

Neighborhood News

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NEWSLETTER OF THE LAVISTA PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 244190 ATLANTA, GA 30324 WWW.LAVISTAPARK.ORG



Inside:

- Patrol News, page 2
- LaVista Park & Garden Club Update, page 2
- Friends of Kittredge Park Update, page 2
- EVP's Message, page 3
- 2017 LVPCA Elections, page 3
- Coyote in the 'Hood, page 5
- Membership Special, page 6
- LVPCA Board Member Contact Info, page 7
- Friends of LaVista Park, page 8



President Elect's Message

Happy New Year! I trust your holidays were enjoyable and that 2017 holds good fortune aplenty for all of you. For those of you who are new to our neighborhood, a special welcome and invitation to join our association!

Assuming the polls are accurate, and pending membership approval at our January 19th quarterly meeting (our "electoral college"), I will be your new president for 2017. Several remaining board positions are proposed to be filled then as well, with caring residents stepping forward, and in no small part, due to persuasive appeals from our outgoing president Steve Richards. Attend on January 19 to meet your neighbors and new board!

Many thanks to all our new and returning board volunteers, without whom our association could not continue to fulfill its mission to serve its members and strengthen our community. We "stand on the shoulders" of our board predecessors, especially our immediate past president Steve, who will continue to serve on the board in that advisory capacity, and Dana Williams, our immediate past treasurer and, like Steve and a few others, a hard-working and long-serving volunteer. As of this writing, we are still seeking a webmaster and Fall Festival chair. Contact me ASAP to inquire about these positions!

Your 2017 board met on December 10 to review our



LAVISTA PARK
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, January 19

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1438 Sheridan Road

7 p.m. social with refreshments

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Meeting

GUEST SPEAKER: Emory Representative

LVPCA T-Shirts Available for Purchase

association's mission, core responsibilities and our respective roles and duties, and to establish our 2017 initiatives and calendar of events. We also partook of one of the best brunches I've ever attended! Your board has some talented cooks and shoppers, so we know how to have fun, too. Check out our website, www.lavistapark.org, where you'll find our constitution, by-laws (yes, we have those), executive committee contacts (aka "board") and 2017 calendar. Contact us to offer your suggestions!

As an association, we face a few challenges which you'll read about in this newsletter and hear discussed at our January 19th meeting, primarily increasing paid memberships (beyond our current 52% of eligible households) and business sponsors. In 2017, your board will also continue to monitor and strengthen our security program to reduce crime, upgrade our communications and use of technology, improve our beloved LaVista Park and natural environment, sponsor our annual Fall Festival and other seasonal social events, and monitor area home sales, development proposals, rezoning issues, cityhood and transportation initiatives which impact our quality of life.

I've lived in LaVista Park for 25 years and seen a lot of changes. People, houses and even trees (www.lavistaparkshade.org) have come and gone from our lives, but one thing I know has endured – We are a caring community! This is evident to me when neighbors join Nextdoor, attend monthly Garden Club meetings, volunteer for our Fall Festival, show up and speak at our quarterly membership meetings, and volunteer to serve on our board and various committees. Over 75 residents, area businesses, civic organizations and realtors have taken notice and supported our Fall Festival each of the past two years! Let's each resolve in 2017 to continue to be a good

neighbor – say “hello” and introduce yourself to fellow walkers (with or without dogs), follow your instinct and say or do something when you sense someone known or unknown to you needs an ear or a helping hand. See you on January 19!

Tom Woodward, president@lavistapark.org



Patrol News & Notes

On behalf of the LaVista Park Security Patrol, I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Please assist us in making LaVista Park the safest place possible for you and your family to reside. These few simple tips will help keep you and your property safe.

