



January 2024

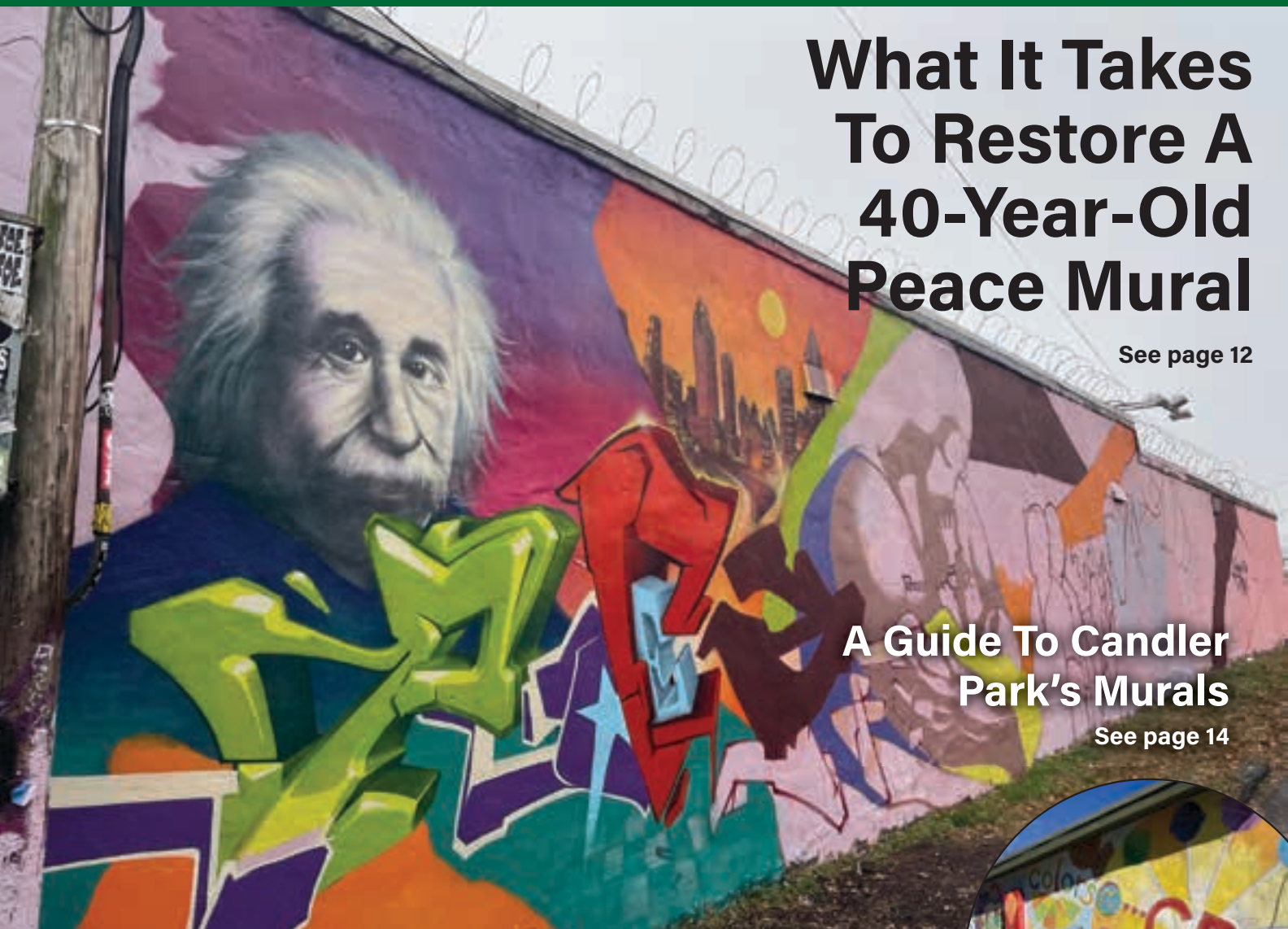
MESSENGER

What It Takes To Restore A 40-Year-Old Peace Mural

See page 12

A Guide To Candler Park's Murals

See page 14



INSIDE THIS MONTH'S MESSENGER

The Future Of
The Messenger
PAGE 4

CP's Teenage
Cycling Star
PAGE 6

Update On The Old
Zesto Building
PAGE 8

How Redistricting
Affects CP
PAGE 16



ADVERTISE IN LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS!
(770)623-6220 | info@frontporchatlanta.com

MEET THE LOCAL REALTORS

Helping you every step of the way.



JOHN MORGAN
OWNER / REALTOR



DREW JACKSON
OWNER / REALTOR

Office: (877) 249-8533 | info@parkrealtyatlanta.com
1651 McLendon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30307



**PARK
REALTY**

COMMUNITY FIRST

(877) 249-8533

www.parkrealtyatlanta.com

EMORY | SCHWARTZ CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

UPCOMING CONCERTS

CANADIAN BRASS

Friday, January 26 at 8 p.m.

JAZZ FEST 2024

featuring guitarist Bobby Broom and the Gary Motley Trio
February 1-3

ST. OLAF CHOIR

Thursday, February 8 at 8 p.m.

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF UKRAINE

Friday, February 16 at 8 p.m.

EMORY UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

featuring Eighth Blackbird
Thursday, March 7 at 8 p.m.

TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET *Island Prayers*

Friday, March 22 at 8 p.m.

RANDALL GOOSBY, violin

Friday, April 5 at 8 p.m.

Don't Miss a Note!

schwartz.emory.edu
404.727.5050

Randall
Goosby
photo by Philipp Kandas



Get noticed. Advertise.
Contact us today!

To advertise in a neighborhood
publication, please contact us at

770-623-6220 • info@frontporchatlanta.com

5875 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Ste. 160 | Norcross, GA 30092



Soccer Sidekicks: Returning To Candler Park This Spring

By Benjamin Clark

Candler Park residents, get ready for the 19th installment of the Soccer Sidekicks Spring Soccer League, a dynamic and engaging soccer program designed for children aged two to eight.

Our unique program fuzes soccer skills with stories, adventures, songs and nursery rhymes, creating an immersive experience for your little ones. With professional full-time youth soccer coaches leading the way, your child is guaranteed the best coaching experience while having a blast.

For the first time ever, we're adding ages seven to eight to the league. This expansion means we will begin to develop principles of attack and defense, incorporate scrimmages, and introduce more game-specific practices to further enhance the fun and skill-based sessions for ages two through six.

Mark your calendars for the kick-off on Sunday, February 4th, 2024, with subsequent 30-minute sessions on 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, and 3/10, all starting at 10:15 am at Candler Park.

Registration is \$250. This fee covers not only the soccer action but also includes a jersey, a

medal for your young soccer star, and, most importantly, excellent coaching. You can sign up by taking a picture of the QR code.

