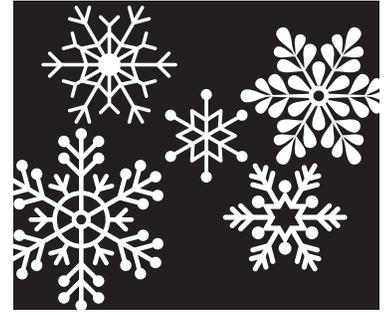


LAVISTA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



WINTER 2020

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, January 16th

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1438 Sheridan Road

7:00 pm social with refreshments

7:30 - 9:00 pm Meeting

A Message from the LVPCA President

2019 was an eventful year for LaVista Park. We had several key focuses for the year:

- Identify LaVista Park as a unique neighborhood within Metro Atlanta
- Diversify our revenue sources so we lessen our dependence on dues
- Increase ways for LaVista Park residents to interact
- Expand communications
- Resolve the cityhood question for LaVista Park

There were a number of activities that were launched to accomplish these. A community Yard Sale was conducted in April and the Tour of Homes was conducted in October to draw people from outside LaVista Park to our neighborhood and raise additional funds. The Fall Festival was resurrected, Happy Hour get togethers were started and we continued to host the Park Patio Pop Up Parties to encourage neighbors to meet other residents from across LaVista Park. Communications were expanded through Next Door posts, quarterly Facebook videos were posted to summarize what happened at the quarterly membership meetings of LVPCA and the Newsletter was revamped. And lastly, the annexation petition drive was successfully completed, and LaVista Park was annexed into the City of Brookhaven on December 10th.

So what does 2020 hold? We will focus on how to build on what was done last year, make the integration with Brookhaven as seamless as possible and identify what

infrastructure needs we want to support to enhance LaVista Park. Activities you will see again this year are the Yard Sale in April, the Tour of Homes in October, a Fall Festival (probably in September), some more Happy Hours and Pond Patio Pop Up Parties, and continued Next Door and Facebook posts and videos. To help integrate into Brookhaven we will periodically produce an Annexation Update article with news and information. We will also conduct some on-line surveys to get your feedback on a range of topics, such as: do you want additional sidewalks and where; on what streets are traffic volume and speed a problem; what improvements would you want in the Park; and would you support monuments to denote the perimeter of the LaVista Park neighborhood.

And lastly, we want to take a look at ways we can expand our existing security approach of having the Patrol to look at what other neighborhoods have found successful, and what role technology can play. The surveys and the Security Strategy are more long-term in nature to help us identify what we may need and want in the future.

We welcome any feedback on ideas you have and any support you can provide. We will have committees to help conduct the Yard Sale, Tour of Homes and Fall Festival, and are actively looking for volunteers. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to me at president@lavistapark.org.

-Larry Hoskins, President

Welcome to Brookhaven

LaVista Park is now part of the City of Brookhaven! Our petition to request annexation into Brookhaven was submitted on October 25, 2019 with 65% of active voters and 70% of property owners. It was approved by the city council on December 10, 2019. We officially became part of Brookhaven with their vote on December 10th. Subsequent to the annexation we learned from the Georgia Municipal Association that this was the largest annexation in Georgia history using the 60% percent method!

Included with this newsletter is a list of frequently asked questions to help you with how to leverage joining Brookhaven and some recommended actions you should take. I am sure there will be questions that are not addressed. Brookhaven's website www.brookhavenga.gov has a wealth of information that can help. Also feel free to send questions to president@lavistapark.org and I will try to track down an answer.

Brookhaven has come in quickly to repair potholes and start addressing some code violations with the delayed construction on Lavista road and Brook Forest. They have also begun a comprehensive analysis of what work is needed to bring our neighborhood up to Brookhaven standards. They have up to a year to complete this assessment but expect it to be completed sooner than that. This workplan will then be reviewed with us and a plan laid out for its completion. The cost of any "deficiencies" from delayed maintenance by Dekalb County will be paid for through the Special Tax District (see related article).

Our annexation will not be the last you will see. Brookhaven has already gotten a request from several businesses located at N Druid Hills and Briarcliff (see related article). We will keep track of these to help you understand the impacts.