- 1) Do not put your travel plans on social media.
- 2) Have a trusted family member, friend, or neighbor keep an eye on your house when you are not home.
- 3) Initiate a house check with the Patrol and fill out all appropriate information when you are gone for more than a few days.
- 4) Breakdown boxes or any wrappings that may advertise your gifts or new purchases.
- 5) Ensure the lighting around your house is adequate.
- 6) Keep jewelry, valuables, and small electronic devices in a safe or safety deposit box when not being used. Hiding these types of items is not sufficient.
- 7) Dial 911 if you see anything suspicious. There is a good chance that an on-duty LaVista Park Patrol Officer will hear the call on the radio and respond immediately.
- 8) Think about investing in an alarm/ camera system with an audible siren inside and outside of the house. If you do have an alarm system, please use it when you're away from your house. The patrol listens for audible alarms and can respond before the police are notified.
- 9) Change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Capt. F.P. Braun
DeKalb County Police Department
LaVista Park Patrol Supervisor



LaVista Park / Garden Club

There are big plans afoot for our charming namesake park this year. Come spring, we'll be starting the 2017 Park Pond Patio Pop-up Party program! (try saying THAT fast 3 times!) Look for the first one (via Constant Contact and NextDoor Neighbor) once the weather turns milder.

We are also creating a committee to plan and direct improvements to the park. Both Emory and GA Tech have offered to supply us with volunteer workers, but we need to create a master plan for the work. SO, if you love the park, join us and be part of the process! This is YOUR chance to make an impact on the park! Contact me via email at NaturalEnvironment@LaVistaPark.org or call me at 404-666-3265.

And finally, come see what the Garden Club is up to. We meet the second Tuesday of the month in members' homes except for a summer hiatus. The programs are quite varied and always interesting. You needn't have a green thumb, just an interest in gardening at some level and a desire to meet some neighbors. Annual dues are \$20, but first-time guests are always free. Come see what we're all about. You may email me at GardenClub@LaVistaPark.org or call me at 404-666-3265 and I'll make sure you get an invitation.

Donna Newman
Chair, Natural Environment Committee
President, Citadel-LaVista Park Garden Club



Friend's of Kittredge Park

The Friends of Kittredge Park welcomed a corporate work day from our sponsor REI on December 1st. They were able to connect the trail from the top of the hill to the Holly Lane entry that had been started by Park Pride volunteers on November 12th.

Our next event is Emory's annual MLK Day of Remembrance, January 16th noon to 3pm. We welcome all to assist; tools are provided; dress appropriately.

FKP is pleased to see greater use of Kittredge Park, but is in need of fresh volunteers. Visit our Facebook site for updates.
www.facebook.com/KittredgePark

Gene Schmidt
 FKP representative
efschmidt@yahoo.com

Executive Vice President's Message

Hello Neighbors!

Juli St. George here, your newly elected Executive Vice President. My wife, Lauren, and our little boy, Jack, moved here in 2014 and we have loved being a part of the neighborhood since day 1. We jumped right into the LaVista Park activities and we got involved in the Fall Festival - I met many of you as the Fall Festival Face Painter! I am also a member of the LaVista Park Garden Club and have really enjoyed making friends out of our neighbors.

As EVP, I'll be spearheading our membership drive and revamping the "Friends of LaVista Park" program as well. If you are a current member, THANK YOU! If you have been a member in the past or haven't joined yet, I do hope that you consider joining.

A large part of the association dues goes toward the safety patrol in the neighborhood. Beefing up membership allows us to beef up the patrol hours. Another perk of joining the association is the Friends of LaVista Park program. Local businesses can also play a part of membership and I plan to revamp this perk to get more benefits for all members. Stay tuned for more info!

Also in the works for 2017 is a **Modern House Tour** – for LaVista Park residents only, **Pop Up Parties in the Park** – hosted by our Garden Club President Donna Newman, an **Ice Cream Social** and another exciting **Fall Festival!**

We've had over 45 home sales in LaVista Park in the last year – So much action in a neighborhood of 630 homes! If you haven't already introduced

yourself to your newest neighbor, take a moment and welcome them – we have a diverse and interesting crowd here! Home values are going up, local schools ratings are improving and new and interesting businesses are popping up all around us. Exciting times to live in Atlanta.