Parents, you can request player pairings during registration, ensuring your child gets to play alongside their friends. For any questions, reach out to Executive Director Ben Clark at 404-402-0501 or Ben@soccersidekicks.com. Don't miss out on the fun and excitement – enroll your child today in the Soccer Sidekicks Spring 2024 League and let the soccer adventures begin!



CONTACT US TODAY
770-623-6220
info@frontporchatlanta.com

The Messenger is a publication of Our Front Porch. Subject matter published is the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher of this newsletter. Professional advice should be obtained before making any decision in which a professional is readily available. Advertisers assume responsibility for the content of the ads placed in this publication. Material published may not be reproduced without the written permission of Our Front Porch.

The contents of this newsletter are provided for the members of the **Candler Park** neighborhood as a courtesy only. No representations are made as to information presented, the quality of the goods or services advertised, or the veracity of the statements relating to the goods and services. The printing of opinions, information or advertisements does not constitute an endorsement by the neighborhood of such opinions, information, goods or services.

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
PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER safety@candlerpark.org	Larry Compton
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

JANUARY

13 S'mores in the Garden, 5-7 p.m.,
Mulberry Fields

20 Live Music – Tina and Her Pony
+ The Moon and You, 7 p.m.,
Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse



Please check CPNO's Upcoming Events list at candlerpark.org and watch for membership email notices for location and cancellation information. All CPNO meetings are open to the public.

Update: Big Changes Coming to The Messenger in 2024

By Dillon Thompson

A few weeks ago, The Messenger team received an email from KDA, the company that has published our neighborhood magazine for the past several years. The message informed us that KDA would no longer be able to continue publishing The Messenger. Here's what that means for readers:

- This will be the last issue of The Messenger for at least a few months. Publication will pause as the CPNO Board explores other publishers and considers our options.
- The CPNO Board hopes to make a decision on The Messenger's future in January, so expect more news soon.
- In the interim, all stories and updates will be available on the CPNO website: <https://candlerpark.org/>

Unfortunately, the future of The Messenger is not as simple as finding a new publisher, because our deal with KDA was extremely convenient and cost-effective.

KDA essentially printed and distributed The Messenger for free, making up the costs by running advertisements in our magazine. In many neighborhoods, this process costs several thousands of dollars a month.

The CPNO Board is in talks with several other neighborhood organizations to determine

the next-best course of action. No alternative is perfect, and each of them would require additional work or money to ensure that residents can still access important news about their community:

- We move forward with a new, much more costly publisher that will handle both printing and distribution.
- We assume some of the duties — either printing, distribution or both — ourselves, which will save money but require more volunteer manpower.
- We cease publication completely, replacing The Messenger with a monthly or twice-monthly email newsletter.

More importantly, I'd like to thank Shari Golla, who put together so many wonderful issues of this magazine, and whose hard work made The Messenger what it is today. I'd also like to thank John Fleming, who has spearheaded our efforts to find a way forward.

We will continue to update readers as we know more, but for now, this is a bit of a goodbye — at least temporarily.

Dillon Thompson is a one-year resident of Candler Park and a writer/editor for The Messenger.

OPINION Plant A Tree In Candler Park

By Eric Dusenbury

While I am not the Lorax, I am here to speak for the trees. We have recently seen some high-profile trees fall in Candler Park. In response, neighbors have cut down trees they are concerned may fall on their houses. I understand why people are taking down trees; I took one down myself. However, I am still saddened when I see it occur.

Big shade trees have been a defining trait of and benefit to Candler Park for the 31 years I have been fortunate enough to live in the neighborhood. I receive a sense of peace whenever I make the turn from Moreland onto McLendon and enter the shade provided by the trees along the street.

Trees clean the air we breathe, provide shade during the sweltering summer heat, give habitat and food for many animals, sequester carbon and even shelter us from some of the urban noise that surrounds us. Studies have shown the presence of a tree lowers one's blood pressure. The benefits of trees are many.

So before you cut down a tree, I encourage you to have an independent arborist, one not associated with a tree company, evaluate the health of the

tree. If you have to cut down a shade tree, plant a couple of replacements — preferably similar species that will grow large and contribute to the tree canopy that defines Candler Park and Atlanta.

We are in prime tree-planting season. The months of October through March are the best times to plant a tree. Planting during this period gives the trees time to establish roots and settle in before the spring and summer growing seasons.

We are fortunate to have a great tree resource in Atlanta. Trees Atlanta not only provides information on how to properly plant a tree, but through their Front Yard Tree Program they will come to your house and plant your tree for you.

You can find more information about the program on its website: <https://www.treesatlanta.org/yardtree/>.

Eric Dusenbury is a 31-year resident of Candler Park and a past CPNO Board member



THE MESSENGER

EDITOR

Shari Golla
Dillon Thompson, co-editor
editor@candlerpark.org

ADVERTISING

sales@kda-communications.com
770-623-6220

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 INSTAGRAM



See what we're sharing at Instagram.com/candler_park/

Welcome and Thanks!

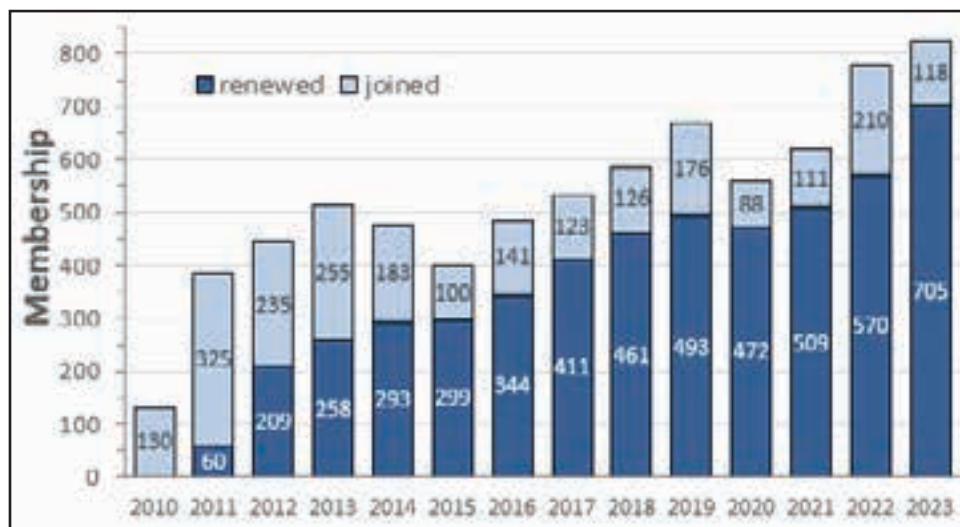
By Roger Bakeman, membership@candlerpark.org

CPNO welcomes new members:

Marina and Brad Smith
Melissa Heim Viox and Dan Viox

CPNO thanks members for their donation:

Jeffrey and Trang Wisard



A Cycling Star Blossoming in Candler Park:

Cycling has taken 18-year-old Julien Ruhe far beyond Euclid Avenue. His next challenge: Competing at the sport's highest level.

