


Neighborhood News

Volume 24 Number 2
Spring 2017

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

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**LAVISTA PARK**
CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, April 20
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1438 Sheridan Road
7 p.m. social with refreshments
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Meeting
GUEST SPEAKERS:
Jeff Rader, DeKalb County Commissioner
Victoria Kingsland, Central DeKalb Senior Center
Rich Sussman, South Fork Conservancy
LVPCA T-Shirts Available for Purchase



President's Message

Alas, spring has sprung! The “fake” spring which got us off to a false start in February, enticing early blooms and eager buds which were then stunted by recurring cold spells, has given way to the real McCoy. Alternating with our warm sunny days have been severe weather fronts crossing the South and bringing heavy rain, wind and tornadoes, and, of course, the unfortunate cacophony of mowers, blowers and chain saws cleaning up the debris left behind and disturbing the peace. Still, who isn't glad to see LaVista Park “green” again?

One thing that has gone quiet(er) is our January/February mailbox thievery and other not-so-petty crimes spree. Your board responded quickly, increasing security patrol hours, and it paid off. Suspects with evidence were apprehended, now sit in jail and await a fall trial. Here's the kicker – they were renters in our neighborhood! Please remain vigilant, take precautions, call 911 as soon as you see anything suspicious, and alert your neighbors on **<https://lavistapark.nextdoor.com>**. Nextdoor has become a valuable and immediate online communications tool LVPCA members and neighbors rely on. Join it now if you haven't!

Our biggest news by far this spring has been the nearby I-85 fire and partial collapse, which has required re-routing of commuter and through traffic onto area streets, chiefly Cheshire Bridge and Lindbergh Drive to

the west and Briarcliff Road to the east. Georgia DOT and area news sources are providing periodic updates for this three-month reconstruction project. Stay tuned!

Reiterating the closing in my January message, “We are a caring community!” - we are neighbors who care and neighbors who act. Your board has moved forward with several beneficial initiatives including monitoring and adding street lights where requested, “repealing and replacing” unwanted and dangerous traffic islands on Beech Haven with more effective speed humps between Sheridan and Citadel, monitoring and reinforcing speed limits on our pedestrian and pet-friendly streets, and LaVista Park volunteer clean-ups. We also post relevant and timely articles on our website, **www.lavistapark.org**, regarding area developments, such as Emory Healthcare in Executive Park and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) on the north side of North Druid Hills Road, and DeKalb County government news such as Commissioners Jeff Rader and Kathie Gannon's e-newsletter articles. Check our website each month for updates.

Finally, April and May are our LVPCA annual membership drive months for Friends of LaVista Park and Household renewals and recruitment. We greatly appreciate your support and invite you to help us expand our membership rolls by encouraging your immediate neighbors without patrol signs to join LVPCA. Keep our neighborhood safe, secure and welcoming. See details inside and on our website.

Tom Woodward
president@lavistapark.org



Patrol News & Notes

As we enter the spring and summer months it is great to see everyone outside exercising, working in the yard, and enjoying the park. The Patrol has been busy helping keep crime low in the neighborhood. Deputy Smith (Smitty), with the help of DeKalb and Atlanta Police, apprehended two suspects that are responsible for numerous entering autos and thefts. The Patrol will also monitor the increased traffic flow due to the collapsed bridge.

Please keep in mind that as we become more active outside so do the criminals. Here are a few tips to help keep you and your property safe.

- 1) If you see suspicious activity or a crime in progress dial 911, then feel free to post the incident on social media sites.
- 2) Keep windows and doors closed and locked, especially at night.
- 3) Document model and serial numbers for your electronic devices.
- 4) Ensure that your home Wi-Fi is secure.
- 5) Change the batteries in your smoke alarms.
- 6) Have an escape plan in case of fire or other emergencies.
- 7) Thefts of weed eaters, blowers, and other lawn equipment will be on the increase. Help keep an eye on our neighbors' and lawn care professionals' equipment.
- 8) Secure your valuables. Hiding them is not a good way to secure them.
- 9) Think about investing in a fireproof safe. Or keep your valuables in a safe deposit box.
- 10) Do not advertise your vacations or trips on social media.

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



LaVista Park / Garden Club

Spring has sprung and the park is coming alive again! It seems last year's drought is over...