One note about how Brookhaven conducts business. Unlike Dekalb County, who rarely seemed to enforce their ordinances, especially around trees, Brookhaven takes these seriously and feel that enforcement is key to maintaining the character of their neighborhoods. As such, you can expect that they will enforce these ordinances in situations where Dekalb did not. For example, if you are planning to take down a tree, be sure your contractor has a permit. Same for home renovation or replacing a fence.

**WELCOME TO
BROOKHAVEN**

Brookhaven Special Tax District

In September 2019 the Brookhaven City Council passed legislation that allows them to create a special tax district for any annexation to address funding needed to cover infrastructure maintenance delayed by Dekalb County. This allows Brookhaven to conduct a review within the first year of annexation to determine if there are extra costs associated with that annexation.

If they determine that there are extra costs, they will create a special tax district in the annexed area that will allow them to collect incremental taxes from the annexed property owners up to the current unincorporated rate, then use that money to repay the borrowed funds spent to correct the deficiencies in that area. In simple terms - if they find that LaVista Park is not up to standard, they can keep our tax rates the same as they are now until they repay those borrowed funds used to fix the deficiencies. They cannot raise them higher than the current unincorporated rate for this, and this is not for upgrades beyond the already set standards for these services. These taxes can only be used in the LaVista Park annexed area and we can track their collection and repayment on-line. Once the borrowed funds are repaid, this special tax district will be eliminated. How long this will take will not be determined until they complete identification of the deficiencies.

Once the analysis is complete, Brookhaven has committed to reviewing this with us so we can understand the scope of work that will be done and how long it will take. At this review we will be able to get a better handle on how long the Special Tax District will be in place and how we can track the progress toward eliminating this interim tax. We will provide a quarterly update on this at each quarterly Membership meeting and in this newsletter.

While it is disappointing to hear that we won't see the immediate reduction in our property taxes, there are some positive points to remember:

- We will immediately start seeing improvements being made in our neighborhood as Brookhaven will borrow the funds needed to complete the work rather than wait until the funds are collected.
- The money collected will "stay" in the neighborhood with infrastructure improvements
- The total tax rate will not exceed what you have paid to Dekalb
- This approach protects us for any future annexations so that our tax money is not diverted to fix any new areas at our expense

-Larry Hoskins, President

Annexation Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will Dekalb County Still provide some services?

Yes. Dekalb County will still provide sanitation, water and sewer, Fire, schools, ambulance/EMS, jails, most courts, the tax assessor's office and voter registration.

2. What Services does the City of Brookhaven provide?

There are four primary services that Brookhaven provides:

- a. Roads and Drainage – paving roads, fixing potholes, maintaining curbs and sidewalks, and managing drainage flow outside the sewer system
- b. Parks – creation and maintenance of public parks
- c. Police – provide police, maintain a 911 service for police calls and respond to calls for security alarms
- d. Zoning and Code Enforcement – building permit and inspection, code enforcement, signage (street signs, stop signs, etc) and tree removal

3. Does our address and zip code change?

No. Our address remains Atlanta and the zip code stays the same. The US Postal Services is not impacted by cityhood creation or annexation.

4. Will we keep the LaVista Park Patrol?

Yes. Many neighborhoods within Brookhaven have their own private security patrols and Brookhaven Police are used to working with them. Our LVP Patrol has already made contact with Brookhaven Police and have worked together.

5. How do I file a request to get a pothole fixed?

Brookhaven has their own free app, called Brookhaven Connect, which you can use to file a service request to have a pothole fixed. They normally respond back within 1 business day with a status. You can download this free app from your providers app store. You can also call the Brookhaven Public Works department at 404-637-0540.

6. What Brookhaven district are we in and who is our councilmember?

LaVista Park is in District 4 and our councilmember is Joe Gebbia.

7. When will we start paying property taxes to Brookhaven?

Property taxes are paid in arrears, meaning the taxes you pay in the fourth quarter are for that current year. The government group that has responsibility for a given tax parcel at the beginning of the calendar year receives the property taxes for the full year. There is no proration of taxes between government entities for annexations. Our first payment of Brookhaven property taxes will occur with the 2020 property tax bill.

8. Will we get one property tax bill or two

There will only be one property tax bill generated and it will be a combined bill for both Dekalb County and the City of Brookhaven.