By Dillon Thompson | Photo Credits: Dillon Thompson

Julien Ruhe has lived in the same house, on Euclid Avenue, for his entire life.

His parents moved to Candler Park just before he was born, and now as a freshman at Georgia State, he's able to commute to classes from home.

But, thanks to cycling, Ruhe has seen more of the world than most people his age. The 18-year-old has ridden in high-level races in Ireland, Canada, and all over the United States. He has even competed as a junior for USA Cycling, the American national team.

Ruhe is deeply aware of how hard it is for someone like him — who, starting next year, will be competing at the top level of American cycling competitions — to explain the world he's now a part of. In the U.S., cycling is nowhere near as popular as football and basketball, or even hockey and tennis.

"The way football or basketball is here, is the way cycling is in Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands, even France," Ruhe said.

It seems possible even that, without some unique circumstances, Ruhe never would've picked up the sport to begin with. Candler Park is located just 20 minutes from the Dick Lane Velodrome — a sloped, outdoor cycling track that offers free youth cycling nights for children in the area.

"I would highly recommend that to anyone who has kids, [especially] kids who may not be super active," Ruhe said.

The velodrome, in East Point, is the only one of its kind for 200 miles. So it was fairly lucky that Ruhe ended up there at age nine, riding around the track and building up his passion. By the time he was 16, he'd gotten good enough that a life of competitive cycling was becoming a real possibility.

These last two years have been filled with success, as Ruhe works his way up higher in the sport. Some of his highlights include a six-day race in Ireland and a competition in Canada, where he represented Team USA.

The biggest challenge, though, is still ahead. His ultimate goal is to compete in Europe, where the races are longer, more competitive and more grueling. Ruhe, putting that leap in terms of American sports, said, "It's like the gap between the NFL and low-level college football."

"It's a pretty big jump," he added. "And a lot of Americans fail to get over there and compete at a high level."

The solution? Practice, and lots of it. To ramp up for next season, which starts in spring, Ruhe will be riding 15 to 25 hours per week. It's quite a lot of time and energy for a full-time college student, especially when you consider that those hours translate to between 300 and 500 miles in total.



Julien Ruhe, a freshman at Georgia State, has competed with the junior U.S. national team.

"It's a big time commitment," Ruhe said. "The races are so long and brutal that you just have to go out and kill yourself for a long time."

Finding the time, let alone the space, is a challenge. Ruhe notes that while Candler Park is relatively safe for cyclists, most of Atlanta is not, a reality he contributes to unaware drivers and a lack of infrastructure as a big barrier.

For years, he'd have to drive out to the Silver Comet Trail, west of the city, to get in enough mileage. Now, he says he's "manned up" about riding around town, but it's a decision that requires extreme caution.

"It's getting better, but it's still quite dangerous to ride [around Atlanta]," he added.

There is a lot of passion behind all that commitment. Ruhe loves cycling, and his past year — where he pushed himself to a new level of success — gave him new

opportunities to take it more seriously. Next year, he'll be on a new club team, competing at a new level and possibly getting more chances with the junior USA team.

Greg Latham, a cycling team director who's known Ruhe for nearly a decade, said the 18-year-old is a "perfect example" of hard work paying off.

"The traits that have made Julien successful have remained constant throughout his career," Latham said. "He was just as determined and focused as a nine-year-old beginner racer as he is now, as one of the top racers in the country."

But for Ruhe, reaching a new level meant changing some of his priorities. These days, he says that college and cycling are "equally" important to him, but as far as competition goes, he recognizes he has a rare opportunity.

"I think school is still very important," Ruhe said. "But at some point, you do have to kind of switch priorities."

Latham added, "we couldn't be more excited for his success. And [we're] excited to see what the 2024 racing season in the U.S. and Europe has in store for him."

Overall, Ruhe calls cycling a "brutal" sport but says it gives him a rush unlike anything else.

He's a competitive guy, and he gets an immense amount of satisfaction in pushing himself to get better.

"I'm super competitive," he said. "You know, 'I got 30th place this time, so I'm gonna go out and get top five, podium [finish] at the next race.' I love [that aspect], and the adrenaline."

Dillon Thompson is a one-year resident of Candler Park. He also serves as an editor and writer for the Candler Park Messenger.



MORE COLOR,
MORE CONTENT,
DIGITAL EDITIONS
TOO!

SUPPORT YOUR SPONSORS

DID YOU KNOW...

The sponsors in this publication help make designing, printing, and delivery possible for your community! Without their advertising, this publication would be more costly for the HOA to provide to the community. Show some support and visit one of the sponsors in this publication!



5875 Peachtree Industrial Blvd #160, Norcross, GA 30092
770.623.6220 | www.ourfrontporch.net

For all your real estate needs...



Sherry Warner
Homes



Sherry Warner

Associate Broker &
Lake Claire resident

COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY

404 784 8848 *mobile*

404 874 2262 *office*

sherry@SherryWarnerHomes.com



Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2020 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

"Not in My Neighborhood - Oh Yes it Is!"

Please join 2myPlace and the Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking for a panel discussion of experts and survivors to heighten awareness of Human Trafficking in our community.

Marsha McDowell, MPH - Director | CSEC Response Team, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia

Israel Marley - Program Coordinator, Prevention and Training - Stephanie K. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children A Department of CHOG

Janice Johnson - National Legal Advocate and Survivor Leader for Her Song

Faythe Kadens - MS - Street Grace - Prevention and Protection, Law Enforcement and Legislative Policies

Veronica McDaniel - Executive Director and Founder of FREEST International

January 10, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Corregation Etz Chaim
1190 Indian Hills Parkway
Marietta, GA 30068



307 Peachtree Street, Suite 300 - Phone: 770.875.8344
For more info: 800.875.8344 or 770.875.8344





Eyesore No More?

Signs Of Progress At Pizza Verdura

By John Fleming

If you have passed by the old Zesto building at the corner of McLendon and Moreland, you may have noticed some welcomed activity.

Workers have been in and out of the property (slated to become Pizza Verdura Sincera, a vegan establishment) and the chain link fence has been removed. The too-full dumpster, heaped with all manner of debris, including mattresses, has been emptied at least once. The tags and the overall unkemptness remain, but if you squint your eyes a bit, you can see how things are being tugged in a happy direction.

But what, you might ask, is the ultimate destination of this place? What will it be, and perhaps more importantly, when will it arrive?

Well, that's what we've been trying to confirm for a while now. That is to say, the CPNO seeks to understand what Pizza Verdura will be like and when it will open its doors, or at least when a thoroughly unappealing local building might be made shiny again.

Recently, after banging on some virtual doors and making a few phone calls, Verdura co-owner David Smith agreed to show this reporter around the property, detailing improvements, detailing frustrations with various permitting departments and overall bureaucracy and venturing a timeline for opening the restaurant.



If it were up to him, Smith said, his work would be complete and he would be ready to open in a matter of weeks.