The park restoration committee had a walk-thru with the county in early March and created a "honey-do" list. Already they have removed the old picnic tables next to the playground and replaced them with two new ones. These are heavy duty ones made with the plastic lumber that doesn't warp or splinter. And they are easy to wipe down with baby wipes for all the families using the playground.



A company has been contracted to repair the rubbery path and fix the holes in the path near the overlook and in the playground. And the clogged weir at the egress of the park is being addressed. The drain has to be remediated to flow better, yet safely, downstream.

College volunteers will be coming this spring to turn those piles of granite into lovely low retaining walls and perhaps some steps near the observation deck. Thanks to Dan Campbell who donated the granite blocks from the demolition of the house on Beech Haven – he even transported them to the park for us.

And we had the Park Pond Patio Pop-up Party Program Premier on April 9th. If you missed it, no worries, there will be more. They will be announced via Constant Contact and Next Door (LaVista Park only). Sign up on the LaVista Park website to make sure you don't miss these and other neighborhood sponsored events!

If you want to join the team and give input to your desires for the park, contact me at environment@lavistapark.org

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



Executive Vice President's Message

Hello Neighbors and Happy Spring (Achooooo!)

It's time for our annual LVP Civic Association membership drive. Join now to continue the full year of security patrol, safety checks, quarterly voting rights, Friends of LVP membership discounts and more! We've included the sign up form in this newsletter – you can't miss it. Fill it out, write a check and send it to the LVP PO Box for uninterrupted service. Send your check in and save LVP.org online processing fees from PayPal. Don't use checks anymore? Don't worry, we offer PayPal if you prefer to pay bills online.

If you are a member of the popular app "Nextdoor" you know how important it is to stay in touch with what's happening in the neighborhood. LVP members receive email notifications, have access to the latest updates from the security patrol and get security checks from the patrol while on vacation. It's only 62 cents per day for a whole year and there are so many benefits to joining. Please consider joining if you are not already a member. Returning members, we sincerely thank you for your patronage – our neighborhood would not be the same without your help and contributions.

In other LVP Board news...

Are you new to Lavista Park? If you bought a house in the neighborhood in 2017, one of our section VP's has probably delivered a welcome basket to you. If you just moved in and haven't seen yours yet, don't worry, we are working on your Welcome Basket and it will be delivered soon. We hope you enjoy your little gift from the Board of LaVista Park.

If you are one of the neighbors in the LVP section that had issues with missing US mail and a troublesome letter carrier, Don't worry! One of our board members went straight to the Postmaster and was able to get the troublesome letter carrier replaced. The post office that services that part of the 'hood will be doing spot checks on mail

delivery to ensure that your mail service will no longer be interrupted. Your board is working hard to make LVP your favorite neighborhood in town!

Juli St George
evp@lavistapark.org



Friends of Kittredge Park

Friends of Kittredge Park resumed a more regular clean up schedule this year on January 16th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. A group of 40 Emory students participated, with a small group removing privet from the northern portion of the park and a second group preparing the playground area for the new swings that now will now be ordered since there are sufficient donations.

Our second event on February 18th was an impressive event provided by Park Pride and organized by Community Bucket, bringing 250 volunteers to Kittredge. There were 2 food trucks serving free Refuge Coffee and CJ BBQ. Whole Foods provided breakfast and Community Bucket rounded it off with free t-shirts and concert tickets to City Winery that evening. With so many volunteers FKP was able to work on trails, invasive plant removal, creek clean up, and playground clean up.

February 25th was another Emory event. This time another small group of 35 continued the invasive plant clean up.

FKP hopes to continue monthly events and we always welcome all LaVista Park residents to organize, work, and supervise. Without more neighborhood support, we have to adjust our schedule to fit outside volunteers, so we have no regular work days. But we do post our events on FKP Facebook page as soon as we confirm with sponsors. Please check that and come out to Kittredge Park.

www.facebook.com/KittredgePark

Gene Schmidt
FKP representative
efschmidt@yahoo.com



Civic Association Network

CAN has resumed its regular schedule the last Wednesday of each month. Tom Woodward has agreed to assume the CAN representative position, though I will continue to attend when possible.