9. Who will be responsible for creating our property tax bill?

The Dekalb County Tax Assessors office is responsible for producing the combined property tax bill. They will remit to Brookhaven the portion of the property tax that is due to Brookhaven. In addition, the Dekalb Tax Assessor is responsible for defining the property value that is used by both Dekalb County and Brookhaven. There will not be a separate property valuation done by Brookhaven. All appeals for property value will continue to be handled by the Dekalb County Tax Assessor.

10. What is SMART 911 and how is it used?

The SMART 911 service allows you to send a text to 911 in an emergency when you are unable to talk. To use the service, you set up a profile that has your address and other information about your location and residents in your house. By registering this information, your profile immediately comes up so they can respond. They typically will not place a return call unless absolutely necessary in order to respond. You can register by downloading the free Smart 911 app from your providers app store or sign up on-line at: <https://www.brookhavenga.gov/brookhavenalert>.

11. Do I need to tell my alarm company that we are now part of Brookhaven?

Yes. You should call them to let them know and tell them to call the Brookhaven number: 404-843-6680. If you do not there could be a delay in routing from Dekalb county to Brookhaven Police.

Annexation Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

12. What is the best way to file a code enforcement complaint?

Brookhaven has their own free app, called Brookhaven Connect, which you can use to file a code enforcement complaint. They normally respond back within 1 business day with a status. You can download this free app from your providers app store. If you do not have a smartphone, you can complete one on-line through their website www.brookhavenga.gov

13. Does Brookhaven have jurisdiction on code enforcement issues for construction projects being managed by Dekalb County?

Yes. Dekalb County is only responsible for the building construction and inspection. If the contractor is not maintaining the property, you should file a complaint with Brookhaven. While you have the option of being anonymous, using your name allows the city to contact you with any questions they may have. Attaching pictures helps them get a better idea of the issue.

14. How can I stay informed of events in Brookhaven?

Brookhaven has a weekly email that is distributed at the end of every Friday with a list of all things happening in the city. To sign up go to <https://brookhavenga.gov/communications>

15. What is Brookhaven Alert and what does it provide?

Brookhaven Alert is the official emergency notification system used by the City of Brookhaven to communicate with residents during emergencies. Sign up now to receive free alerts from the City via text message, email, and/or voice message. If you add your address, you can receive geo-targeted alerts. You can indicate what types of alerts you want to receive including weather, traffic, emergency, and more. If you sign up for SMART 911 you will automatically be registered for Brookhaven Alert.

16. Should I use Brookhaven Connect to report something that needs immediate attention?

No. For things like a down tree across a road, traffic

signs that are flashing or out, stop signs that are down, call the Public Works department directly at 404-637-0540 and press 1 to talk to on-call staff. If you have a complaint related to a noise violation, impassible streets due to construction activity, or grading/construction occurring during unauthorized hours (Before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on Saturdays; or all day Sunday) please contact the Brookhaven Police Department (Public Service Representative) at 404-637-0600.

17. Will our Dekalb County school assignments change since we are in Brookhaven?

No. Dekalb Schools does not take into account city designations when assigning what cluster a neighborhood is aligned with. LaVista Park is in the Druid Hills cluster in Region 2.

18. Do I need a permit to remove a tree on my property?

Yes, if the diameter of the tree is 6 inches or greater at 4.5 feet from the ground, you need a permit. There are details on the tree ordinance on Brookhaven's website: <https://www.brookhavenga.gov/commdev/page/tree-protection-tree-removal>

19. I am planning a house addition/new construction. Should I get a building permit from Dekalb County or Brookhaven?

Any construction started after December 10, 2019 should have a Brookhaven building permit. Any construction that was started prior to December 10, 2019, should have a Dekalb County permit and Dekalb County will be responsible for inspections and the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

20. Do I need a permit to put in or replace a fence on my property?

Yes. A permit is required but there is no fee. See Brookhaven's website for details www.brookhavenga.gov/commdev/page/building-permits



Crime Tracking

Our crime tracking data now has 5 quarters of data as reported to Dekalb County Police through the crimemapping.com database. The chart below shows the breakout by crime within the area of the LaVista Park Patrol by quarter and then then a summary for the apartment and commercial areas by quarter so that you can see the total crime picture and the impact of the Patrol. Over the last 4 quarters, we have seen a little variability in our crime stats. The crime in the apartments and commercial area accounts for the majority crime and was fairly consistent. We did have one burglary in the fourth quarter, which occurred at night while the residents were out of town. This was a very unusual occurrence and was potentially carried out by someone with knowledge of the residence. The overall reduction in activity is really seen in theft of items from people’s cars. By removing items from view in your car, we are reducing this type of crime. Please continue to be vigilant of your surroundings and secure your property and vehicles.