“But the bureaucracy is a different story. That can mean a delay of weeks or months,” he said. After a pause, he added, “sometime in 2024.”

That, of course, was the big question of the day. The other one put to Smith was why the property had been allowed to fester since he and business partner Paul Jones went under contract in 2021.

Complaints from neighborhood residents have been many and loud, voiced both casually and during CPNO Member Meetings. When Smith appeared before CPNO members in the summer, seeking support for a liquor license, he was peppered with questions and comments about the appalling condition of the property, with some residents pointing out the lack of work happening at the site. For many residents, the wait has stretched toward eternity.

But in the restaurant world, what is a reasonable amount of time for an owner to renovate a building and get the required permits? In other words, has Smith's and Jones' journey to get Verdura off the ground been typical? In short, no.

Of Permits and Grease Traps

"This is not typical," Karen Bremer, the president and CEO of the Georgia Restaurant Association, said.

However, she also pointed out that since the pandemic, many "city and county government agencies are trying to get back on track." Additionally, she said there is an effort to streamline the permitting process at the city, county and state levels and this has actually led to further delays for a lot of business owners.

"I am a former restauranter," she said. "The permitting and licensing in Georgia has always been challenging."

Still, Bremer said it should not have taken this long. It's that bureaucratic complexity, the pushback, that Smith blames for the property sitting idle for so long.

His answer during last summer's Members' Meeting was and remains: "Without building permits, we couldn't do anything."

This story of bureaucratic frustration is long and complicated, involving the City of Atlanta, (which Smith describes as, "passable, but unspectacular, in terms of the timing of inspections for construction") but also DeKalb County and a particular office there that looks after grease traps.

Smith explained that the new restaurant will have no gas appliances, will cook no animal products and will use one large electric oven to prepare its all-vegan dishes. Therefore, he said, there will be no need for a grease trap.

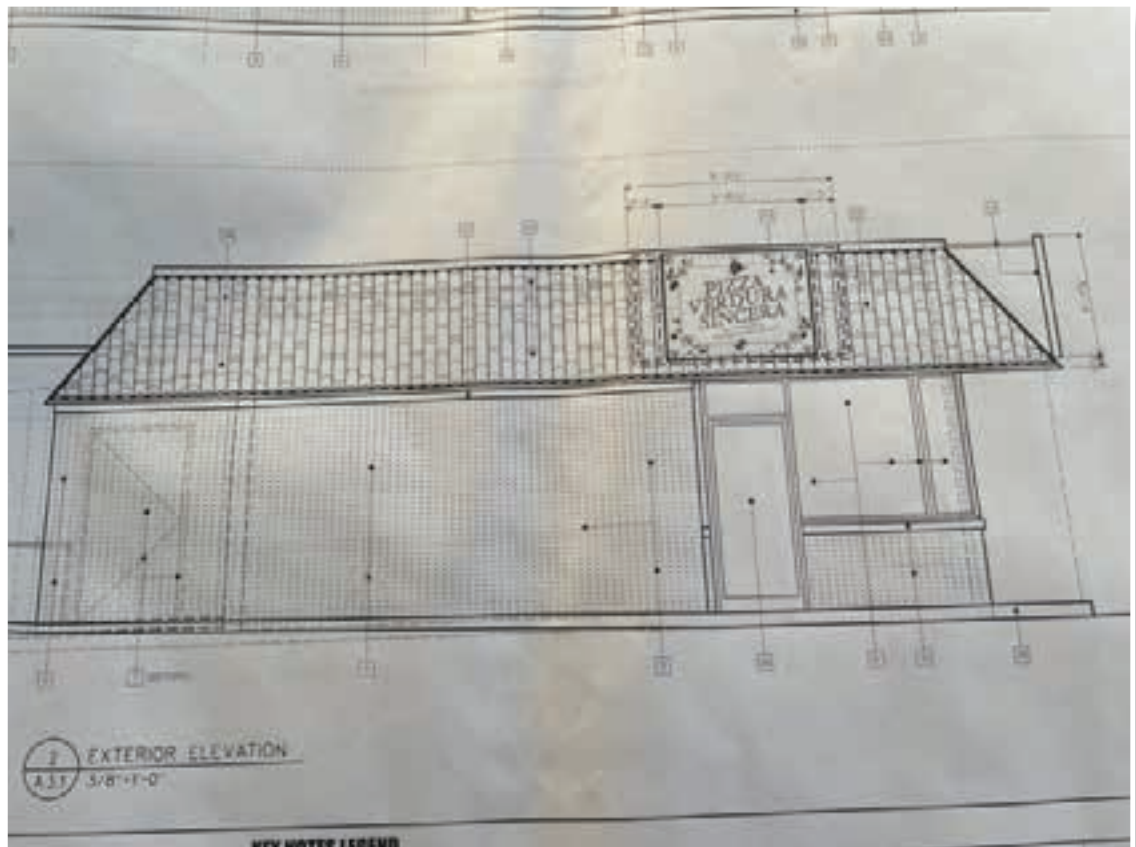
This, apparently, led to much confusion with the county, which looked at the former restaurant — a burger and fries landmark — and incorrectly assumed the grease traps would stay.

"We don't need them, but it was impossible to convince Dekalb County of that because Zesto had them. I know how frustrated the neighborhood was about the delay," he said. "We were frustrated too. It costs us \$10,000 a month to keep this project going."

Casual Craft

So then, what about the new restaurant?

Smith and his partner are not new to the restaurant business. In the past, they have joined forces to create El Super Pan at Ponce City Market and SmoQ'n Hot Grill in Midtown, among others. The new restaurant, Smith says, will be Italian, something he's calling "casual craft food."



"This is not going to be a place for cheap PBRs," he said. "You will see certified organic, certified non-GMO and kosher [options]." For drinks, craft beers will be on offer, along with Italian wines, "reds, pinks, whites and fizzies."

As for the new space, Smith explained that Zesto was a take-out restaurant, with a counter close to the front windows. Decatur architect Jay George drew a design for Pizza Verdura that will seat more than 40 people and will "triple the perceived volume with the new design," according to Smith. This, he said, was achieved by having seating on the perimeter, a few seats at a small bar at the chef's station and raising the ceilings.

Before the purchase, Zesto was severely damaged by a fallen tree. The rear, southeast wall was crushed and the roof was punctured in numerous places. Those repairs were made many months ago. Other improvements include making the bathrooms ADA-compliant and installing new HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems, plus improving the drainage on the mostly flat roof.

As he walked out into a sunny day and stood on the corner of Moreland and McLendon, Smith detailed the permitting process and his frustrations, but also how much he had learned about the area.

"We learned so much about this part of town, especially when we went through the liquor license process and we had to talk to Candler Park and Inman Park. That process was a good reminder to me that this area is more than just Little Five Points. It's the neighborhoods too and they have different wants and personalities."

So, has it been worth the \$10K per month, the tussles over the non-existent grease traps, the constant permitting?

