

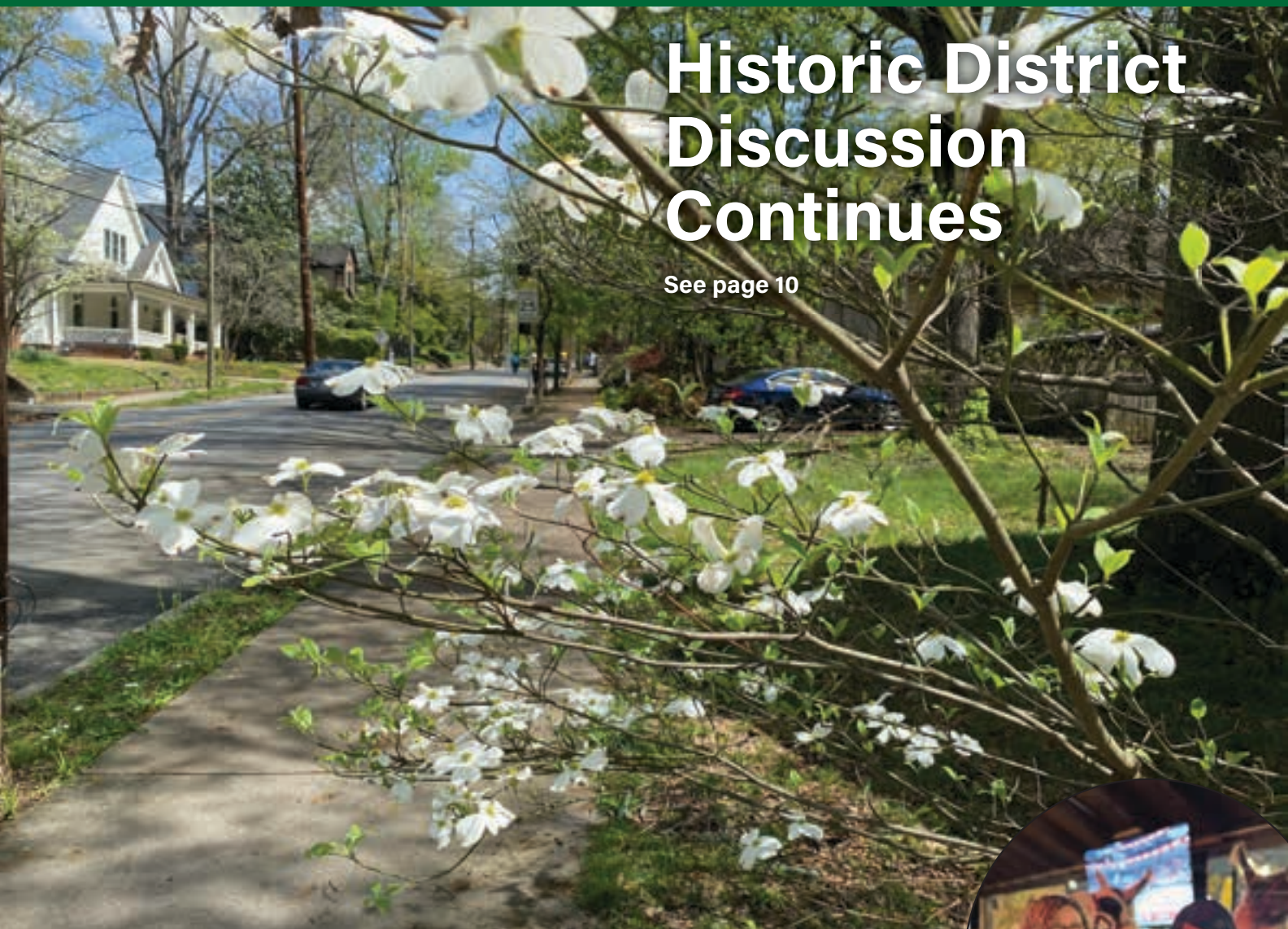


April 2023

MESSENGER

Historic District Discussion Continues

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March Llamas Bring April Showers

By Christina Hodgen , president@candlerpark.org

The llama pub crawl was the most fun you could possibly have on a Thursday night. I even brought a new llama friend home with me. Thank you to Brittany Schwartzwald for planning this amazing event! Save the date for our next one on November 1st.

I'm writing this message during a cold snap but the flowers are already signaling the beginning of spring which is soon to come. April is my favorite month in Atlanta due to the amazing weather and all the possibilities for enjoying our neighborhood. Gardening, patio dining, and walking around the neighborhood seeing everyone outside reminds me why I chose to live here.

Two of our best assets are Mary Lin Elementary

FROM THE PRESIDENT

School and Candler Park. The Mary Lin Elementary PTA is holding the 13th Annual Rocket Run on Sunday, April 30th. Look for information on how to sign up in this edition of the Messenger. When you are running the race around Candler Park, think about how nice it will be to have a new playscape for the many kids in our neighborhood and consider donating to the fundraising efforts of the Candler Park Conservancy. Go to <https://candlerparkconservancy.org/play> to donate!

Happy April!

(I didn't bring a llama home. April Fools!)

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

PRESIDENT president@candlerpark.org	Christina Hodgen
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER membership@candlerpark.org	Roger Bakeman
TREASURER treasurer@candlerpark.org	Amy Wheeler
SECRETARY secretary@candlerpark.org	Bonnie Palter
ZONING OFFICER zoning@candlerpark.org	Jason Key
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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER communications@candlerpark.org	John Fleming
FUNDRAISING OFFICER fundraising@candlerpark.org	Hallie Meushaw
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER externalaffairs@candlerpark.org	DJ Roedger

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 via Zoom.

All CPNO meetings are open to the public. Only registered members are eligible to vote at monthly Members Meetings. Membership applications must be received by Membership Officer by the first day of the month of meeting.

Committee meetings typically take place at The Neighborhood Church, 1561 McLendon Ave., unless otherwise announced. Check online calendar or with committee chair for changes.

Find specific meeting information on page 4 and up-to-date meeting and event information 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

- 15** Deadline to submit content for The Messenger!
- 17** CPNO Membership Meeting, 7-9 pm, Zoom
- 20** Book Club Meeting, Lessons in Chemistry, Bonnie Garmus (For more info, e-mail cpforever@candlerpark.org)

MAY

- 15** Deadline to submit content for The Messenger!
- CPNO Membership Meeting, 7-9 pm, Zoom

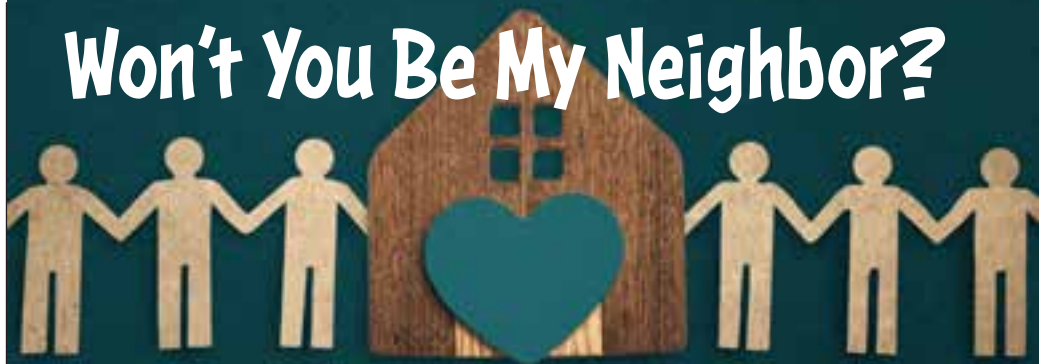
You're Invited To The Block Party!