We have big ideas for 2017 and hope that you'll take part in the neighborhood activities – If you have any other ideas or suggestions, or would like to help with any of the events please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to serving on the LaVista Park Board.

Juli St. George
execvp@lavistapark.org

2017 LVPCA Elections

At our annual meeting of the LaVista Park Civic Association held on Thursday, October 20, the following officers were elected. Also, the following appointed officer positions and standing committee positions were filled.

ELECTED

Executive Vice President - Juli St. George
 Secretary - Kathy May
 Registrar - Bonnie Jackson
 Vice President, Section 1 - Sue Hartman
 Vice President, Section 4 - Joey Campbell

Please note that our Immediate Past President, Steve Richards, will be serving on our board for 2017.

APPOINTED OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Patrol Coordinator - Ed Nunn
 Zoning Coordinators - Gina Henschen
 Natural Environment Committee Chair and Garden Club President - Donna Newman

At our quarterly meeting of the LaVista Park Civic Association on Thursday, January 19, we will vote on the following nominations to fill the empty board positions.
 President - Tom Woodward
 Treasurer - Marsha Hanus
 Vice President, Section 2 - Steve Osunsami
 Vice President, Section 3 - Michael Lappin

Additionally, the appointed positions of Webmaster and Fall Festival Committee Chair need to be filled and thus require volunteers.

A detailed description of each board member's duties can be found at this Web address: lavistapark.org/about/lvpca-bylaws

Note that the webmaster needs some basic technical skills and/or comfort level with WordPress, Facebook, Twitter, and the ability to provide minor technical assistance to other board members with their email set-up and other communication. We have just been limping by in this area and could do so much more with just a little knowledge and commitment.

All board members must be members of the association and reside in LaVista Park.

If you would like to place your name in nomination for any elected or appointed position or have questions, please contact Tom Woodward at 404-825-4017 or president@lavistapark.org.

We would like to thank our board members who retired from the board last year:

President Steve Richards
EVP Chad Isbell
Treasurer Dana Williams
VP Section 2 Charles Hankinson
VP Section 3 Sue Witucki
Patrol Coordinator Bill Anderson

Several of these board members served on the board for many years. We owe them much gratitude for their time and commitment. Steve Richards, in particular, served for eight straight years as treasurer and president! What a great job these very dedicated people did – kudos to you all!

Don't forget to purchase a fabulous La Vista park Tee Shirt at the next meeting - cash, card or check accepted. both long and short sleeve and all sizes will be on hand.

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Coyote in the 'Hood

There have been Coyote sightings on Sheridan, Citadel and Wildcreek trail. While we have no reports that they have harmed any of our neighbors or pets, they are living among us and are naturally looking for food – especially during this chilly weather when their regular food sources are low. Coyotes are naturally diurnal, most active during dawn and dusk.

Coyotes are scavengers and are attracted to easy pickings like small rodents, garbage or outdoor pet food. They will go after small dogs or cats if they get hungry, so keep an eye on your pets as they are outside. If feeding a feral cat is one of your hobbies, put the food out at the same time every day and remove it after kitty has eaten to keep kitty from being a Coyote snack.



If you see a Coyote, remember, they are probably more afraid of you than you are of it! Raise and wave your arms in the air – clap – shout and or stomp the ground to scare them away.

- Keep Fluffy and Toto inside or on a leash. Monitor them while they are roaming outdoors.
- Keep pet food, including birdseed indoors. Birdseed attracts small rodents – a Coyote delight!
- Keep garbage secured in garbage cans. Mellow Mushroom pizza leftovers smell great to Coyotes too.
- Never compost meat or dairy unless the compost is wildlife proof

Coyotes are an important part of ecosystems and are drawn to urban environments where food, water and shelter are abundant.

To learn more about Coyotes check out www.humanesociety.org



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Membership Special

LVP Civic Assoc Membership Special ONLY \$100!