"We feel as good or better about our decision to purchase this property today as we did when we put the earnest money down," Smith said.

Enjoy Pomegranates

By Gail Turner-Cooper — Founder, Align Health Coaching

When the days get short and the wintertime chill sets in, one of my favorite tasty treats comes into season.

Pomegranates, with their tart yet sweet little morsels, are super delicious and super healthy. We are now in the height of the U.S. pomegranate season (from October to January), so now is the best time to pick one up on your regular grocery trip. If you buy them already separated, they can get a bit expensive. However, if you invest a few minutes in a whole one, you get a pile of fruit that is a great addition to a variety of meals. Eating the whole fruit rather than buying juice delivers much more nutrients to your system.

Whole Fresh Pomegranates

When you see a whole pomegranate at the store it can seem a bit tricky to break apart. I buy at least one a week and spend less than 10 minutes breaking them apart (honestly, it is kind of fun).

Here is a quick method to crack into it:

First, cut the top off to expose the fruits, called perils. You should see the clusters of perils. Cut through the skin, but not into the fruits, from top to bottom along the white sections. Next, you should be able to break it apart with your hands allowing you to separate the perils from the bitter white membrane. Now, you can sprinkle them on your salads or casseroles (or just eat a small handful!). I enjoy them with my breakfast.

Health Benefits

Pomegranates have been shown to have a wide variety of health benefits due to their nutrient density. They are rich in polyphenols which are powerful antioxidants, meaning that they help your body get rid of toxins and free radicals reducing inflammation and oxidative stress.

Pomegranates are vitamin-dense, especially in vitamins E and K. The combination of vitamins and antioxidants has been shown to help prevent or treat various disease risk factors including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, oxidative stress, hyperglycemia and other inflammatory issues. There are also studies showing that pomegranates can help suppress cancer cells too!

Eating the entire fruit rather than buying the juice will provide much better health benefits. First, when you drink the juice there is much more sugar per serving. Without the fruit structure, all those sugars are available to your system which can detract from the positive health benefits. Second, the juice will be produced well before you consume it.

The complicated antioxidants that provide so many of the benefits start to break down quickly after the juicing process, and if a high-temperature process is used the degradation is immediate. Generally, when consuming any fruit, you should eat the entire fruit rather than only the juice to get the full benefits.

Pomegranates are truly one of my favorite aspects of the onset of winter. I hope this inspires you to pick up this beautiful fruit, break it apart, and enjoy those sweet-tart treats.

Keep Our Guardrails: Vote 'No' to Instant Registration

By Roger Bakeman

As co-chair of the Bylaws Revision Committee, but speaking for myself, I urge you to keep the guardrails and vote “no” at the monthly CPNO meeting to the bylaws amendment allowing instant registration.

Instant registration allows instant voting. One problem is misinformation. It is not so much uninformed voters, as some would have it, but misinformed voters —members misinformed by information traveling at the speed of light, aroused by that misinformation, and able to instantly vote. Introducing some delay between registration and being eligible to vote, as our current bylaws do, is an important guardrail.

It allows time for passions to cool and more information to be considered and deliberated. No wonder that some delay between registration and voting characterizes so many organizations and government entities.

Consider, if the bylaws amendment allowing voting for the day or two after a meeting passes, a person who never attended a CPNO meeting, never heard any discussion, didn't even attend the meeting when the issue was discussed, could still vote on that issue, and could be prompted to do so by targeted electronic communications designed to arouse. All this could happen in the shadows.

Do we really want to remove our fairly minimal guardrails that at least have the potential to allow time for other information and reflection?

All other neighborhood organizations in our NPU require some delay between registration and voting except for Lake Clarie Neighbors, and they require in-person registration before or at a regular membership meeting (not online). The Grant Park Neighborhood Association requires in-person registration at a regular membership meeting and defers voting privileges until attendance at a second regular membership meeting. And the state of Georgia requires registering 30 days before voting. Instant registration is not the norm.

Roger Bakeman, a 48-year resident of Candler Park, was the CPNO Communications Officer 2018-2019 and the Membership officer 2015-2018 and 2021-2023.



OPINION Redistricting Recap: *Much Uncertainty Ahead*

By Saira Draper

In early December, the Georgia Legislature met in a special session to redraw Georgia's House, Senate and Congressional boundaries. This was required because a federal judge determined the previous maps, drawn in 2021, violated the Federal Voting Rights Act by diluting the voting strength of Black voters.

A healthy Democracy relies on fair maps. The maps directly impact whose views are represented in elected positions of power. Gerrymandering makes minority rule possible, and is the reason issues that are popular with the majority of Georgians — from common sense gun safety laws to reproductive freedom — barely see the light of day in the Georgia General Assembly.

Although my party asked for an open and transparent map drawing process for the special session, the maps were revealed at the last possible moment and rammed through the legislative process without any changes or opportunity for genuine input from the public or the Democratic party. It is my legal opinion, and the opinion of many in the field, that the maps passed along partisan lines during the special session did not remedy the problems with the 2021 maps and are also unlawful.

The boundaries of House District 90 were significantly altered in the House district map passed during the special legislative session. If the map stands, parts of Cedar Grove and Kirkwood will be removed from the district, and parts of Candler Park, Druid Hills, and McNair will be added to the district.

So what happens next?

There will be a court hearing on December 20, 2023, in front of Judge Steve C. Jones, the same judge who determined the 2021 maps were unlawful. If the judge decides any or all of the maps drawn during the special session failed to comply with his instructions to remedy the 2021 maps, he could order the maps to be redrawn a third time, likely by an independent third party. Those maps would have to be finalized by mid-January, in order to be usable for the 2024 election cycle.

However, it is widely understood that if Judge Jones orders the maps redrawn, the state will appeal. Not only will this potentially lead to years of uncertainty concerning district lines and elected representation, but the state will have the opportunity to use the legal appellate process to weaken the Voting Rights Act, which is in place to protect Black and minority voters.

To be sure, it's the voters, taxpayers and county election offices that will bear the brunt of this legal maneuvering and political gamesmanship. And it could have all been avoided if only the legislature had drawn maps that were fair to Georgia's Black voters in 2021.

Saira Draper is an attorney, voting rights expert, and the State Representative for Georgia House District 90. Sign up for her newsletter at sairadraper.com

On Seminole Avenue, a Faded Mural Comes to Life

By John Fleming | Photos by John Fleming

Away from the bustle of Little Five Points, over on a quieter patch beyond Gregory Davis Plaze, is the home of a previously faded mural.

You might have seen it while walking down Seminole Avenue, as you approach the turnaround, just shy of the plaza. Until a few weeks ago, it had the look of neglect. Go have a look now, though, and you'll find it's stirring back to vibrancy, bringing to life history and praise of others.