January had an informative program by Victoria Kingsland of the Mason Mill Senior Center. They have 450 paid members and bring informative programs to the membership, which includes a \$7 lunch by neighboring restaurants on Tuesday and Thursday. The Senior Center also has a meeting room available for private events at \$100/hour. They are happy to show off their facility and programs, just stop in.

In February CAN was given a state legislative update by our DeKalb elective officials: Elena Parent, Fran Millar, Scott Holcomb, and Mary Margaret Oliver.

For March, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta gave a preview on the goals of their Tully Circle campus, which will replace Egleston Hospital at Emory. They continue to buy properties on North Druid Hills Rd, the interstate access road, and neighboring apartments to round out their holdings and allow for more options to address traffic concerns. They hope to have a master plan to present to Brookhaven in late summer and have been holding public meetings to share their process. The medical office building now under construction is expected to be open in October 2018.

Gene Schmidt
CAN representative
efschmidt@yahoo.com

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Atlanta District 6 News

Road Closure/Opening Status

I-85 North and South (all lanes) remain closed at this location. Georgia Department of Transportation anticipates repair construction to last until June 15.

The Buford Highway/Spring Street Connector has limited availability. Two northbound lanes are open (access just after the I-85/I-75 split), and all exits are open. Only one southbound lane is open (access just after the Cheshire Bridge and GA 400 North exits). Drivers cannot access the southbound lane from Sidney Marcus Road. The good news is that GDOT has restriped the southbound lane so that there are two lanes exiting from the Buford Connector back onto I-85 just before it merges with I-75.

Piedmont Road is also impacted as it goes under I-85. There are three southbound lanes open, and the exit onto I-85 South via the Buford Connector is open. There is only one northbound lane open at this time.

Coordination with other agencies

The city is working closely with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). They have posted at their website recommended detours around the impacted area. They are also posting updates about the construction work. Please visit www.dot.ga.gov for information.

MARTA has expanded service through their system to accommodate the increase in ridership. In response to challenges some customers were having with parking this past week, they have opened up an addition 1,200 spaces in certain station in their East and North lines. They also are reporting stations where parking is underutilized and available. Please visit www.itsmarta.com for most up-to-date information.

Atlanta Public Schools have made adjustments in anticipation of possible challenges in getting students to certain schools tomorrow. First, they will be opening Morningside Elementary and schools in the North Atlanta cluster at 7:15 am to increase the drop off window. They are also asking that you get to your bus stop 15 minutes early as well. Please visit www.atlantak12.ga.us for more details.

Other suggestions and comments

Please fill up your gas tank before you set out tomorrow, so you don't want to run out of gas if you get stuck in traffic, creating more pressure on the system. You might want to bring some water, too.

The City and GDOT are reviewing all lane closure permits and pulling non-essential work to keep as many lanes open as possible everywhere. Please keep in mind that some of the work must still move forward, but you should see that minimized.

From: Atlanta District 6 Councilmember Alex Wan



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New Board Members

Please welcome three new members to our board:

- Vice President, Section 4 - Mark Griffith
- Fall Festival Committee Co-Chairs - Anne Marro and Heather Rainey
- Thank you, Joey Campbell, for your tenure on the board.

There is now just one vacant position, the webmaster. A detailed description of the webmaster duties can be found at this Web address: lavistapark.org/about/lvpca-by-laws. Briefly, 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.

Note that all board members must be members of the association and reside in LaVista Park. If you are willing and able, please contact Tom Woodward at 404-825-4017 or president@lavistapark.org.

It's been a long time since we've had a fully staffed board (minus 1). It is a very dedicated and energetic group who has very ambitious plans and has already accomplished a lot in the short few months since taking office. Go board!!!

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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LVPCA Board Member Contact Info

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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

Vice President, Section 1

Sue Hartman, vp1@lavistapark.org

Vice President, Section 2

Steve Osunsami, vp2@lavistapark.org

Vice President, Section 3

Michael Lappin, vp3@lavistapark.org

Vice President, Section 4

Mark Griffith, 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

Bethany Brown (interim consultant)

Fall Festival Committee Co-Chairs

Anne Marro and Heather Rainey, 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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Editor: Kathy May
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Design: Lauren St. George
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LAVISTA PARK
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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