May 20th @ 11am to 4pm
"Hillcrest Ave" off of Miller Ave near Candler Park

Activities/Other info:
Bounce House, Bocce Ball, Musical Jams, Food And Drinks, Meet Your Neighbors! BYOB

Get ready to mix and mingle with your neighbors! We're thrilled to announce we are bringing back our porch and block party initiative in 2023. Our goal is to promote a stronger sense of community in Candler Park, one party at a time. Whether you're new to the neighborhood or a long-time resident, we invite you to join in on the fun. The rules are simple. CPNO will reimburse your porch party expenses up to \$50, and any block party expenses up to \$250. Application is easy, too. Just submit a proposal to Membership Committee member, Michael Falkenstein (membership@candlerpark.org). Tell us what you have in mind and the dates for your party. Our team can even provide tips and resources to help you plan a successful event, from food and drinks to games and activities. Lastly, give us sufficient time so we can get the word out via monthly member meetings and The Messenger. See you out there!

Won't You Be My Neighbor?



Submitted by Lexa King

There are benefits to living in the same place long term. You know the history behind the place, which can be fascinating. I can only speak to the last 40 years of Candler Park, but watching it play in front of me and playing a part in some of the highlights has been a mixture of fun, frustration, elation, celebration, growth and, at times, tears. I can remember when a typical CPNO meeting consisted of about a dozen people and our bank account had a 3 digit dollar balance.

Over time my participation has ebbed and waned depending on my employment, my children's needs and my interest in the cause du jour. I have served on the Board numerous times, worked on Fall Fest, including managing the Tour of Homes three times, run some fund raising efforts, and recently founded Candler Park Forever.

My intro to Candler Park revolved around the "E Church". There were so many attractive things I noticed about the neighborhood - the many parks, tree-lined streets, charming bungalows, nearby shops and restaurants, an improving school system and an abundance of resident artists! We were living on the south side of town, yearning to find the right place to land "Intown". It turned out to be Candler Park. Definitely one of the best choices in my life.

It didn't take long for me to become immersed in the ways of CP residents. The fight against The Road was getting under way. Road Busters was forming. I joined. I protested. I demonstrated. All new ground for me. I was raised to follow rules, pay attention to authority, be a good girl. But now I was divorced with 2 small daughters. The win against City Hall was not only a personal victory, but I feel that when we, as a community, have been threatened by outside forces, we have an amazing ability to organize, rally the troops and be victorious for our own best interests. It provided the glue to bind us together. The Road was just the first time I saw it. There have been at least a few threats around school redistricting. Many have fought for Mary Lin to become a strong school. And for us to remain in the ML,

Inman, Grady cluster. All of these threats and struggles have made us better, stronger. And we have developed a reputation based on that.

But these were threats from the outside against us. Now some people perceive that we have an internal threat. But let's just call it what it is. It is a difference of opinion. We knew we didn't want a Roadway physically dividing us, creating noise and pollution. We knew we wanted better performing schools. Those were no brainers.

Now we are trying to reach agreement on an important issue that may influence the way our neighborhood looks and is known in the future. Do we want to continue to allow investors to knock down bungalows and build zero lot line multi-unit housing connected by garages? They pad their pockets with profits, leaving behind monstrosities that shade their smaller neighbors and require mammoth air conditioning units.

But I'm not here to debate that particular issue. I'm here to debate the process. I have heard several mistruths about what the end goal here is. We are not trying to push through a cookie cutter, extremely restrictive, city-designed plan. That is how this differs from previous efforts. The city will not dictate what colors we paint our homes. You won't have to make changes to existing structures to bring them into "compliance". We get to decide how we want this to go. Things that appeal to me are front porches and no front facing garages. You want that? Go out to Alpharetta. But we can get to talk about and discuss and decide these things. There has been a lot of misinformation spread with the intent of scaring people. That seems to be part of our times. PLEASE, I BEG YOU, GET THE TRUTH BEFORE DIGGING IN YOUR HEELS. Do your homework and learn what this really is and how it will protect our home values and the unique flavor of our stellar, much-loved neighborhood. Take the advice of Mr. Rogers' mom. Look for the helpers and uncover the truth.



Get Involved!! historiccandlerpark.org

Welcome and Thanks!

By Roger Bakeman, membership@candlerpark.org

CPNO welcomes new members:

- Peter and Ana Andon
- Clay Cameron
- Jacob Jacob
- Liz Mullen
- Roberta Stutzman (lifelong portrait painter and resident since 2006)
- ... and 15 others who wished to remain anonymous.

CPNO thanks members for their donation:

- Donna Church
- Polly Sattler
- Heberlein/Sevigny family
- ... and 10 other who wished to remain anonymous.



CONTACT US TODAY

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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 editor.

Articles must be signed and submitted via email to editor@candlerpark.org by the 18th of the month prior to publication.

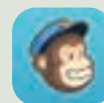
If you have a news tip or story idea, please email relevant information including contacts to editor@candlerpark.org or call the editor.

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

Saturday April 22, 2023: The PBJ Poetry Festival at Bibliotech Bookstore



Hi, I'm Silvia Medrano-Edelstein, your neighbor in Candler Park and otherwise known as Silvia on the Ukulele. April is National Poetry Month and on Saturday, April 22, I'm presenting the PBJ Poetry Festival in its third year. Bibliotech Books, our independent rare bookstore right in the heart of the business district on Oakdale and McLendon Avenues is our venue host featuring 24 emerging talent and published poets.

The "PBJ" refers to peanut butter and jelly—that nostalgic Americana childhood sandwich. The first festival during the pandemic was broadcast on a virtual house concert site known as Kimono My House. It had a weekly program known as the BLT Show with two hosts and a changing lineup of featured guests sandwiched in the middle. The PBJ Poetry Festival was its poetry counterpart and refers to the archetype of the poor poet who subsists on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The three letters, like poetry, stand for so much using so little.

The 24 poets are mostly from Atlanta and surrounding areas but two are traveling from Alabama and North Carolina. The original music-house poetry festival featured musician-songwriters, some of whom are returning. The poets that have recently published will have their works with them.

This year, sign language interpretation provided by Hands in Motion, LLC will add visual poetry to our event. The sign language is made possible by support by Cynthia Baer Real Estate who's always supporting events throughout Candler Park. These poetry-and-sign-language sets will be videotaped and edited by Heck.house, a local community-involved non-profit arts venue and its newly launched HckTV, a multi-media Youtube channel. Additional arts support provided by local band, CJ Jones and the Spirit Bones.

Facebook event page:

The PBJ Poetry Festival Third Annual Event:
<https://fb.me/e/2lIEJQ8fu>

See Facebook event page for the poet timeline

Poets:

Kodac Harrison, Rupert Fike, Dennis Coburn, Mudcat, Steven Shields, Johnny Hibbert, Carmen Melton Bennet, Alex Johns, Kristin Gorell, Gordon Johnston, Jade Rivers, Lee Furey, Karen Paul Holmes, Heather Vitale, Tom Cheshire, Jon Phipps, Sunday Jones, Wendy Dumond, Jeff Evans, Barb Moose Carbon, Tommy Conlon, Paul Cornwell, and Silvia Medrano-Edelstein

Venue:

Bibliotech Books Atlanta

<https://www.instagram.com/bibliotech/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BibliotechATL/>

Media:

Heck.house and HckTV

<https://www.heck.house>

Sign language provider:

Hands in Motion, LLC

<https://handsinmotion.yolasite.com>

Sign language sponsor:

Cynthia Baer Real Estate

<https://www.cynthiabaer.com/>

Sponsor:

CJ Jones and the Spirit Bones

www.cledusjeremiahjones.com

Organizer:

Silvia Medrano-Edelstein

Tiktok@passionfruitpoetry



Machete Mama

By Silvia Medrano-Edelstein

Mama with a machete
Skirt hitched up past her knees
Chopping away at a city jungle
With bruce lee's expertise

Now she's moved into the city
To a bungalow in town
But still hits coconuts between the eyes
And wears orchids in her crown

Still the tiger she ever was
Though the machete is used for cooking
Coconut ginger and garlic too
It's steamy in her kitchen

She never dreams of island life
The pond was too small there
In the city she grows a banana tree
She's made her garden there

RE: In Person CPNO Meetings Are We Ready?