Fade to 1985

In 1985, a noted muralist named David Fichter set up shop here, at 424 Seminole, to create the Peace Mural. Fichter, mostly a Massachusetts-based artist, has spread his work in streets here, there and around the world. As Harvard Magazine put it, "Brick walls are his canvas and his preferred surface."

As for the Seminole Peace Mural, his website explains that it told the story of "nonviolent resistance to the use and spread of nuclear weapons," depicting Albert Einstein, Dorothy Day and Bayard Rustin, among others.

Today, the man resurrecting this mural has nothing but respect for Fichter, and has decided to include many of his original images and messages.

This new mural, however, dubbed "Peace Wall Redux," is the sole work of Mister Totem. ("Mister Totem" is what everyone calls him and that's what he wants you to call him, too, so we'll stick to that here.)

On a recent morning, Totem could be found perched atop a ladder, a few yards down the wall from his exquisite rendering of Albert Einstein. On this day, he's making plenty of progress, but he has yards to go before he's finished. Still to come, are heroes we celebrate closer to home — including Martin Luther King.

"This is a remembrance of Fichter's work," said Totem, "a tip of the hat to him. But there are many of my elements in this as well."

Stepping down off the ladder and joining a visitor to observe the entire wall, he explains the original work; what it was meant to evoke — hard-nosed social commentary — and what "Redux" is meant to say. He seems to suggest that it's something softer, something that sounds to the visitor more like love and life.

"The general structure is the same," he says, referring to the old mural. "But, I'm giving it the graffiti writer's feel, of Mister Totem's work."

Totem's new creation is not fine art, but something more inherently American: graffiti. The art form is a complicated subject, worthy of an epic essay. So for now, Totem offers this synopsis:



Mister Totem, under the watchful eye of Einstein, at work on the Peace Wall Redux.

"Graffiti writing as a medium is different from fine art," he says. "Fine art is not inherently American. Graffiti art is and it is born out of chaos, it says: 'I am here.'"

The L5P Alliance Steps Up

When the Little Five Points Alliance started contemplating rescuing the Seminole Peace Mural, the first move was to reach out to the property owner, Tomas Valenti, who quickly agreed to the plan.

The mural was in bad shape, having been damaged by a car accident years earlier and it had begun to fade. When Saskia Benjamin, the L5P Alliance board chair, looked a little closer at the old mural, she found that some of the artwork on previously damaged parts of the mural were made by Totem.

"The Alliance reached out to Mr. Totem to see if he'd be interested in working with us on the project," Lauren Welsh, executive director of the Little Five Points Alliance, wrote in an email.

Welsh added that Totem "was excited to partner with the Alliance on a new piece of art that would bridge the generations

by including images from the original

Seminole Peace Mural combined with more current street art."

With funding from the L5P Alliance and an NPU-N grant received in April of 2023, the project got underway.

Totem brings his own vision, but he doesn't work in isolation — he wanted a community conversation. So at the annual "People Make the Place" event in August, he got feedback from L5P. The result, wrote Welsh, is "a blending of the two artistic styles now present in today's artwork."

It Begins With Family

Totem, 48, is not new to this. See his previous works around the city, including the mural on the south side of the Moreland tunnel under DeKalb Avenue. His work can also be seen in other places, including Peru, Sweden, Germany and Japan — results of State Department-sponsored trips.

His focus, though, is right here in his hometown, Atlanta, and with his family. He's the father of four boys, ages 4, 6, 13 and 16. Those four, more than anything, are what drives him.

"My sons are my greatest pleasure," he says, as he ascends the ladder to go back to work on the Peace Wall Redux. "You know, peace begins with fatherhood."



Totem needed a gallons of spraypaint in order to rework the mural.

Before he could do the Redux, Totem needed a wall prep. Candler Park turned out for that, laying down his choice of a neutral pink to get things started. Back row, left to right: Scott Pendergrast, L5P CID representative; Joy Osmanski and Corey Brill, Euclid Terrace residents; Rob Pollock, Candler Street resident; Saskia Benjamin, the L5P Alliance board chair; Amy Stout, Candler Park Conservancy projects chair. Front row: Mister Totem, with two Candler Park junior artists.



A Neighborhood Of Murals

Words and photos by John Fleming

It may not seem like it at first, but after a full survey, it becomes clear that Candler Park is full of murals and wall art. Some of it is brought to you by artists' collaboratives such as The Loss Prevention, The Outer Space Project and Living Walls.

Several others in the neighborhood are the works of individual artists, some well-known, some unheard of and some unknown.

They all do great work and focus on maintaining, preserving and enhancing community as well as finding ways to include long-excluded groups from the public art scene. (Note: This is just a limited selection of Candler Park's murals. For more, see the CPNO website).



OUTCAST

Where: In the parking lot behind Wish, on the south wall of Sevananda, Moreland and Euclid Avenue.

What: This was a collaboration with Outer Space Project and the artist Jeks who based this well-known piece on photos by the hip-hop photographer Jonathan Mannion.

PLEASE STAY

Where: Under the MARTA bridge at Whitefoord Avenue and DeKalb.

Artist: Margo Perkins, an Atlanta-based artist who teamed up with Living Walls to give us this big and wonderful piece.



WINGS, ETC.

Where: The west wall of 1580 DeKalb Avenue, between Mell and Glendale.

What: This tricky, complex, magical piece almost defies description. If you are the author of this gem, please come forward and explain.



EAT MORE COLORS

Where: The east side of the Fellini's parking lot on McLendon.

Artists: The kids from Midtown Atlanta High School cluster. A 2019 collaboration of students and teachers of the then-Grady High School Cluster. At the time, Grady art teacher John Brandhorst told the Southerner that some 100 students were involved in the project



FAIRTRADE

Where: The north wall of Sevananda and Moreland.

Artist: Muhammad Yungai, who specializes in painting school murals across the nation, created this gorgeous mural on the wall adjacent to the now roped-off rear parking lot. In a phone call, Yungai's wife, Khadijah Pegues-Yungai, said she helped her husband with the mural, as she often does. "We've got nothing but good things to say about the good people of Sevananda and the neighborhood. That one, that was a lot of fun."



WESTERN SUNRISE

Where: The east side of 1522 DeKalb at the parking lot and DeKalb Avenue.

Artist: Long-time Candler Park resident Diirga Jokl-Brough painted this mural in 2000.



PORTALS

Where: The east Wall of SalonRed and Dekalb Avenue.

What: The mural was commissioned through the Outer Space Project and was completed in 2017.

What's Next?

*By the Historic
Designation Committee*

In 2024, the Historic Designation Committee will get into actually defining a potential Candler Park Historic District based on all the input we have received thus far. Aaron Fortner will review the recent Worksheets about various regulatory topics we discussed at the recent Community Meetings and if/how those could be addressed in draft regulations.

We will also engage the city staff in our first draft of potential regulations so that when we bring the first draft to the neighborhood for review and input, we hope to present a realistic plan. Proposed boundaries and a historic period will be defined as well.