LaVista Park Crime Tracking

Type of Crime	Residential				
	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
Assault/Battery	2	2	1	1	1
Auto Theft	1	0	1	0	0
Carjacking	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Burglary	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud	0	1	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Mail Theft	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Residential Burglary	0	0	0	0	1
Residential Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Terroristic Threats	0	0	0	0	0
Theft	1	2	1	0	1
Theft from Vehicle	3	0	4	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	1	0	1
LVP Patrol Area	7	5	8	1	1
Apartments/Comm'l	20	18	19	23	17
Total Crimes	27	23	27	24	20

The next chart shows the activities the Patrol conducted by quarter for the last year. In looking at the trend of their activity, we have seen a marked increase in the number of suspicious people they have stopped. Because of the longevity in the job (most of our officers have been with

us over 10 years) and familiarity with residents, they know who should be in the area. By making them aware that the Patrol is in place, they have acted as a deterrent to crime, which you can see in the data on the left.

LaVista Park Patrol Activities				
Activity	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
House Checks	404	325	292	441
Stops	5	18	37	54
Resident Contacts	49	63	40	50
Abandoned Cars	0	3	0	0
Arrest Assist	0	1	0	1
Hit & Run	1	0	0	1

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Update

The administrative staff of Children’s Healthcare began moving into one of the new administrative office buildings along Northeast Expressway. Once fully complete in fall of 2020, The Support Center will include two buildings which will house all of Children’s administrative staff. The Support Center opening is a major milestone on the North Druid Hills campus development because it allows CHOA to make room for the new hospital and begin construction on it in early 2020. CHOA will officially break ground and begin construction on the new hospital in the first half of 2020. The new hospital is on track to begin serving patients and families across Georgia in 2025.

I-85 Underpass Traffic Pattern Update

On weekdays from 2:00 –7:00 pm, there is a police officer stationed on the Northbound I-85 Frontage Road just before the I-85 Underpass to direct traffic and allow vehicles to safely pass through the intersection. Signage is posted to alert drivers to the new traffic movement. Officers will provide this temporary traffic control until the traffic lights and final intersection improvements are completed in February.

Important Information for College-Bound Students

Even though LaVista Park is now part of Brookhaven, our community will continue to be served by the DeKalb County School District. Our school attendance area includes Briar Vista Elementary School (1131 Briar Vista Terrace NE, Atlanta), Druid Hills Middle School (3100 Mount Olive Drive, Decatur), and Druid Hills High School (1798 Haygood Drive NE, Atlanta), which offers students access to both the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs. In the state of Georgia, there are 74 colleges and universities. That includes public 21 four-year institutions, 24 two-year community colleges, and 27 private four-year colleges/universities. Our students have some of the nation's most prestigious universities in their backyard, such as The University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Emory as well as four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse, Paine, and Spelman Colleges.

To help you sort through all the options, the National Association for College Admission Counseling will host the Atlanta National College Fair at the Georgia International Convention Center (2000 Convention Center Concourse, Atlanta) on Sunday, March 15, 2020 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

The Atlanta National College Fair is a great opportunity for LaVista park students to learn about hundreds of colleges and universities. In addition to coordinating nearly 100 college fairs annually, NACAC provides resources for students including the Step by Step: College Awareness and Planning curriculum. In preparation for the 2020 Atlanta National College Fair, students and parents can access a "College Fair Tips" worksheet to help them navigate the event.