It was circa 2011 when one Monday evening as I laced up my sneakers my wife asked, “Where are you going?” I replied, “To see what our neighbors are up to.” We had lived on Page Avenue since 2004 and I only had a casual understanding of what The Candler Park Neighborhood Organization was or what its primary directives were. Admittedly, I had some preconceived notions about what I thought CPNO was all about, and by golly I was going to get to the bottom of it. After all, I had come to love our neighborhood on a much deeper level than I had ever anticipated, and so I had a genuine interest in learning more about what the organization meant to the neighborhood, and less about the machinations I imagined being developed. What I found that first night changed my level of engagement for years to come.

My discovery that first night was a small group of neighbors who were passionate about all things Candler Park, and who called themselves the CPNO and had been for decades. There were servant leaders in the form of a board, committees, and neighborhood participants. There was food and wine...AND beer...at the meeting! The participants were all giving their time, their energy, and their hearts to advocating for the other approx 4000 residents who lived within Candler Park's borders. I had found my people! Like clockwork, on the third Monday of every month, they gathered at the Old Stone Church (AKA First E) on Candler Park Drive to talk about issues impacting Candler Park, and about the things we all love like Fall Fest, Easter Egg Hunts, Movies in the park, Grants to organizations we support, Mary Lin... etc etc. They also dealt with some tough topics, like variances, Sweetwater 420, Crime, and the toughest of all, Roberts Rules (still not sure I understand them but thankfully Bonnie Palter our long time secretary does.). What I found most satisfying though, was the comradery, friendship, and a genuine desire by all to make CP a great place to live.

Fast forward to the pandemic and...well we all know what happened. The speed

at which the CPNO board was able to react and to recover was nothing short of amazing. Within the first month or two, the CPNO had come back “online” with the use of technology and while many of us pined for those days of sitting at First E with dinner in our lap, the business of CPNO continued in the face of a great challenge nobody could have predicted. Not only continued, but also many would point out “thrived” with an explosion of attendance that the virtual environment allowed. No longer was the question of who'll make dinner or watch the kids, or what other commitments will I not be able to make because I want to get over to First E to attend the CPNO meeting. These obstacles became virtually (no pun intended) nonexistent. Engagement grew, (see attendance 3/20/23*) meetings ran smoothly (mostly) and new connections albeit only in the virtual world were made. Given all the positives, the pining for face-to-face personal interactions never ended for some of us and instead a weariness and readiness to resume in the “real world” has us asking “are we ready yet?”

Are we ready? Ready to raise a physical hand? To look each other in the eye and say I agree or don't agree with this or that proposal? This is a question I'd like to put to the membership in April. “Shall CPNO resume in person meetings in May of 2023?” For those who wish to still attend virtually, there are low budget “hybrid” options that many of us have probably been part of at conferences, work events, and learning workshops that can accommodate “remote attendees”. That said, Board members, committee leaders (when applicable), and those who wish to have business considered by the membership should be required to attend in person unless exceptional circumstances exist that would prevent them from doing so. Ok neighbors, what do you think? Are we ready to jump back into the physical world and meet up at First E at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of every month? I'll meet you there!

**250+ in attendance for discussion regarding “Historic Designation – move forward or not” vote.*

Strawberry Buttermilk Cake

Submitted by Kerry Dobson

The beginning of strawberry season is around the corner... HOORAY! As soon as you see some ripe berries appear at the farmers market snatch them up then immediately run home and make this fabulous cake.



The outside is crisp and sweet, and the inside is moist and creamy. It's perfect for breakfast, dessert, and everything in between. And it's unbelievably easy and impossible to mess up.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup of granulated sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- 14 oz fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced (if you buy a pound of strawberries just set a few aside for serving)

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 350F. Lightly spray a 9 or 10 inch spring form pan. Whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt and set aside. Cream the butter and sugar together in a stand mixer for 3-4 minutes, until light and fluffy. Scrape down the side of the bowl a couple of times. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, and then beat in the vanilla. Stir the sour cream and buttermilk together to blend, and then add the flour to the mixing bowl alternately with the sourcream/milk, beginning and ending with the flour. Mix until combined, but don't over mix. Fold in the berries and turn into the prepared pan. Smooth out the top. Sprinkle the surface of the cake liberally with granulated sugar. Bake for 40-45 minutes, or until the cake no longer jiggles in the center and the top is golden and slightly crackled. The exact cooking time will depend on the pan size you use. You can insert a toothpick in the center to test. Let cool briefly, and then unlatch the spring and remove the outer ring. I like to run a spreading knife along the edge first to loosen any parts of the cake that are sticking to the pan. Cool completely on a rack before slicing.

YOUNG BLOOD:

Local Independent Design Shop Coming to Candler Park

Local indie retail store, YOUNG BLOOD, is thrilled to announce its relocation to Candler Park. The shop was located in Poncey-Highland from 2007 to 2021, but is relocating from their Atlanta Dairies location in Reynoldstown – after spending just shy of two years there.

YOUNG BLOOD specializes in goods from local and international independent artists and designers. From handmade jewelry and one-of-a-kind ceramics to small batch local chocolate bonbons and niche fragrance (both personal and home), the shop offers an ever-evolving selection of unique finds selected by artist-owners Rebecca Hanna and Ayla Gurganus.

“We’re thrilled to be moving to Candler Park,” said co-owner Ayla. “It’s a beautiful neighborhood with a lot of energy and creativity. We can’t wait to get to know the community and be a part of it.”

The new location will feature the same warm, welcoming environment YOUNG BLOOD’s customers have come to know and love. Co-owner Rebecca explains, “We’re inspired by historic spaces, so we’re having fun taking design cues from the existing features. Our color palette came from the prominent original brick walls running down both sides of the shop, and the day we painted the ceiling pink the space really sparked to life! We can’t wait to see it all come together, and share the space with everyone.”

The new location will be open for business in mid-April at 1392 McLendon Ave NE, between Sean’s Candler Park and BiblioTech. In the meantime, follow along on instagram @youngbloodboutique for the latest updates. For more information, please email hello@youngbloodboutique.com.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LISTING: *FIDDLER'S GREEN*

Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse presents Blackfoot Daisy and Friction Farm Saturday, April 15, 7:00 pm, at First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, 470 Candler Park Dr. NE. The trio Blackfoot Daisy plays original, Americana-style music. Based in the Atlanta metro area, they describe themselves as "a little haunted by the prairie, the wind, the shifting of tall grasses, the sound of crickets, and a lonesome train whistle drifting through the night." Consisting of Don Sechelski, Wendy DuMond and Tom Wolf, the group has a strong following at local coffeehouses and other acoustic venues. The modern-folk duo Friction Farm is a husband-and-wife team of internationally traveling troubadours. Aidan Quinn and Christine Stay combine storytelling, social commentary and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, and quirky observations. Friction Farm's lyrically rich, harmony-driven songs have earned them spots as Kerrville New Folk Finalists and Falcon Ridge Emerging Artists. They are winners of the South Florida Folk Festival songwriter competition and have performed as official showcase artists at Regional Folk Alliance Conferences. Presented by Atlanta Area Friends of Folk Music (AAFFM). Admission: Minimum Admission (cash or check): \$10 general, \$8 AAFFM and 1st E. Cong. members; additional contributions appreciated. Masks are encouraged. More information: www.aaffm.org (go to AAFFM Events) or 404-444-2334.

(AAFFM is a non-profit organization.)



L5P Halloween Art Contest

Send us your art to be considered for the 2023 L5P Halloween Art Contest! Go to our website for details.

<https://www.l5pbiz.com/halloween-art-contest>

Little 5 Points first "Sip and Scrap" will be April 16, Sunday, at 4pm at L5 Corner Tavern

Come create art with Scraplanta to take home or to decorate L5P Plazas! This is FREE!

Scraplanta is a non-profit organization that keeps scraps out of the landfill.