The committee and Aaron will present the draft to the neighborhood for review. Further discussion and input both online and in public meetings will likely result in several rounds of revisions.

Ultimately, the Neighborhood will vote on whether or not to submit the final draft of a Candler-Park-specific Historic District to the City. Right now we anticipate this vote to occur between May and October 2024, but this may be pushed back if needed.

EXAMPLE OF 4 ALLOWABLE DWELLINGS



ILLUSTRATED LOT COVERAGE - 55%

EXAMPLE OF 4 ALLOWABLE DWELLINGS



ILLUSTRATED LOT COVERAGE - 60%



December 18, 2023

CPNO Members Meeting

- Draft Minutes (Hybrid)

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Christina Hodgen. The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent. The November minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Guest Speakers:

Sgt. Davis- APD Zone 6: There were only 5 crimes reported in the last reporting session.

Little Five Points Alliance: End of year giving campaign / Mural on the backside of the plaza is being restored by the original artist.

Kelly Stocks, Little Five Point Business Association: "Small Market" in the plaza from 1-6 p.m. / Sculptures are up in the plaza

Saira Draper, District 90 State Representative for half of Candler Park: Redistricting maps must be redrawn by mid-January.

Messenger/Website- John Fleming: January will be the last issue of The Messenger produced by KDA, which has ended its contractual agreement with CPNO.

Treasurer Report (Christina Hodgen for Amy Wheeler)

- The Pub Crawl raised \$220.
- The remaining Fall Fest income was collected.

Historic Designation Committee (Emily Taff)

Good progress being made. Worksheets are for information only.

Zoning (Jason Key)

The motion to support V23-183 (607 Page Avenue) passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.
Submitted by Bonnie Palter, Secretary, December 18, 2023

CPNO Officer and Committee

Report for December 18, 2023

Membership – Roger Bakeman

Looking back on 2023, the Membership Committee (1) contributed support to three member-organized block parties, (2) made the initial contact for five of the nine 2023 Tour of Home sites, (3) oversaw the highest number of members (823) since CPNO started keeping electronic records in 2010 (see chart; noteworthy is the number of new members last year and the number of renewals this year).

Deep in December, we would like to remember Roger Johnson, who first established CPNO's online presence in 2000, and Jay Sandhaus, who developed the precursor of today's CPNO membership database in the 2010s. Much appreciation and thanks also to Jennifer Wilds and Callan and Michael Falkenstein who served ably on this year's Membership Committee.

Infrastructure Committee – Naoya Wada

- Conversations with the businesses of Little Candler to further our tactical urbanism efforts at the corner of McLendon and Oakdale.
- Had a great meeting with the City of Atlanta DOT Tactical Urbanism and Vision Zero teams to discuss our tactical urbanism plans.
- Continuing to fundraise for our projects. Please donate at candlerpark.org/safestreet.

External Affairs – DJ Roedger

- NPU-N voted to support the Paideia School Field Day to be held on April 12, 2024, in Candler Park.
- NPU-N voted to support Z-23-22 (amended), a zoning ordinance eliminating off-street parking and loading requirements in most zoning categories in the Beltline overlay.

Historic Designation – Emily Taff

Worksheet participation at the time had increased significantly due to outreach efforts so far.

Committee does need to close the worksheets in order to move on to the next phase — reviewing the data and drafting potential regulations based on what people have said. There will be more opportunities during the reviews of the draft regulations to have more discussion and input from neighbors, so these worksheets are not anyone's "last chance" to give input although we do really want a strong showing.

It was suggested that 10% participation in the worksheets would be reasonably acceptable based on the size of Candler Park (approximately 1,500 households). Discussion on how to improve participation before the deadline of Dec 15 which had already been extended and published. Push the survey through additional CPNO e-blasts, HDC e-blasts and reaching out to neighbors with the help of block captains.

The last of 4 topical Community Meetings was held on Nov. 9.

Public Safety – Larry Compton

Our crime trends heading into the festive season are looking exceptionally good, with only one noteworthy incident. Please continue to look after your neighbors if you know they are out of town.

- APD Zone 6 is spending more time patrolling in the neighborhood due to a recent increase in patrol officer availability.
- In response to recent vandalism in the Candler Park pool area, the APD Zone 6 morning watch will conduct increased patrols into the park.

DECEMBER CRIME REPORT, CANDLER PARK				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
Theft of Vehicle Parts	12/09/2023	Friday	0300	1300 Block Benning PL NE
SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY ROLLUP (1)			SAFETY OFFICER ASSESSMENT	
THEFT OF VEHICLE PARTS			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is an outstanding report heading into the festive season.• I wish all of you a Happy New Year!	

Sponsors eager for your business!

The following are sponsors* in other community newsletters, published by Our Front Porch. **BOLD LISTINGS** have an advertisement in this publication. (*Included sponsors have met purchase criteria.)

CP112N | TA

A/C & Heating

Anytime Heating & Cooling, Inc.	678-606-9020
Clark's Heating and Air	678-379-2665
Dayco Systems	770-919-9509
Jape Services	404-282-7887
JF Maxwell Heating & Air	678-935-0505
Neese Heating and Cooling	678-856-4785
Shumate Air Conditioning & Heating	678-584-0880
Superior Indoor Comfort	770-664-9098
Zen Air	678-883-7868

Accountants

Signature Accounting Services, LLC.	770-975-1609
-------------------------------------	--------------

Active Adult Community

Holbrook/Dogwood Forest	404-445-7777
-------------------------	--------------

Assisted Living

Manor Lake BridgeMill	678-990-5055
Rock Creek Manor	678-454-2600
The Arbor at Bridgemill	770-214-4023
Varenita of West Cobb	470-750-3500

Attorney

Daryl L. Kidd P.C.	770-499-1274
--------------------	--------------

Auto Detailing

Polished Peach Car Wash	770-592-8102
-------------------------	--------------

Banking

Credit Union of Georgia	678-486-1111
-------------------------	--------------

Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling

InDesign Kitchen & Bath	770-865-3632
NBH Kitchen & Baths	770-609-0800

Bathub & Ceramic Tile Repair

Unique Refinishers	770-945-0072
--------------------	--------------

Cleaning Services

House Cleaning Specialist, Inc.	770-975-4995
---------------------------------	--------------

Concrete Leveling

Advance Concrete Lifting & Leveling	678-208-3426
-------------------------------------	--------------

Consignment

Finders Keepers	404-377-1944
Uptown Cheap skate-Cumming	770-844-7600
Uptown Cheap skate-East Cobb	770-999-1967
Uptown Cheap skate-Johns Creek	770-495-1515

Dance Studio

CK DanceWorks, Inc. & CK Yoga	770-975-7298
-------------------------------	--------------

Dentist

Acworth Dental	770-974-4146
BridgeMill Dentistry (Scott Merritt, DMD)	770-704-1812
Distinctive Dentistry	770-445-6606
Esthetic Dental Solutions	678-352-1333
Family Dentistry at Seven Hills	678-574-4837
Roswell Dental Care	470-288-1363
Swords & Phelps Dentistry	770-479-3713