Despite what you may read about admission rates, a college education is still within reach for aspiring students. In fact, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 109 private and public colleges/universities have

acceptance rates of 30% or less, 60 institutions under 20%, and just 21 institutions admit 10% or less of their applicants. College acceptance statistics may seem intimidating at first glance, but the scope of higher education is not so very dire... although definitely stressful and maybe a little comical at times. A few years ago, Frank Bruni, one of my favorite op ed writers at The New York Times and author of *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania*, wrote a satirical piece titled "College Admissions Shocker!", where he jokingly claimed that "Stanford University announced this week that it has once again received a record-setting number of applications and its acceptance rate—which had dropped to a previously reported uncharted low of 5 percent last year—plummeted all the way down to its inevitable conclusion of 0 percent". I encourage you to follow Mr. Bruni (twitter.com/frankbruni)—he is one of the most reasonable and encouraging voices in the field of higher education.

As a high school college counselor and first-generation college graduate, I encourage my LaVista Park parent neighbors to approach their children's college search and application process with as much calm and enthusiasm as they can muster and to partner closely with their teachers and college/guidance counselors.

*-Irma Navarro Brown, LVPCA Secretary
(Associate Director of College Counseling,
The Lovett School, Atlanta).*



Peachtree Creek
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

404.46PUPPY

<https://peachtreecreekah.com>

1085 Lindbergh Dr. NE Suite 100

Conscious Aging: How to Accept and Enjoy Life at Every Stage

What if you could look at the aging process with joy and expectancy? The concept of conscious aging teaches us to accept ourselves as we age, live with a sense of purpose and let go of what society deems “appropriate” for our stage in life.

“Conscious aging is accepting the aging process and the fact that we are all getting older – because that’s the plan,” says Angela Buttimer, MS, NCC, RYT, LPC, a licensed psychotherapist at Cancer Wellness at Piedmont. “It means not buying into a cultural myth of what a certain age should be like, feel like or act like.”

Conscious aging is countercultural

“We have a billion-dollar antiaging industry in the United States,” she explains. “We herald youth, but really, it’s okay to get older. The goal is to find that balance between accepting that we are getting older without succumbing to the cultural beliefs of who we should be at age 50, 60, 70 and beyond.”

Why are we afraid of getting older?

“In general, we don’t treat older people very well in our country compared to other countries,” says Buttimer. “We set them aside and don’t honor their wisdom. We send a message that as you get older, you become less valuable or even irrelevant. That’s a huge fear many people have about getting older.”

Why is conscious aging beneficial?

Conscious aging positively affects our physical, mental and emotional health.

“When we stay connected to our life force energy and feel vibrant and radiant at every age, our immune system responds positively, as does our sense of well-being,” says Buttimer.

She cautions against telling yourself stories like, “When my grandmother was my age, she had this health condition.”

“When we do this, we will believe our own negative stories and step away from our vitality,” says Buttimer. “We have to be careful of the stories we tell ourselves because they can empower or defeat us.”

How to view aging in a more positive way

There are several ways to view aging in a more positive light:

- Practice self-acceptance. “Take your power back by making choices that are authentic to you,” she says. “There are so many opinions out there, such as ‘never color your hair’ or ‘you need to color your hair if you have grays.’ But it’s your choice.”
- Live with a sense of purpose. The key to conscious aging is having

a sense of purpose, whether it’s a career, volunteer position or hobby.

- Make friends with people of all ages. “We often get to a place where we only hang out with friends who are in our own decade,” she says. “Having a broad range of friends is really helpful. I have friends who are 20 and who are over age 90.”
- Prioritize learning. Audit a college class or pick up a new hobby. The key is to keep your mind engaged by trying new activities and learning about different topics. Cancer Wellness offers many in-person and online classes.
- Stay active. Exercise helps keep your mind and body in a peak state.
- Define your own path. “You don’t have to succumb to what people think life should be like at your age or what people have done in the generation before you,” says Buttimer. “With conscious aging, you become your own pioneer.”

Learn more ways to reduce stress and improve your well-being. From our Friends at Piedmont Physicians, 2171 N. Druid Hills Rd. Suite 100, Atlanta Ga.

Piedmont Physicians at North Druid Hills and you. The start of a very healthy relationship.

