

Neighborhood News

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Fall 2018

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

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President's Message

Cooler fall temperatures have *finally* arrived, and "Change is in the air!"

As it is for your Board of Directors. The good news is - most current Board members have agreed to continue into 2019, some in different positions. It has been my pleasure to serve LVPCA for the past four years, as president for 2017-2018 and as Fall Festival chair for 2015-2016. I will serve on the Board for 2019 in the past-president position, a non-voting one-year term.

Serving with them, I can attest to the commitment of all your Board members to making LaVista Park a fun, safe and welcoming place to live! At this time, we are seeking candidates to fill three open slots – Executive Vice President, Secretary and Zoning Coordinator. Please contact any Board member if you are interested. Each position is described in our By-laws (<http://lavistapark.org/about/lvpc-bylaws/>).

We accomplished much in the past two years, building on the hard work of prior Board members and countless other neighborhood volunteers. Together, we set new records for household members and Friends of LaVista Park. As of September 24, we had 368 paid members and 12 Friends. We are most grateful! To meet our budget target of 402 members and maintain our security patrol at its current level through May 2019, we only need an additional **34** sign-ups this year. Please go to <http://lavistapark.org/membership/> to learn more and to pay online via PayPal (\$225



LAVISTA PARK
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Meeting Thursday, October 25th

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1438 Sheridan Road

7 p.m. social with refreshments

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

**Representatives of Brookhaven
City Government**

per household). See inside to learn about our updated 2018-2019 Friends and exclusive LVPCA Member benefits.

In August, we conducted a cityhood preference survey, our first in four years. We received 288 mailed and online responses. I reported those results in an email blast on September 6, as well as next steps approved by the Board in response:

- Provide written communication of our survey results to elected state, county and city representatives, including your preference to join Brookhaven.
- Invite representatives from Brookhaven to our LVPCA Annual Membership Meeting to discuss their operations, respond to your survey comments and answer questions.

We strongly encourage you to attend on October 25! Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst, District 4 Council Representative Joe Gebbia, City Manager Christian Sigman, and other representatives will be our guest speakers.

As first reported in July, the Board continues to monitor area developments. These include GDOT improvements to our LaVista-Briarcliff intersection and Toll Brothers' rezoning proposal to develop a new five-story 374-unit apartment complex to replace nine single-family homes on Milledge Place at the nearby Briarcliff-Clifton intersection. Both projects will impact area traffic, stormwater runoff and our quality of life. Please follow the ongoing discussions on Nextdoor and provide input to our public officials!

Tom Woodward
president@lavistapark.org



Patrol News & Notes

Greetings to everyone from the LaVista Park Patrol Officers. 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.
- 2) Keep windows and doors closed and locked, especially at night. We have an increase of complaints about prowlers during day and night hours.
- 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) Secure your valuables. Hiding them is not a good way to secure them.
- 8) Think about investing in a fire proof safe. Or keep your valuables in a safety deposit box.
- 9) Do not advertise your vacations or trips on social media.
- 10) Meeting someone for an internet sale or purchase is dangerous. It is recommended that you meet at a local police station to complete the transaction.
- 11) Keep your car doors locked. Entering auto crimes occur throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area.
- 12) Do not leave anything of value in your car.

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

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HAPPY FALL

Fall is Here!
Time to get your home winter ready.

- Clean downspouts and gutters
- Dust ceiling fans and ceiling light fixtures
- Wash the windows
- Turn off exterior faucets



- Remove leaves around your outside HVAC
- Store outdoor furniture and cushions
- Inspect chimney for cracks and damage
- Inspect roof for cracks and damage



- Cut back perennial plants
- Mulch around plant bases
- Remove hoses from spigots and drain water
- Stow the lawn mower



- Schedule a furnace tune-up
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Check windows & doors for weather-tightness
- Clean out dryer vent

- Drain sediment from hot water heater
- Rotate/flip mattresses
- Wash bedskirts/covers/pads
- Wash curtains/blinds



- Begin to organize tax-related documents
- Clean oven
- Wash shower curtains/liners



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Friends of Kittredge Park

Trail signs have been installed. FKP hosted a group of Emory students on September 8th for their annual Day of Remembrance. Clean up of wisteria and jewelweed in the area southeast of bridge was once again on the agenda. Please like FKP on Facebook and check there for future work days, all help is welcome. Take ownership and enjoy YOUR park.