Design & Build Services

HammerSmith, Inc.	404-377-1021
-------------------	--------------

Doors

EntryPoint Doors & Windows	770-904-0094
Park Avenue Entries	770-622-0554

Electrical Service

Arc Angel Electric Corp	470-239-5568
Shumate Electrical Services	678-584-0880

Flooring

All Floors Center	404-610-9344
-------------------	--------------

Funeral Homes

In Their Honor of Jasper Funerals &	706-253-5060
-------------------------------------	--------------

Garbage & Recycling Service

The Bin Brigade	404-913-5033
-----------------	--------------

Golf Equipment & Supplies

Golf Cars of Canton	678-880-1156
---------------------	--------------

Government

DeKalb County Board of Commissioners-	404-371-2899
---------------------------------------	--------------

Handyman

Happy Handyman LLC	770-685-8421
Shumate Handyman Services	678-584-0880

Home Builder

Stoncrest Works	770-823-7892
-----------------	--------------

Home Furnishings

ARIANA Home Furnishings & Design	678-807-7422
----------------------------------	--------------

Home Improvements

GHIR Construction	404-922-7379
-------------------	--------------

Hospital

Northeast Georgia Medical Center	770-214-4492
----------------------------------	--------------

Insurance

Allstate Insurance Nancy Wells	404-452-5066
The Upton Agency	770-361-6570

Kitchen

Housley Enterprises, Inc	678-546-2276
--------------------------	--------------

Landscaping

Russo Landscapes	678-699-5963
Stone Edge Landscapes	678-421-4763

Medical Clinic

Prestige Medical Group	706-692-9768
SOLUTIONS Pain & Spine Doctors	470-275-3626

Mortgages

Movement Mortgage	404-394-6738
-------------------	--------------

Nursery

Autumn Hill Nursery	770-442-3901
---------------------	--------------

Painting

360 Painting	770-213-5071
Chris Brown Painting & Home Repair	770-323-3148
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
Painting Plus	404-382-9988
Red Oak Painting	678-800-6533
Verge Painting and Siding	678-331-1102

Performing Arts

Schwartz Center For Performing Arts	404-727-8769
--	--------------

Personal Trainers

The Dog Wizard	678-748-3231
----------------	--------------

Pest Control

Legacy Pest Control	770-423-0160
---------------------	--------------

Plumbing

Bryan Plumbing Services	770-826-5277
Panacea Plumbing	404-644-7549
Plumb 'N' Plumber	678-725-0042
Serv'all Plumbing & Rooter Service	770-917-1852
Shumate Plumbing Services	678-584-0880

Pre-Schools & Kindergarten

Omega Learning Center-Acworth	770-792-7431
-------------------------------	--------------

Propane Service

Gas Incorporated	770-720-1378
------------------	--------------

Real Estate

Atlanta Communities-Carl Hawthorne	404-403-1789
Atlanta Communities-Elizabeth Martin	678-373-9342
Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates	770-403-5639
Century 21-K & L Team Thompson & Dilworth	770-235-4581
Coldwell Banker-Sherry Warner	404-784-8848
Compass Realty-Natalie Gregory Team	404-373-0076
Cory & Co. Realty	404-564-5561
Georgia Real Estate Depot-Nix	770-401-4932
Harry Norman Realtors-Pam Hughes	404-626-3604
JW Collection Brokers LLC-Oslund	678-321-4211
Keller Williams Realty-Cynthia Baer	678-358-3369
Keller Williams-Linda Jacobs	770-337-2006
Keller Williams-Williams	678-780-7556
Park Realty-John Morgan & Drew Jackson	877-249-8533
Remax Around Atlanta-Falkin	770-330-2374
Remax-Heerema	770-238-6759
Robin Martin and Associates	678-665-0202

Remodeling

GCI Basements	404-569-8794
Serv'all Plumbing-Remodeling	770-917-1852

Restaurants

Cactus Cantina	470-207-8341
Kaldi's Coffee	404-727-0405
Luna Maya	770-720-4999
Norsan Restaurant Group	678-878-2513

Roofing

Atlanta Roofing Specialists	770-419-2222
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203

Schools-Private

Atlanta Academy	678-461-6102
King's Ridge Christian School	770-754-5738
McGinnis Woods Country Day School	770-664-7764
The Friends School of Atlanta	404-373-8746
Woodward Academy	404-765-4001

Security Systems

Classic Entry Systems	678-330-1111
-----------------------	--------------

Skin Care

dermani MEDSPA - East Cobb (Marietta)	678-909-1735
The Beauty Barn	678-824-5466

Spa

Reve Aesthetics Medspa	678-447-0801
------------------------	--------------

Water Heaters

Serv'all Plumbing-Water Heaters	770-917-1852
---------------------------------	--------------

Window Replacement

Davis Window & Door	770-279-0905
EntryPoint Doors & Windows	770-904-0094
North Georgia Replacement Windows, Inc.	770-888-1604
Visionaire Windows	404-543-9306
Window Traditions of Georgia	678-672-1963



I LIVE, LOVE, AND **SELL** CANDLER PARK



1351 HOOPER AVE, NE
ATLANTA, GA 30307



1369 EUCLID AVE, NE
ATLANTA, GA 30307

#1 AGENT

Units & Volume
Keller Williams Realty
Metro Atlanta

#2 DeKalb Association
of Realtors

KW METRO ATLANTA
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

**109%
AVERAGE
LIST OVER
SALES PRICE**

45 CLIENTS
Trusted Us with
Their Home
Buying and Selling
Needs
in 2022



Cynthia Baer
Associate Broker
Your Neighborhood Realtor®
📞 678-358-3389
✉ CYNTHIA@CYNTHIABAER.COM
📍 AROUND 30307
📱 CYNTHIABAER30307
🌐 CYNTHIABAER.COM

378 W POWELL BLVD SUITE 100, DECATUR, GA 30030 (404) 564-5588

By popular demand - a new service from Our Front Porch
to help protect and add value to our Neighborhood:

Our Front Porch Verified

We Verify And Highlight Our Neighborhood's
PREFERRED, REFERRED, TRUSTED AND INSURED VENDORS
For Our Most Common Homeowner Needs.



Tired of seeing so many
DIFFERENT VENDORS
driving through our
neighborhood?

How do you know which
vendor is **TRUSTED**?
Which is **INSURED**?

Is there a place to find
out which vendors **OUR
NEIGHBORS PREFER**?



Look no further!

Our Front Porch Verified
has the answers for you.

Look for the Our Front Porch Verified
badge in our neighborhood newsletter.



SHUMATE®

Heating • Air Conditioning • Plumbing • Electric • Handyman



When your family just can't wait
it's time to call Shumate!



678 - SHUMATE
24/7/365



TRANE®

It's Hard To Stop A Trane.®