We will be decorating the plaza for RECORD STORE/EARTH DAY which is April 22.

Updates from the Freedom Park Conservancy:

Freedom Park offers gratitude to Jimmy Carter

The history of Freedom Park and The Carter Center are as entwined as their physical boundaries. With Carter in hospice, neighbors and Atlantans expressed their appreciation for his selfless life dedicated to service.

Freedom Park Master Plan update:

All neighborhood associations have given full support to the incorporation of proposed amendments into the Master Plan. On March 8th the City Council voted to include the Freedom Park Master Plan into The Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Atlanta.

The Plensa sculpture near North Highland and East John Lewis Freedom Pkwy has been installed. The site will soon be open to the public. No word from the City on an opening date.

Responding to Fake News about Historic District Designation

Robert M. Craig, Candler Park Resident

Editor's Note: This piece was submitted too late to be included in the March issue, but as this is an ongoing debate, it is included here even though the vote of confidence was held at the March 20 meeting.

Several misunderstandings regarding historic district designation encourage this response so that, in our present era of “fake news,” we do not form opinions based on falsities and uncompromising ideological dogma. I hold a Ph.D. degree from Cornell University in the History of Architecture and Urban Development. I served two terms on Georgia’s National Register Review Board, and I was appointed by Maynard Jackson to the Atlanta Urban Design Commission, serving as its chair. I dealt with historic district guidelines in both roles, and when decisions were to be made, the criteria that was repeatedly turned to was the neighborhood’s guidelines (what they wrote to govern themselves). Without such district guidelines overlaying city zoning (guidelines which varied by neighborhood), decision makers were forced to abide by generic regulations, zoning profiles, and developer demands which rarely conformed to a neighborhood’s individual needs nor the values residents sought to preserve.

I invite anyone with real concerns to participate in the committee’s work to design such protective guidelines for Candler Park, a process that is underway. I also encourage you NOT to be beguiled by misinformation being generated in order to solicit your negative vote in March. Many are false assumptions and incorrect characterizations advanced in order to stop this neighborhood-based effort at its outset. There will be ample opportunity to help include whatever may genuinely concern you that serves the community at large; unfortunately, there are some who wish to condemn the community effort and are making false claims about the process and about the yet-to-be-written guidelines themselves.

A “yes” vote in March does not finalize the product; it merely encourages the current effort to define our own future. This is particularly important, indeed vital at the present moment, in light of the current trend toward eliminating all zoning in Atlanta, a top-down threat which city officials may be blackmailed into accepting in fear of losing federal funds, as some observers have cautioned. Historic district protection guards against that completely unconstrained no-zone mapping which leaves open the door for outside developers free to insert any building type, scale, function, and adverse impact on our residential neighborhood.

Historic district designation will not answer every social, economic, political, and cultural issue for our diverse community, but, thoughtfully designed guidelines (that we write for ourselves) can go far to preserve what we value and allow for what we seek further to adopt. This is a grass roots effort. Do not be beguiled by those proclaiming “No one is going to tell me what I can and cannot do,” and watch out at red traffic lights for such people, as they may feel entitled to speed through the intersection in “liberated” disregard for cross traffic, bicyclists, school kids, or pedestrians, under the banner of equity and those proclaimed individual rights “not to be told what to do.” Nor, I might add, will the process cost us tens of thousands of dollars!

So what is the fake news being disseminated in order to encourage you to vote no?

1. FAKE NEWS #1:

Guidelines will disallow solar panels, handicap ramps, room additions, private vegetable gardens, Christmas lights, and make-shift children’s swings hanging from a tree limb. FALSE.

Properly written guidelines can define a) that solar panels, handicap ramps, etc are allowed; and b) guidelines regarding how

such may be sensitively installed. The Home Owners Association [HOA] analogy is specious; no historic district guidelines will dictate an aesthetic preference of a minority committee specifying required architectural style, allowable garden species, or only fescue grass cut in parallel lines to the street, etc. (although some HOAs do!)

2. FAKE NEWS #2:

I can’t paint my house the color I want. FALSE.

Guidelines do not restrict color choice. Advice is available regarding historic color schemes, but a home owner has autonomy on this issue.

3. FAKE NEWS #3:

Historic Districts limit affordable housing. FALSE.

In fact, the opposite is true; historic district designation can safeguard the affordable housing that already exists from salivating developers who see open-landscaped two-story apartment complexes in Candler Park as ripe for demolition to be replaced by 4- to 12- story apartment or condo units, built lot line to lot line without adequate (or any) parking requirement, available at 6 times the existing rental rates. In the face of no zoning, historic district designation/zoning can safeguard even existing Candler Park multi-family complexes against displacement by outside developers interested in “flipping” what is currently affordable into “denser” units no longer affordable. We see abundant evidence of that with displaced single-family houses. A larger multi-family property, currently providing affordable housing, is even more likely to flip if zoning disappears (whether within a 1-mile radius of MARTA stations or more broadly city-wide).



Historic District Designation: preserving the character, scale, and ambiance of Candler Park



Co-op City, Bronx: a model of open space, density, and affordability---how “radiant” the city!

4. FAKE NEWS #4:

Historic designation will prevent increased density, walkability, and greener commutes in Candler Park. Partly True and Partly FALSE.

If increased density means cramming 17 units into a larger historic home, as occurred at the Robert Griggs House in Inman Park during a period when the now highly desirable neighborhood became a slum, then historic designation, like housing codes, can set limits for the benefit of the “general welfare,” a fundamental principle of our Constitution. It is absurd to suggest that historic designation would limit walkability, bicycling, and “greener commutes,” as districts nationwide and abroad demonstrate. Citing such buzz words in order to promote a rejection of your neighbors’ efforts to preserve what we so value in Candler Park (these very values of a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly community (as well as other amenities), is destructive and misleading. One might as well say historic district designation rejects motherhood and apple pie—irrelevant! Look at any historic district in Atlanta, in the US, or in Europe and the absurdity of this premise is self-evident. Many historic cores of European cities have become pedestrian only districts. Enlightened historic urban districts offer existing models for transportation/ pedestrian corridors: parallel but segregated roadbeds and paths for a) rail, b) bus c) auto, d) bicycles/joggers, e) pedestrians and baby strollers, and such has enhanced the livability of the district. If every plot of land in a residential neighborhood is open to any type of development, or worse yet allows indiscriminate and unconstrained ideology to embrace “increased density” for its own sake, then we are open to our homes being displayed by concentrations of high-rise, affordable housing units (potentially maximized as superblocks): voilà, you create Co-Op City in the Bronx, not a model to emulate.

Higher density may not be as noble a concept as ideologues present it to be, and as thriving businesses in Candler Park and Little Five Points already give evidence, our neighborhood is not lacking in pedestrians or green commuters; designation can maintain and preserve our existing local shops and neighborhood business districts compatible with our needs and the scale of our neighborhood. Promoters of density on steroids (above) are encouraged to develop vacant areas of Atlanta elsewhere (of which there are many) where amenities, mixed use, mixed income, and diverse communities can be planned and designed to maximum benefit.

But the already denser historical residential

neighborhoods whose values of scale, character, safe walkability, and services may not as readily accommodate multistoried towers as effectively as would a virgin site, should be protected. Residents should not be condemned if they seek to preserve historic values and traditional single-family homes without being told that climate change demands the opposite.

5. FAKE NEWS #5:

Historic designation exacerbates gentrification. FALSE.

The real villain promoting gentrification is the property tax office and legislature both of whom are motivated to continue to suck more and more tax dollars from property owners on the basis of comparison with ever more expensive over-developed new construction. If you want to address gentrification, lobby the legislature to set limits on annual tax rate increases except at time of new purchase, to balance tax rate increases with millage rate decreases, and to exempt elderly homeowners, regardless of income, from the school tax portion of their tax bill after a certain [retirement] age.