To make a same-day appointment, visit piedmont.org



Darren Shoyer, M.D.
Internal Medicine



Mary Dampier, M.D.
Internal Medicine

Piedmont Physicians
at North Druid Hills
2171 LaVista Road • Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30329



Annexation and Zoning Request for Development at North Druid Hills and Briarcliff Roads

On December 17th, the City of Brookhaven received an annexation request from the potential and current owners of several properties near the intersection of Briarcliff and North Druid Hills. The properties extend from the Target and Sherwin Williams paint store on North Druid Hills Road to and including the Chick-Fil-A. The request also includes the QuikTrip and Boston Market properties across the street. This annexation request is being submitted under the 100% method, which is used when 100% of the property owners of an area contiguous to a city request annexation. This is the same method used by Emory and Children's Hospital of Atlanta (CHOA) in their annexation requests. The annexation petition, along with a map of the annexation area, can be found on Brookhaven's website, <https://www.brookhavenga.gov/commdev/project/annex19-00002-lup19-00019-related-group>

On Thursday, January 2, Larry Hoskins, President of LVPCA, attended the Developer's presentation of the rezoning and annexation request. More than forty people attended the presentation. Most of the attendees live north of the Target store along Briarcliff Road and expressed concern about the traffic impacts and the pricing on the apartments. Most of the attendees were not residents of Brookhaven.

The change of zoning request only impacts 6.74 acres of the annexation area. Current businesses located there are Tin Roof Cantina, Bombay Café (and the strip mall behind it) and the closed oil-change and carwash on North Druid Hills Road. This property currently has a private road – Woodcliff Road. The developer, Related Group of Miami, is asking for the rezoning prior to buying the 6.74-acre site. The new proposed development will have 382 high-end apartments, a seven-story, 140 room hotel of a major hotel chain (Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott), 25,000 sf of office space on North Druid Hills Road (retail below with multi-story office space above), and 20,000 sf of restaurant and retail space. If everything goes as planned with Brookhaven approvals, the developer expects to start breaking ground in the late third or fourth quarter of 2020. A traffic study is underway which will indicate the impact of the development on Briarcliff Road and North Druid Hills Road.

Some of the positive points of rezoning based on the design of the development include:

- Brookhaven has requested that space be earmarked to locate a new police precinct in the development for the south side of I-85. This would aid police response times for LaVista Park.
- There have, periodically, been pop-up night clubs in the strip mall that have caused problems. The Developer has committed not to lease to any bars and night clubs.
- The new development will potentially provide new restaurants that are convenient to LaVista Park.
- If the annexation into Brookhaven is approved, there is the potential to synch the traffic lights starting at Briarcliff Road and

North Druid Hills Road all the way to Buford Highway, since they would all be within Brookhaven's jurisdiction. It could allow for more efficient traffic flow and less congestion.

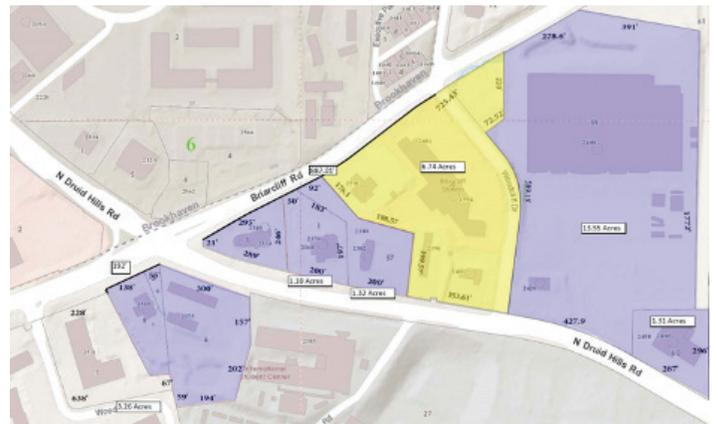
- The proposed design maintains the residential character of Briarcliff Road by locating most of the commercial and hospitality occupants on North Druid Hills.
- The proposed mixed-use development reduces the need for transportation by being located adjacent to the Target store (groceries, pharmacy etc.) and restaurants. It is assumed that much of the hotel clientele will be related to CHOA and Executive Park which are both within walking distance of the development.
- There may be an opportunity for Brookhaven to influence the proposed site design to combine access into and out of the property by combining curb-cuts with the existing adjacent commercial properties.

Some of the negative points for rezoning based on the design of the proposed development are:

- Increased traffic congestion due to a more densely developed site that includes apartments, a hotel, retail businesses and office space.
- The developer will demolish Woodcliff Drive, which eliminates a cut-thru from North Druid Hills Road to Briarcliff Road. This will impact the volume of traffic at the North Druid Hills Road/Briarcliff Road intersection. There is a new street proposed within the development, but it will have parking along both sides, making it less attractive as a cut-through.