Don't be green with envy, you too can have your very own little green yard sign!

We've had so many new neighbors move into LVP that we decided to make it even easier to support the La Vista Park Civic Assoc. New members can join now and **receive full member benefits for only \$100.** (The annual membership can be renewed for the regular price of \$225 during our Spring Membership period ending May 31st 2017.)

Membership provides safety patrol, home security checks, greater peace of mind, discounts and incentives for local businesses and access to all of our neighborhood events.

Did you know that a LVP Civic Assoc membership does all this great stuff?

- The LaVista Park Civic Association coordinated the effort to triple the number of street lights throughout the neighborhood to ensure the safety and convenience for homeowners;
- Created the LaVista Park Patrol which resulted in a dramatic reduction in burglaries;
- Heightened homeowners awareness of potential crime; and outlined prevention techniques to homeowners with the assistance of DeKalb County Police;
- Organized a committee, which helped to avert a rezoning attempt that would have destroyed a significant number of trees and the residential character of a large tract of land along Sheridan Road;
- Successfully obtained equipment and improvements for our LaVista Park at the corner of Wild Creek Trail and Brookforest Drive, creating a wonderful place for families and children to relax and play;

- Created a Web site and email alert system that allows for up-to-date information and resources for members.

Don't know how to purchase a membership? Already a member but want to add to **more security patrol hours**? Feel free to send additional contributions too!

Email me execVP@lavistapark.org or send a check for \$100 with your full name, address, email and tel to: La Vista Park Civic Assoc. PO BOX 244190 Atlanta GA 30324

We are a non profit organization and your contributions go toward La Vista Park Security Patrol hours and home checks. Help keep our neighborhood safe and join today.

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LVPCA Board Member Contact Info

President

Tom Woodward, president@lavistapark.org *Nominated*

Executive Vice President

Juli St. George, execvp@lavistapark.org

Secretary

Kathy May, secretary@lavistapark.org

Registrar

Bonnie Jackson, registrar@lavistapark.org

Treasurer

Marsha Hanus, treasurer@lavistapark.org *Nominated*

Vice President, Section 1

Sue Hartman, vp1@lavistapark.org

Vice President, Section 2

Steve Osunsami, vp2@lavistapark.org *Nominated*

Vice President, Section 3

Michael Lappin, vp3@lavistapark.org *Nominated*

Vice President, Section 4

Joey Campbell, vp4@lavistapark.org

Patrol Coordinator

Ed Nunn, watch@lavistapark.org

Zoning Coordinators

Gina Henschen, zoning@lavistapark.org

Natural Environment Committee Chair

Donna Newman, naturalenvironment@lavistapark.org

Garden Club President

Donna Newman, gardenclub@lavistapark.org

Webmaster

Vacant, technology@lavistapark.org

Fall Festival Committee Chair

Vacant, festival@lavistapark.org

Fall Festival Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers
for the 2017 Fall Festival.

The Fall Festival Committee
meetings begin in July. Come
and meet some new faces and
volunteer for your community.



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Friends of LaVista Park through May 31, 2017

Show your membership card and save!

Level	Friend	Address/Phone	Incentive
PLATINUM	Good Electirc	770.452.4663	10% off for LVPCA members.
GOLD	Athletic Club Northeast	1515 Sheridan Rd 404.325.2700	Two free personal coaching sessions.
	K&M Automotive	2190 Briarcliff Rd 404.633.1677	10% off all products and services. For a limited time, 15% off for those who specifically ask for the 15% discount.
	Mellow Mushroom Emory	1679 LaVista Rd 404.325.0330	10% discount.
	Sunny's Cleaners	2280 Cheshire Bridge Rd 404.248.1957	10% off dry cleaning every day.
SILVER	Rich Vision	2484 Briarcliff Rd Suite 39 Brighten Park 404.325.3400	\$200 off complete pair of eye-glasses. \$25 off year's supply of contract lenses.

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