Gene Schmidt
Your FKP rep.



Civic Association Network

C.A.N. met once again on July 25th with DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond. His presentation was on the County budget surplus, credit rating, and SPLOST. He is implementing a new 311 phone service that will allow citizens to call in with complaints for resolution. On August 22nd C.A.N. had a business session to discuss what various neighborhood leaders have been working on. This included AIR BnB code recommendations, recycle and FOG status, and DeKalb Department of Aging. September 26th CAN rescheduled the presentation by new DeKalb Public Safety Director Jack Lumpkin which was cancelled in June. Dir. Lumpkin spoke of police retention issues with related training and pension issues, looking for return to 1000 member police force from current 700+, use of SPLOST money for vehicles and fire station upgrades, as well as jurisdictional overlap with cities, schools, and Marta.

Gene Schmidt
Your CAN rep.



LAVISTA PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

We need **34** homes to **sign-up to**
meet our 2018-2019 goal.

Please go to <http://lavistapark.org/membership/> to learn more and to pay online via PayPal (\$225 per household)



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MARTA Expansion

The Georgia General Assembly passed HB 930 in 2018. This bill creates the path for Gwinnett County citizens to vote for transit and join MARTA in the newly named ATL ten-county regional transit system. The Gwinnett vote is set for March 2019. Cobb County also has an opportunity to join MARTA and the newly named ATL, but has not yet made a decision or scheduled a vote.

A major transit issue relevant for LaVista Park is MARTA's plan to spend \$2.5 billion for transit generated by the City of Atlanta vote in November 2017 to add a half-penny of sales tax. This represents the region's largest transit investment in more than four decades. Clifton Corridor is part of the spending plan, but other projects are also competing for funds. MARTA's Board has voted to spend \$350 million for the Clifton Corridor Light Rail from Lindbergh Station to Emory and CDC, and not the proposed \$503 million price tag. Emory and CDC must find additional public and private funding.

A two-year examination of technical data, performance measurements, and community surveys, led to a 17-project program that calls for 22 miles of light-rail transit (LRT), 14 miles of bus rapid transit (BRT), 26 miles of arterial rapid transit (ART), two new transit centers, additional fixed-route bus service, and upgrades to existing rail stations. Residents were most supportive of transit investments along the BeltLine, in the Clifton Corridor, and on Campbellton Road. Next steps include developing costs and schedules associated with individual projects and beginning the process of securing additional funding. MARTA will also work to educate riders on various programs in the months ahead. More easily implemented projects, such as expanded bus service, have already begun.



Mail Delivery Challenges

As many in the neighborhood have noticed, we are often getting the mail delivered in the dark, and there's great concern that this is what is leading to the rash of mail thefts we've seen over the past few months.

Of particular concern: Monday night deliveries. Now that the US post office is also delivering Amazon packages, Mondays tend to be the days with the most packages, and as a result, the latest delivery times for our mail. We've seen our letter carrier out delivering mail as late as 8:45pm on Mondays.

Our particular letter carrier is a known problem at the post office. At this point, it's not much help to even go to the post office and complain.

What the post office has asked us to do is to document our issues. The letter carrier is union employee, and because of that, there is a process that must be followed for any corrections that might be necessary. We need videos and photos, showing without a doubt, that there are issues.

The Board is in direct contact with the Atlanta postmaster. She is working with us to fix this problem. Any photos you can take of mis-delivered mail, packages left in the wrong place, or best yet, videos of our letter carrier delivering mail in the dark, will go a long way. Email them to me at VP2@lavistapark.org.