6. FAKE NEWS #6:

The planning process will be dominated by a handful of people who are not responsive to community wishes. Cynical and FALSE.

Anyone can participate. Set your priorities. Communicate your genuine concerns. I cannot adequately characterize the contradictory nature of an argument against a democratic process by which neighbors define their own future while others complain those willing to contribute their time on behalf of the whole community are somehow the bad guys. Hitting the buzz words of two incomes, raising young children, and/or eldercare is merely an excuse as Candler Park history shows: those new to Candler Park and Druid Hills can be forever grateful that your neighbors, a generation ago (they too were then juggling kids, eldercare, and less than stellar incomes) did not then fail to contribute selflessly against huge odds, when the “road fight” was won against GDOT, stopping the “presidential parkway” at the county line and saving Olmsted’s linear parks (a national historic landmark). Expend your energy by contributing, not complaining that you don’t have time, or by spreading fake news.

7. FAKE NEWS #7:

Historic designation honors as significant the neighborhood’s painful and regrettable past. FALSE and pure nonsense.

The historic period of significance of any historic district defines the date of the building stock in the district. One

need not play the race card nor suggest a particular element of the population such as LGBTQ is being dismissed on the basis of a chronological definition that merely dates 90% of the building stock in a neighborhood/ historic district.

8. FAKE NEWS #8:

The process is undemocratic because only homeowner’s views, not renters, are valued. FALSE.

The neighbors whom you so accuse who are engaged in this effort to designate Candler Park don’t care if Aunt Bea from Mayberry drops by for the weekend and has a good idea that can serve to protect the neighborhood from those who would erode its values (economic, social, or aesthetic). It is true that some believe that those who own their homes, condos, OR townhomes might be a bit more invested than a renter who may move out of the district next month. Home ownership is usually the largest single investment of our lives, and whether a tenant cannot afford to buy or simply prefers not to be responsible for home ownership, yet that fact does not measure up to the commitment that property owners have and why their participation may be more at the head of the line than a renter’s. However much this view may appear to be common sense to some, it will be ideologically anathema to others. In any case, renters are not second-class Candler Park citizens, but they are more usually temporary (some renting as a “first home” later to buy elsewhere; students, who rent but soon graduate taking a job elsewhere; individuals not committed to the ownership demands of building upkeep, maintenance, and repair. It is not unfair to suggest that some renters therefore may be less committed to the neighborhood than neighbors who have invested thousands of dollars in their home. And yet the door is open to renters and to owners alike to help shape the ideal guidelines for Candler Park. On the other hand, what would be tragic would be a misdirected effort to encourage a group of otherwise uninvested residents, guided by incorrect information, simply to show up for the vote with the intention (to borrow a metaphor earlier advanced) to burn the verboten book before it is read, or, indeed, before it is even written. That, I submit, is the most shameful disservice you could inflict on your neighbors. This is not a red or blue cause. It is a neighborhood effort intended to benefit the whole over the long term.

VOTE YES and volunteer to help shape this protective effort as a genuine contributing neighbor.

OPINION March 20 Vote of Confidence a Procedural Failure

By **Aria Finkelstein, Master of Science in Urban Design, Master of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology College of Design**
Doctoral Candidate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Urban Studies and Planning

On March 20, CPNO held a vote at its monthly meeting to determine whether there was support moving forward in a process to design a Candler Park Historic District. The vote was in favor. The process leading to its outcome was a travesty.

For people to speak on the historic designation vote, there was a requirement to raise a hand (using the Zoom “raise hand button”) and be called on by the meeting facilitators, but throughout the meeting there were many raised hands ignored. Attendees, including voting members, were frequently chastised for speaking out of turn.

In the interest of accessibility, and in order to give people a moment to consider the statements that people had made in favor or against a vote of confidence, there were motions put forward and seconded (in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order - the official procedural rules of CPNO meetings as outlined in the CPNO Bylaws) that people be given longer than 90 seconds to read the poll before voting. Specifically,

the motion to extend the poll for the historic designation committee “vote of confidence” to a full five minutes was laughed at and discarded without consideration. Its duration was the same as that of other votes conducted via “Zoom Polls,” but unlike the historic district vote these polls were procedural and largely without controversy. From the outset of the meeting, facilitators and participants alike acknowledged that its high turnout (over 275 connected devices) was due to the importance of a “vote of confidence” for the historic designation committee to continue to the next phase in the process.

The ballot as put forward had an accidental extra question, a placeholder with choices “Option A” or “Option B.” The error confused many, who said so both out loud and in the chat. In and of itself this mistake should have been enough to require a new poll be issued, but requests for this were disregarded with disdain and without consideration. When people drew attention to these problems, the specific justifications against redoing the

improper vote were that some people had already left or that an accurate tally of votes wouldn’t make a difference in the outcome. This speculation did not take into account that the votes had yet to be validated and that some votes would count for more than one person in the same household sharing a computer. A motion to reconsider the poll was made, seconded, and summarily dismissed.

The committee deserves thanks for their commitment and hard work. A historic designation has the potential to leave an important, lasting mark on our community and to shape its future, but as things stand any process going forward on the basis of this vote has no legitimacy. The way the vote of confidence came about bodes very poorly for any prospects of a process purporting to be inclusive and welcoming of broad community participation. This was a sham, and it will make it very hard to see the next steps in any related process as serious in consideration of a majority of community stakeholders.

Official results from the CPNO Board March 20 Historic Designation Committee Vote

After an equal discussion from parties both in favor of and against the motion put forward by the Historic Designation Committee, a motion was put forward to call the question (calling the question would end the discussion and proceed with the vote on the motion). The official results of this motion to call the question were the following:

198 in favor, 38 opposed (84% in favor with 236 members voting with 1 abstention)

The motion put forward by the Historic Designation Committee was the following: Support moving forward with a 10–14 month inclusive process to engage Candler Park residents and work with a consultant

to define and draft proposed regulations for a potential Candler Park Historic District. The official results of this motion put forth by the Historic Designation Committee were the following:

149 in favor, 91 opposed (62% in favor with 240 members voting and 2 abstentions)

CPNO and the neighborhood will wait to hear what the Historic Designation Committee has planned going forward. The next CPNO meeting is on Monday, April 17th at 7pm. If you haven’t already, please join or renew at candlerpark.org and please stay involved!

Living in Candler Park: *My Experience as a Renter*

By Meshall Shumate, Candler Park Resident

As I step out of my copacetic rental apartment in Candler Park, I am instantly greeted by the beautiful sights and sounds of this historic district. The sun is peeking over the horizon, casting a golden glow over the charming mixed-style homes that line the tree-lined streets. The peacefulness of the afternoon is only interrupted by the pounding of a runner's shoes hitting the concrete and the click click click of pedal strokes of a bicyclist racing by.

Walking alongside me is my faithful companion, my furry four-legged friend, who is equally excited to explore the wonders of the neighborhood. It's an absolute joy to wave or nod at friends and neighbors near and far.

Candler Park is rich in history, good and bad. As I stroll past the old-stone church and ball field I am reminded of the Rose Hill African American community and the people who were forced to move out against their will. Even as I remember, I know that today Candler Park offers a peaceful oasis in the heart of the city, with its expansive greenery, a swimming pool, and tennis courts. As we make our way through the park, we can't help but feel grateful for the opportunity to live in such a beautiful place, a little slice of heaven in the middle of the bustling city.

As we head back to our apartment, we stop to speak to a neighbor. After an exchange of pleasantries, the topic of the declining affordability of living in Candler Park is brought up. Questions such as: What happened to the cost of rent? Why is it unaffordable for so many people? When did rent start rising so quickly? Is it a backlash of the Covid pandemic? Can the new historic designation committee help renters?

My mind drifts back to my rental experiences in Georgia, after moving from Los Angeles, California. My first introduction to the Atlanta rental market was on the southwest side of town, just three miles from downtown, a predominately African American community. It was overflowing with a mix of ethnic and economic diversity and rich cultural backgrounds. I lived just a few blocks from the landmark Wrens Nest in the historic West End and the four historic black colleges.

