Candler Park Forever, but we do have some laughs and some good times. Reach out. Join us. It's porch party season! cpforever@candler park.org. We're waiting for you!

Lexa King is the founder of Candler Park Forever, assisting our neighbors to age in place in Candler Park.



Letting Go and Holding On: Tips for Embracing a Positive Mindset

By Gail Turner-Cooper, Candler Park Resident and Certified Health Coach

Our brains are busy organisms. In fact, the average person has an estimated 70,000 thoughts each day. When it comes to your thoughts, are they mostly positive, negative, or somewhere in the middle?

Generating and maintaining more positive thoughts can have myriad benefits on your health. Positive thoughts help boost our moods and spirits, which can improve every aspect of your well-being. Conversely, negative thoughts can weigh heavy on our minds and hold us back, or drag us down.

Embracing a positive mindset is a question of balance. What should you let go of, and what should you hold on

Let go of negative self-talk

Insulting or pitying yourself takes a toll on your health. Negative self-talk encourages our body to say "Cancel! No!" This denies us the capability for self-compassion, and growth.

Hold on to gratitude

Focus on what you do have today, instead of what you feel like you lack. Try keeping a daily gratitude journal to maintain your positive perspective.

Let go of limiting beliefs

When we think, "I can't do that," we're less likely to try. Don't assume the worst or the least from yourself, and instead try to uplift yourself through supporting thinking.

Hold on to your energy and purpose

Believing in yourself and your capabilities is different from bragging. Keep your own strengths in mind, and walk through the world with your head held high. Your posture can impact your mood—make sure it's a positive impact by standing tall and smiling.

Let go of comparison

It's often been said that comparison is the thief of joy. When we spend all our time comparing who we are and what we have to others, we not only diminish ourselves but we diminish our ability to feel joy and admiration for others. It's important to distinguish between our admiration for others, and our inclination to self-judge.



Hold on to uplifting people

If you're surrounded by negative people, you're probably one of them. Instead, find and embrace the friends and family who vibrate on a positive frequency to make you feel encouraged and inspired.

Let go of resisting progress

Making a change is difficult, and often we simply tell ourselves we aren't capable of making progress. If you want to make a big change to your life, encourage yourself to believe that you can by making small changes consistently. They will add up to transform your life.

Hold on to quiet time

It's hard to reflect and make changes if you're surrounded by noise and activity. Take some time regularly to meditate and think quietly with yourself. With a clearer mind, you'll feel your physical tensions melting away.

Let go of your ego

Being right feels good. Being happy feels better. Make room for happiness in the spaces your ego might be taking

Hold on to good deeds

It feels good to do nice things for yourself sometimes, but it feels better to do nice things for others. Practice acts of kindness and notice the positive impact on your mood and energy.

Gail Turner-Cooper is a certified health coach and the founder of Align Health Coaching based in Atlanta. You can learn more about her and Align Health at www. alignhealthcoaching.com.

Honey Garlic Butter Shrimp

By Kerry Dobson, safety@candlerpark.org



This is a fantastic recipe for Spring! It's full of bright fresh flavors and vibrant colors. It all comes together in under 30 minutes and is perfect for being enjoyed al fresco in this beautiful weather. Serve it over rice, pasta or with some fresh bread for sopping up the delicious sauce. This would be a great recipe to try out the fabulous Honey Next Door (www. honeynextdoor.com), a local Atlanta honey produced by one of our own Candler Park residents!

INGREDIENTS

- 1-2 pounds raw jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 6 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 inch fresh ginger, grated
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 jalapeños, seeded and diced
- 4 tbsp salted butter
- 3/4 cup canned coconut milk
- 2 tbsp low sodium soy sauce
- 3 tbsp honey
- 1 lime, zest and juice
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro or basil, chopped
- salt and pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

- Pat the shrimp dry and season with salt and pepper.
- Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. When the oil shimmers, add the shrimp and cook until pink, about 2 minutes per side.
- 3. Add the garlic, ginger, cayenne, jalapeños, and butter. Continue to cook the shrimp in the butter until the garlic begins to caramelize and turn golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes.
- Add the coconut milk, soy sauce, and the honey. Stir to combine and bring the mixture to simmer cooking 2-3
- Remove from heat and stir in the lime juice and zest, and top with fresh cilantro or basil.
- Serve over rice, pasta, or with a side of bread.

This recipe comes from food blog Half Baked Harvest, www. halfbakedharvest.com



CPNO Officer and Committee Report for March 14

Zoning - DJ Roedger, Zoning Officer

V-22-034 - 279 FERGUSON STREET NE - Request for variance - Applicant sought variance to (1) reduce the required front yard setback from 30 feet to 10.2 feet; and (2) reduce the required rear yard setback from 10 feet to 6.9 feet. The applicant needed the variance to allow construction of a second story on the existing home. The footprint of the existing structure will not change and the second story will exist within the existing structure's footprint. The committee voted in support of the variance request.

Education - Shari Gunnin

The education committee again kept up virtually. APS has announced that the 4/5 Academy is no longer on the table. The district has two proposals: option 1- SPARK becomes a dual campus, with the Inman building housing grades 3-5. Mary Lin district lines stay the same. Centennial Academy is rezoned to a different cluster to relieve crowding at Midtown HS. Option 2- the Inman building becomes a new K-5. Inman Park is moved from Mary Lin to SPARK. Centennial Academy is rezoned to a different cluster to relieve crowding at Midtown.

Fundraising - Hallie Meushaw

Exploring the possibility of having a tennis tournament at Candler Park to benefit CPNO in May.

Public Safety - Kerry Dobson

Attended a walk-through of L5P with officer Singh and other members of L5P Homeless Outreach Committee as representative for CP.