We would also strongly encourage homeowners to check their mail after dark, on the first few days of the week. And we still strongly advise investing in a locking mail box.

On high package days, the post office has had two people serving our neighborhood - one person delivering packages and a second person delivering the mail. But I am told this is a temporary solution.

Steve Osunsami
vp2@lavistapark.org



Bill Golden
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Urban Homeless Camps

There are number of illegal urban camps of homeless people that have set up near our neighborhood, and by now, you've no doubt seen the effects. Some of the local news stations have begun reporting on them. One station says there are hundreds now squatting along the banks of Peachtree Creek and the nearby trails. Included in this group are meth dealers running drugs up and down Cheshire Bridge and Lennox roads. The closest camp to LaVista Park is near the corner of Cheshire Bridge Road and the I-85 overpass at Buford Highway. (Right in front of the welcome to Buckhead sign).

There was a shooting there this summer. A homeless resident at the camp was shot multiple times. Police never found the assailant. The fact that someone there had a gun should concern everyone in the nearby neighborhoods. Police report numerous illegal fires at this camp. Atlanta police say that our part of town has seen a 25-percent increase in reported crime since the camps moved in.

In talking with the Lindridge Martin Manor neighborhood association, who are the most impacted by this, we've learned that police and homeless advocates have cleared the camps three times already. Some residents in Lindridge, who were trying to be helpful, brought food and water to the camps and were angrily confronted by the illegal homeless campers.

Groups like Hope Atlanta have tried to offer some of the people at camps housing assistance, but many of the people have mental health and/or drug addiction issues that far outweigh even the best of intentions.

The storage facilities on Cheshire Bridge report break-ins from the homeless living at these camps. The CVS on Cheshire Bridge no longer has a public bathroom because of this. The McDonalds has had issues with the homeless fighting on their outside patio. And the Publix on LaVista has had to bring in extra security to keep panhandlers from harassing customers. Even so, you will still regularly find homeless people sleeping in front of businesses at Cheshire Square.

During one of the police clear-outs at the camps, Atlanta police found stolen mail and packages from the surrounding neighborhoods. One of the people they were forcing to move had stolen items from the storage facilities and was arguing that she had a right to live on her "private property."

The Board has been made aware of a number of cases of homeless people (likely with mental health or drug issues) threatening LaVista Park residents, on Sheridan Road in particular. If you encounter someone threatening, we ask that you call 911.

We are working with police, and reaching out to our neighboring businesses and neighborhood associations,

to present a united front on this. The police need to know they have our support.

A personal note: I am a former head start kid who knows what it's like to be both home and food insecure. While there are well-meaning people who'd like a different approach, the safety of our residents in their homes, and in this neighborhood, is our priority.

Steve Osunsami
Vice President, Section 2
vp2@lavistapark.org



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Email **Donna Newman**

for more information:

gardenclub@lavistapark.org





LVPCA Board Member Contact Info

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Vice President, Section 4

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Friends of La Vista Park through May 31, 2019

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GOLD	EATaliano Kitchen	2480 Briarcliff Rd NE 404.321.2111	10% off bill.
	Mellow Mushroom Emory	1679 LaVista Rd 404.325.0330	10% off bill.
	Next Age Fitness	1610 LaVista Rd, Suite 100 404.998.4432	10% off 5 workouts.
	Peachtree Creek Animal Hospital	1085 Lindbergh Dr NE #100 404.467.8779	Free nail trim with shampoo
SILVER	Rain Thai & Sushi Bar	2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd (404) 325-6963	\$5 off purchase \$40 or more.
	Athletic Club Northeast	1515 Sheridan Rd 404.325-2700	2 personal coaching sessions for new members.
	Delia's Chicken Sausage Stand	881 Marietta St, Atlanta 30318	Catering for quarterly meeting
	K & M Foreign & Domestic Auto Repair	2195 Briarcliff Rd NE 404.633.1677	10% off all products and services.

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