The West End was a vibrant bustling community with an array of colorful people to match. I think my rent was \$450. My next rental was a one-bedroom Spanish villa apartment on Peoples Street with stucco walls and a terracotta roof. It rented for a modest \$500 a month. Sadly, after several break-ins, vandalized car windows, and an uncomfortably observant stranger telling me how late my daily dog walk was, I was no longer comfortable living there.

I quickly moved to a snazzy Inman Park apartment in a primarily white neighborhood. It was a family-friendly place, perfect for me and my little dog. I enjoyed the Highland Bakery on Virginia Highland, which I visited often. For five fun years I lived at the Springvale Apartments, tucked in a nook at the bottom of a winding hill. This cozy apartment was directly across the street from Springvale Park and the conspicuous Baker's Brigade Historical marker, reminding folks of Georgia's Civil War legacy. My daily dog strolls and walks to Little Five Points on weekends to meet friends were pleasurable. Life was fun in my \$650 two-bedroom apartment when suddenly things took a turn.

The owner of the apartments began to find it difficult to maintain the property and there were rumors of a possible sale. It didn't take long for me to see the handwriting on the wall, and I decided it was time to move. Luckily, I found another great rental in the diverse, mixed community of historic Candler Park a short distance from my favorite trendy, diverse Little Five Points shops. I now welcome Goldboro Park, Freedom Park, Candler Park, and Iverson Park.

Happy again, but now facing another serious issue. It is a fact within the last

five to six years, many historic districts across the United States have been grappling with the issue of housing affordability. For renters living in these districts, rent increases have made it increasingly difficult to find and maintain affordable housing.

The issue of housing affordability in historic districts is a complex one, and there are no easy solutions. To combat this crisis, some historic districts across the county are making efforts to include rent control, inclusionary zoning and housing vouchers, but more needs to be done. In general, I think historic committees could be a potential ally for tenants, seeking to prevent teardowns of existing and relatively affordable apartments, fighting for tenant protections, and supporting policies that support fair access to housing.

Although working with historic committees hasn't always been a happy experience for tenants, many have found them to be a useful tool for resolving their housing concerns. Renters may contribute to making sure that their housing requirements are taken into account in discussions concerning the preservation of historic structures and the creation of fair housing policies by collaborating with historic committees. Another important step for renters is to stay informed about local housing policies and educate themselves on these matters. By keeping up to date on developments in our community and advocating for policies that may help make housing more affordable. This includes organizing town hall meetings, attending neighborhood association meetings, creating tenant associations, and building relationships with local elected officials. Lastly and most importantly, renters must voice their concerns and advocate for their needs.

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What Causes High Blood Pressure?

Gail Turner-Cooper,
Founder Align Health Coaching



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A common cause of high blood pressure is the consistent intake of processed foods high in sugar and salt. Soda, candy, chips, crackers, and bread are all packed full of salt and sugar to make them tasty. Unfortunately, the same things that make them so irresistible are what make them so tough on your body. Other common habits also increase blood pressure like drinking alcohol, smoking (or vaping), and drinking lots of caffeine.

There are other factors that can lead to high blood pressure outside of what you ingest. Sustained emotional stress can throw your system off. Lacking daily exercise raises blood pressure and likely will lead to an increased weight which also has the same effect. Another cause can be heavy metal poisoning, especially lead and mercury, which is a good area to check if you feel like the other causes are not likely for you.

How do I lower my blood pressure naturally? It starts with food.

The most effective method for lowering your blood pressure is to analyze your diet and choose foods that serve your healthy body. A huge food culprit in driving your blood pressure upward is sugar with refined flour a close second. Processed foods that come out of a box that has sat on a shelf for several months are almost always high in salt and sugar even if they claim to be healthy. These foods cause inflammation in your body. To lower blood pressure, eat more plants. Fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, and good oils like olive (not canola or

“vegetable”) are your friends. Sugar, grains, and bad oils are making your body work hard every day and high blood pressure is a common sign of this issue.

For additional dietary support, there are a few key nutrients that can greatly reduce high blood pressure. Most Americans lack magnesium, and it can be hard to get enough through your diet due to how we have treated farming/soil. Using a magnesium supplement can be a great start to address your blood pressure. There are many types that have different secondary effects so it is worth spending a little time finding the right one for you. You will want to consult your doctor before starting any supplements or vitamins to make sure they are right for you. A high-quality fish oil supplement to provide omega-3 fatty acids, which reduce inflammation, is a great solution if wild-caught salmon is tough to find (or afford) or you just can't eat sardines daily (no judgment). Potassium is found abundantly in many vegetables, avocados, bananas, and leafy greens and is not a vitamin that generally should require supplementation. The issue is that the balance between potassium and salt is heavily tilted toward salt in most people. Adding a few potassium-rich foods can be helpful though, such as bananas, avocado, spinach, and coconut water if you are looking for a sweet drink (in moderation). To be clear, the excess salt in our diets is from the additives in the packaged foods, not the small amount added to a home-cooked meal. Those boxed foods need a huge amount of salt and sugar to taste decent. If you do want to limit your salt additions in home cooking, just wait until the end of the cooking process when you will taste that salt more so you can use less.

Give me some other ways to lower my blood pressure!

There are a few habit changes that can make big differences.

- Daily exercise of at least 30 minutes. Walking, jogging, cycling, swimming, interval training, and strength training all are ways to get your body moving. The key is to be consistent and get out there every day.
- Limit alcohol to a few drinks a week, at most, or none at all (best option).
- Quitting smoking or vaping is a huge benefit for your system.
- Getting a good night's sleep of eight hours every day is critical for your body to recover from the day and a regular sleep schedule, even on weekends, is a good start to better sleep.
- Avoiding long-term emotional stress can help your health too. If you know parts of your life cause you stress, try to plan to solve them. This could be avoiding rush hour traffic or finding time to meditate, or enjoying a hobby. Sometimes simple changes and habits can make a huge difference.

Having high blood pressure is not something that can be ignored. There are too many bad outcomes caused by persistent high blood pressure. The good thing is that there are many ways to help reduce your risk naturally before a serious problem arrives. As always, speak to your doctor before starting any supplements or vitamins.

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CPNO Officer and Committee Report for March 20, 2023

Freedom Park Conservancy- Mary Cox

Freedom Park Conservancy information for The Messenger. From Mary Cox "Freedom Park offers gratitude to Jimmy Carter" Moreland Drive NE and John Lewis Freedom Parkway. The history of Freedom Park and The Carter Center are as entwined as their physical boundaries. With Carter in hospice, neighbors and Atlantans expressed their appreciation for his selfless life dedicated to service. Freedom Park Master Plan update: All neighborhood associations have given full support to the incorporation of proposed amendments into the Master Plan. On March 8th the City Council voted to include the Freedom Park Master Plan into The Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Atlanta. The Plensa sculpture near North Highland and East John Lewis Freedom Pkwy has been installed. The site will soon be open to the public. No word from the City on an opening date.

Public Safety- Larry Compton

Crime data shows no unusual activity over the reporting period up to 17 March. Continue to keep vehicles clean to deter theft. Access the Atlanta PD open data dashboard at <https://opendata.atlantapd.org>. Community members interested in learning how to use the Atlanta PD open data dashboard please contact me directly: safety@candlerpark.org.

Membership-Roger Bakeman

The membership committee has a full roster for 2023. Jenifer Wilds will again be checking attendance at the regular monthly member meetings, Callan and Michael Falkenstein will be responding to requests for porch and block parties, and Julie Franklin will be assisting with membership website concerns. As of March 1, membership was 833. Remember, our bylaws require that members renew annually, but gives them until April 30 to renew for the current year. If you joined or renewed in 2022 you remain a "member of record" (the bylaws phase) until April 30, 2023.