External Affairs - Amy Stout

There were two voting items on the agenda for the February 2022 NPU-N meeting that were relevant to Candler Park.

Under Special Events Applications, the Little Five Points Business Association's May Day Market application was added to the fast track and approved without discussion by a unanimous vote.

Under Land Use Amendments, CDP-22-3, an ordinance to amend the Land Use element of the 2021 Atlanta Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) so as to redesignate property located on Fairview Road NE (in Druid Hills) and North Avenue NE (in Candler Park) from Medium Density Residential 0-16 units per acre (MDR 0-16 u/a) and Open Space (OS) Land Use Designations to the Single Family Residential (SFR) Land Use Designation was approved consistent with the prior votes of approval by the CPNO membership and the CPNO zoning committee. This legislation was needed to correct an accidental error introduced into the CDP in 2007. It does not represent an actual change in the land use but rather a reversion back to the correct previous status. Also, there is no legal impact on any previous non-conforming properties. They are grandfathered.

Membership - Roger Bakeman

This month I emailed reminders to 500 people who were CPNO members in 2021 but who hadn't yet renewed for 2022. Many thanks to the 180 who renewed. We now have 300 renewals for 2022. Those

who didn't renew can count on another reminder a few weeks before the April 30 deadline. I didn't send reminders to people who were renewed automatically, that is, members who attended the January or February CPNO meeting, which I took as a request to renew for 2022, or members who joined late last year (Oct, Nov, Dec), which again I took as a request to renew for 2022. The email did contain a typo, mea culpa; I wrote "in 2021 but have not renewed for 2021" which should have been "not renewed for 2022." Thanks to the sharp-eyed members who let me know.

Little Five Points Alliance - Christina Hodgen

- Our Public Safety campaign has raised \$7,400 of the \$10,000 needed to fund our initiatives of security items, clean-ups and a public restroom. The new light and security camera in the Seminole Avenue cul-de-sac will be installed in the next 30 days.
- The L5PA is applying for two different place-making grants, one from AARP and one from ChangeX.
- In order to move the Findley Plaza project forward, the L5PCID and the L5PA will be working together to take over management of the construction.
- We are planning an annual fund raiser to be held in late summer which will focus on telling the stories of people who have made the place that is L5P.
- The TSPLOST 2.0 vote is set for May 24 and \$3 million is allocated for Euclid Ave. and the L5P Mobility Study projects.

Infrastructure Committee - Christina Hodgen

The CPNO Infrastructure Committee (in partnership with the LCN Environment Committee) have accomplished the following during the past 30 days:

- Obtained commitments of additional \$11,000 toward the cost of the study including:
- \$5,000 from the Neighborhood Church
- \$5,000 commitment from Liliana Bakhtiari (will have a fundraiser in May to raise money)
- \$500 from Lake Claire Neighbors
- \$500 from Sean's Candler Park

 Total committed funds to date is \$16,000. Have requests
 out to several local businesses. We were turned down by

 Amir Farokhi's office (they are supportive of the study but
 feel they have contributed to Candler Park already in 2021.)

 Current gap is \$1,800 to \$7,000 depending on finalized
 scope.
- 2. Received proposal from LAS to conduct study (approximately \$17,800 total plus ad alternates).
- Current schedule would be to kick off surveys in April and hold open house session in mid-May.
- Committee continues to meet once a month on the first
 Monday at noon and has been in touch with Atlanta Bicycle
 Coalition, Atlanta DOT, and the Atlanta Design Studio



March 21 CPNO Members meeting (Virtual) - Draft Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Emily Taff, President. The motion to adopt the agenda passed. The motion to approve the February minutes passed.

Guest Speakers:

APD Zone 6 Officer not present.

The Membership heard introductory speeches from the following candidates:

- 1) Bentley Hugins
- 2) Saira Draper

Jonathan Flack, CPNO representative to Candler Park Conservancy, updated the Membership on the Conservancy's plans for Active Lawn and Amphitheater, and the renovation of the playground. He is requesting that the promised \$50,000 be reallocated for use on the playground renovations.

New Business:

Historic Designation Committee (Special Committee)

The motion to establish a Historic Designation Committee tasked with engaging the neighborhood in a conversation about a historic district in Candler Park and to pursue the designation of there is neighborhood support

Treasurer Report- Amy Wheeler, Treasurer

Motion to approve the 2022 Budget passed.

Net Income for the month= \$1390.

Zoning- DJ Roedger, Zoning Officer

Motion to support V22 034(279 Ferguson Street) with the provision that the applicant implement the plans and attend the NPU meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm. Submitted by Bonnie Palter, Secretary March 21, 2022



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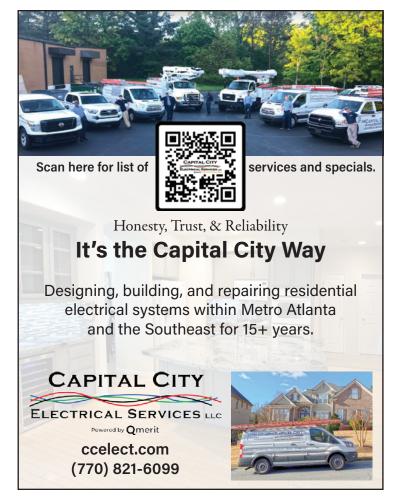
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CPNO Membership Application All who live in Candler Park, or own property or a business in Candler Park, are eligible to join. Mail this application or visit our website to join or renew candlerpark.org Name: Address: Date: Email: **Business applicants** Name of business: Address of business: Name of designated agent: __ Agent's Email: _____ Date: **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.

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