FallFest- Brian Kyle

The Festival is scheduled for Sept 30 & Oct 1

The fall fest Committee had our first meeting with me on March 7th

Permitting being handled through Rob Frazier (Premier Entertainment) and that work is in process.

Website updated <https://fallfest.candlerpark.org>

Band application & Artist Market applications are live - see website

Newly filled Volunteer position: Social Media Lead - Alex Russell. Alex will work with Lee & Beryl to manage the IF & FB accounts. He will lead our Social strategy development and execution.

Open Volunteer positions:

Kidlandia

Volunteer Coordinator

Music Selection sub-committee

Please ask potential interested people to complete this interest form: <https://forms.gle/QAM1GJetGkKj3xD5A> or email fallfest@candlerpark.org

5K Road Race - Amy will give Doug/CPC until April 1st to name a volunteer lead and s/he commits to participate in Fall Fest meetings. Otherwise, we'll seek to run the 5k ourselves. Fall Fest Committee has an interested volunteer to lead it.

Next few FF Committee meeting dates: March 28th, April 25th, May 23rd

Historic Designation-Mary Shaltis

The Historic Designation Committee hosted two in person Open Houses to answer any questions and discuss the upcoming vote: Saturday Feb. 25 from 10am-1pm and another one Monday Feb. 27 from 5pm-8pm. Both were well attended with about 45-50 people.

Infrastructure- Naoya Wada

Safer McLendon Survey Update:

About 250 survey respondents so far (55% Lake Claire, 45% Candler Park)

Vast majorities in favor of:

- Roundabout at Lakeshore
- Leaving roundabout at Rockyford split but improving it
- Raised Table at Clifton/McLendon commercial district
- Raised Table/scramble at Candler Park Drive/McLendon/School Crossing
- Extending useable areas on corners of Oakdale at McLendon
- Adding stop signs
- The committee discussed the merits of:
 - Stop signs at Connecticut and Arizona (leaning toward both or just Connecticut)
 - Adding a stop sign at Candler Street - Matt suggested at Ferguson would be better to serve new park space
 - Discussed going back to solid lane marking coming down hill on McLendon in Lake Claire

Next Steps:

Discussed completing a draft of the study to bring to CPNO in April or May and to submit to the City afterwards for adoption/comments.

Leave the survey online for the time being but they will not be able to react to new entries while completing the draft.

External Affairs- DJ Roedger

Three items addressed at the February 23, 2023, NPU-N meeting were pertinent to Candler Park

- L5P Halloween Festival - NPU-N voted to support.
- V-23-7 - 521 Terrace Ave NE front yard setback reduction from 35 feet to 30 feet - NPU-N voted to support.
- 22-O-1324/CDP-21-051 - Ordinance adopting the Freedom Park Master Plan 2021 - NPU-N voted to support.

March 20, 2023 CPNO Members Meeting - Draft Minutes Virtual

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Christina Hodgen, President. The motion to adopt the amended agenda passed. The motion to approve the February Minutes passed.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

APD, Zone 6

Sgt. Johnson reported the crime stats for the past month and reviewed the Clean Car principles. She announced that Neighborhood Watch Seminar would be March 25, 2023, 9am-1pm at the Police Headquarter Building.

LITTLE FIVE POINTS ALLIANCE

Travis Sharp, CPNO Representative, gave an update on the Alliance activities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Natalie Anderson-The Easter Egg Hunt is 12:30 pm, Sunday, March 26. Need help with hiding the eggs.

Kelly Stocks, Little Five Business Association, announced two Festivals: April Fools Day and Sip and Scrap, April 16.

Stacy Funderburke announced Friends of Iverson have raised funds to renovate the Park.

ZONING

The motion to support the application for a Liquor License for Moxie Burger's passed.

The motion to delay the vote regarding the Liquor License for Pizza Verdura Sincera passed.

(Owner not present as requested.)

The motion to support Ordinance Z-23-15(not allow Self Storage Units near the Beltline) passed.

HISTORIC DESIGNATION

Motion to call the question passed.

Motion to support moving forward with a 10-14 month inclusive process to engage Candler Park residents and work with a consultant to define and draft proposed regulations for a potential Candler Park Historic District passed.

TREASURER REPORT-AMY WHEELER

Motion to approve the 2023 Budget passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Bonnie Palter, Secretary

March 20,2023

APRIL CRIME REPORT, CANDLER PARK

Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
Stolen Vehicle	2/17/2023	Thursday	1640	1200 BLOCK MCLENDON AVE NE
Theft From Motor Vehicle	2/23/2023	Wednesday	1353	400 BLOCK PAGE AVE NE
Stolen Vehicle	2/24/2023	Tuesday	2239	400 BLOCK MORELAND AVE NE
Theft From Motor Vehicle	2/27/2023	Sunday	0303	300 BLOCK MORELAND AVE NE
Theft From Motor Vehicle	2/27/2023	Sunday	0854	1600 BLOCK MCLENDON AVE NE
Theft From Motor Vehicle	3/3/2023	Thursday	0311	200 BLOCK OAKDALE RD NE
Theft From Motor Vehicle	3/9/2023	Wednesday	0542	1500 BLOCK DEKALB AVE NE
Larceny	3/14/2023	Monday	0103	200 BLOCK OAKDALE RD NE

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY ROLLUP

Theft From Vehicle – 5
Stolen Vehicle – 2
Larceny - 1

SAFETY OFFICER ASSESSMENT

Normal level of activity for theft from vehicles. Ensure visible items are removed from vehicles.

Continuation of stolen vehicle trend – take necessary precautions.

MARY LIN DINE-OUTS

April 12-15 (Wed-Sat):

Speakcheesy - be sure to enter "Grill the Love" or "Mary Lin" in the comments section. 25% comes back to Mary Lin!

April 18 (Tues):

Naan Stop - order online by Mon April 17 and swing by the convenient pick up location in Lake Claire. 20% coming back to Mary Lin thanks to Naan Stop & Joan Arkins Realty

May 3 (Wed):

Shake Shack - Old 4th Ward location. Enter the promo code DONATE2023 on the Shack App for pickup, delivery, or kiosk when checking out and 25% of your total meal purchase will come back to Mary Lin!



Rocket Run

Join us on Sunday, April 30th at Mary Lin for the best 5K and 1 mile Fun Run around. This will be our second year running in Candler Park and celebrating runners directly from the school building. We are offering NEW pricing for families and runners ages 5-11 year of age, as well as discounted group registration rates.

**Learn more about our race
and register here:**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Atlanta/RocketRun5Kand1MileFunRun>

Registration fees will increase over time, be sure to sign up today to secure your spot and coveted Rocket Run t-shirt!

If you are a small business owner and would like to learn more about potential sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Sarah McLean (sarahisC9@gmail.com).

MLEF Donor Party a Rocketing Success!

By Jeannie Beckett

It was the perfect spring evening for Mary Lin Education Foundation's annual high Donor Party. This year's hosts with the most were the ever-gracious couple Peter Kruskamp and Stephanie Schumacher. Over 90 donors attended an evening of merriment and appreciation of our beloved neighborhood school. Head Chair Claire Oates and Principal Sharyn Briscoe highlighted some of the many grants issued to Mary Lin Elementary with the generously donated funds. Principal Briscoe acknowledged the rezoning of Inman Park but, as always, made the heartfelt reminder: "Once a (Mary Lin) Rocket, always a Rocket!" The dynamic duo then shared their vision of outdoor improvements they hope to raise capital for next year.

The decadent food was catered by our very own local companies Gotta Have It (GHI) Catering

and King of Pops. Music was provided by Peter and Alyssa Olson, as well as Parker Smith and George Kotler-Wallace from Guitar Shed.

The Foundation wants to thank all of the generous donors, the wonderful hosts Stephanie and Peter Kruskamp, Principal Briscoe and the hardworking PTA Board. The Foundation especially wants to thank all of members of this year's Board of Trustees: Claire Oates, Amanda Rhein, Emily Newton, Kelly Downs, Lynn Eaton, Kristy Perez, Shari Golla, Matthew Cherry, Stacey Burton White and Jeannie Beckett.

Would you like to join our team? The Board will have FIVE open positions next year and are looking for parents for 2023-2024. Direct message our Facebook group or email clairecarothers@gmail.com.



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Keeping Undesirables Away This Season



Ashley Frasca is host of the radio show Green and Growing, heard on 95.5 WSB Radio every Saturday from 6-9:00 a.m. For gardening tips, information, and advice, follow her Facebook page: [Facebook.com/greenandgrowingwsb](https://www.facebook.com/greenandgrowingwsb)

Spring has sprung! The possibilities this time of year are endless for those who love gardening and being outdoors. Yes, Mother Nature has a funny way of reminding us who's in charge though, as April can still bring freezing temperatures across the south east.

But while homeowners are busy dusting off patio furniture, mowing lawns and tending to busy bird feeders, the things we don't enjoy are emerging this time of year too!

With warmer, wetter weather comes mosquitoes, snakes, and deer. Be ready to keep these pests away with these few, simple tasks.

University of Georgia Extension Service and others share the following acronym to help homeowners control wildlife damage. "HERL method includes a step-by-step approach to addressing a damage problem: H - habitat modification or harassment; E - exclusion, including fencing; R - repellent or removal; and, finally, L - lethal control."

Mosquitoes



- ▶ Control them naturally by making adjustments to the surrounding landscape. Larvae need standing water, so eliminate the water that ponds on tarps, in buckets and pots, or in clogged gutters.
- ▶ For water features like ponds and birdbaths, invest in Mosquito Dunks. They're safe for birds and fish.
- ▶ Have an oscillating fan running while

enjoying time outdoors.

- ▶ Rather than treating the entire outdoor area indiscriminately, keep repellents like Off, Deet or Skin So Soft on hand.
- ▶ Finally, avoid dark clothing. Yep! Apparently that's what they're attracted to. Who knew?!

Snakes



- ▶ They're going to be active in landscapes near water no matter what, so expect to see them.
- ▶ Know the difference between the 'good' guys and the venomous snakes. The four venomous snakes found in this area are copperhead, cottonmouth, coral snake and timber rattlesnake.
- ▶ When working around thick ground cover, water, or brush, make as much noise as possible to scare them away.
- ▶ Eliminate brush, lumber and junk piles near the house and common areas. These places are protected and safe from predators.
- ▶ Eliminate their food source, which may be small rodents. Have an extermination company out to help if rats and mice are a problem.
- ▶ Do NOT toss mothballs outside as repellents! It is a violation of pesticide laws and is therefore illegal, to endanger humans and other mammals outside in this manner.

Deer

- ▶ This is where the HERL method comes in handy! Harassment would include sounds and dogs on the property.
- ▶ Exclusion, which includes fencing, can be costly but is often effective if built tall enough. Recently on my radio show, a wildlife management specialist said to monitor the paths they take through the yard, and keep the plants that they like to browse out of those areas.
- ▶ Many repellents use smell and taste to deter deer. Scented repellents often employ a rotten egg smell or coyote urine. Believe it or not, deer are picky about taste and texture.
- ▶ For a thoughtful list of plants that deer don't prefer, visit the University of Georgia Extension website, and search "deer" in their publications.



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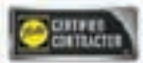
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Waiting to plant until after Easter?

Tax Day may be a better rule of thumb!

Easter's calendar date is variable, so a better rule of thumb may be to wait to plant sensitive plants until after Tax Day.

Spring temperatures in Atlanta are highly variable, and a wise gardener should always note which plants are more cold hardy versus tender during a cold snap.

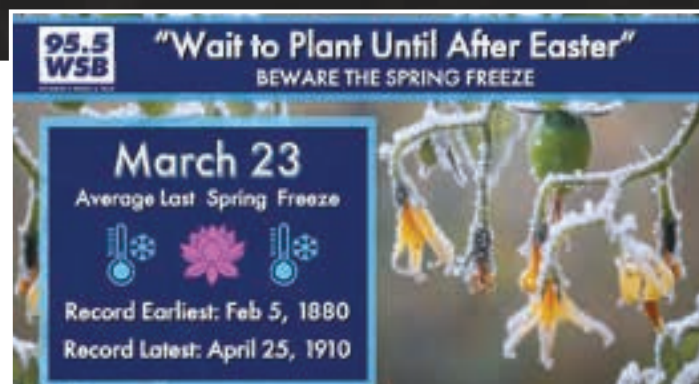
The old adage "wait to plant until Easter" is usually good advice, however Easter's calendar date varies year after year -- and some years, it is as early as March 23!

That lines up with the average last spring freeze date for the Atlanta area, but the latest freeze on record did occur on April 25, 1910.

With that said, the majority of the killing freezes should be done before April 15, which is Tax Day -- so perhaps that is the better "rule of thumb" date!

WHY THE EXTRA CAUTION AROUND THE SPRING FREEZE?

Often, temperatures will swell in February and March before dropping in early April. This happened in 2007 when temperatures trended well above average in March before crashing into the low to mid 20s in early April.



The April 6-9, 2007 killing freeze arrived just in time for the Easter holiday, when temperatures dropped into the mid 20s as far south as Middle Georgia.

According to NOAA, the Easter 2007 freeze resulted in a state-wide agricultural production value loss of \$257.5 million, with peaches, blueberries and apples experiencing the most freeze damage.



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POLLEN



Yuck. It comes in through the window, the window that is open so you can smell the sweet smells of spring.

It comes in on your clothes after working in the garden. It comes in from your garage where it has been hitch hiking on your car for the past 2 weeks.

However it is not the only yuck in your house. Dust, mold, little bugs and other trash can find its way into your vents and settle in your ductwork.

How do you keep your ductwork clean in order to keep that yuck out of the air that you are breathing?

Well, to start with you can change the filter on your furnace on a regular basis. Almost all of the air in your house passes through the filter at some point, keeping the filter clean can help keep your air clean.

But what about cleaning those ducts? You know they are just loaded with yuck. What's the deal with duct cleaning?

Here are a couple of things you should know about cleaning your ducts, or as I like to call, 'Duct Sucking'.

- ▶ Maybe one of the biggest scams in the home services field unfortunately, centers on cleaning your duct work. I am talking about carpet cleaning companies that say they can clean your air ducts for some really cheapo amount – and by the I mean like \$49.95 - "As long as we are here" then all they do is vacuum around your registers and if you are lucky they stick the vacuum 2 ft. into your duct.
- ▶ For your information – a good thorough duct cleaning by a professional will run you in your average sized home \$500 - \$600.

While I don't generally give out prices here I will in this instance to illustrate A – that it is a serious procedure that calls for serious money and 2 – to show you how ridiculous and how little work or good you will get out of a \$49.95 deal.

This is really when you should absolutely have your ducts cleaned:

- ▶ Immediately after you move into a newly built home. Lots of construction debris, saw dust, dry wall scraps, and Doritos bags end up in the duct work of a newly build home.
- ▶ And after that every 4-6 years. Lemme repeat that, every 4-6 YEARS is sufficient.

(This is unless you have someone in the house with breathing problems. If that is the case, then you should get your hvac man/lady out to your house to upgrade your furnace filtration situation. That is money better spent than on a yearly or every two year duct cleaning scam.)

I will repeat: every 4-6 years. The beauty of this is that a good, honest, reputable duct cleaning company will agree that it is not a yearly maintenance project, and that you can go years in between cleanings.

One more thing. A quality duct cleaning company will/should clean your drier vents too. Hey - they are also ducts...

If your duct suckers can pass the mustard on all that, you are on to a good one. Get your ducts cleaned. Then do it again.

In 2029.



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household repair and home improvement expert! He provides a multitude of tips and advice on planning, building and fixing up around the house. Follow Dave on his Facebook page: [Facebook.com/thehomefixitpage](https://www.facebook.com/thehomefixitpage)



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