It is important to note that this is a proposed development and the design of the project is conceptual and subject to change due to community and government input, as well as tenant requirements. The proposed project is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Commission on February 5th. The LVPCA Board will draft a communication prior to the presentation to have an impact on the stance that Brookhaven takes with the developer.

*-Steve Graves
Member of the LVPCA Zoning Committee*



Treasurer's Update

As the books are closing for 2019, another LVPCA fiscal year closes in the green. I am not sure we could have done this over the past year without the cost cutting initiatives put in place early in the year, and the new opportunities and events the board has implemented in the neighborhood.

At the top of the list is supplementing PayPal payments with a convenience fee. With the growing popularity of online payments, PayPal is a necessary convenience but the fees became a burden to our finances. This measure enabled the budget to absorb an additional \$1200- \$1300 as a result of not incurring that cost. In addition, cost savings from our technology products along with revenue gained from the reinstating the Fall Festival and the new Tour of Homes events ensured the LVPCA budget ended the year in a positive position once again.

A reminder that 85% of the membership dues support our neighborhood patrol. The board structures the membership program to not only ensure the safety and security of the neighborhood, but also to attract businesses through the Friends of LaVista Park Program that is designed to incentivize our neighborhood to do business with them.

Last year we established an auto renew payment cycle on PayPal for members who were interested in automatic renewals/ payments. We have discovered that that process is not optimal, and those members will receive a separate email from me about that change. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience, and are looking at how we can establish a successful auto-renewal program moving forward as part of our efforts to continually improve.

Thank you as always to for supporting the LVPCA.

Marsha Hanus, treasurer@lavistapark.org

LVP Park Report

Now that our park is officially a City of Brookhaven park, the maintenance should be much improved. County resources were stretched far too thin in recent years due to budget cuts and staff reductions (by about 30%), hence the bare minimum of maintenance performed over the last few years. Thankfully, we had several neighbors who stepped in to help maintain the entry ways. Kudos especially to Steve Graves and Anne Carley.

I've already had several meetings with Brian Borden, Parks Director for Brookhaven who praised what we've managed to do so far. We floated several ideas for the future including streambed restoration, a REAL solution to the weir, a creekside path with footbridge and a much expanded, handicap accessible observation deck on Wild Creek Trail suitable for large events. We'll be seeking neighborhood input, so think about what YOU'D like to see!

Donna Newman, Chair, LaVista Park restoration committee



Bradford Smith
REALTOR®
Homeowner and resident of Lavista Park

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1555 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100
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Just a reminder that while Brookhaven has taken on many municipal responsibilities in LaVista Park, DeKalb County is still providing LaVista Park with major services and support. There is also a small slice of LaVista Park still in unincorporated DeKalb. I will continue to monitor and report on DeKalb County -Gene Schmidt

Civic Association Network

C.A.N. resumed its schedule on October 23rd with a presentation by the DeKalb Citizens Advisory Board www.dekalbcitizens.org. This group and others were responsible for stopping a dilution of the Ethics Board at the November 5th election. Now they ask for your help in getting Ethics back on track by going to their website and supporting reform.

November 20th was devoted to the new DeKalb Police Chief Mirtha Ramos. Chief Ramos was very impressive and I hope she has the time to implement reforms and increase hiring, as outlined.

The final meeting of 2019 on December 18th, was a demonstration by County employees of the new voting machines. They are promised to be operational statewide for the March primary. No more forms to fill out, just present ID, enter votes, print out paper copy of vote, scan in paper copy (which remains in the scanner).

-Gene Schmidt, Your C.A.N. rep.

Friends of Kittredge Park

FKP tentatively has another clean up with Emory on Monday January 20th at noon, their annual MLK Jr. Day of Service. Hopefully both Emory and FKP will manage to get this back on track. LaVista Park residents can still use all DeKalb Parks and I hope you do. Kittredge Park is a favorite for many neighbors. If you are able, please join us - it can use all volunteers willing to help.

-Gene Schmidt, Your F.K.P. rep.

GDOT Work on I-85 Interchanges at Clairmont Rd and N Druids Hills Rd

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) provided the following updates concerning the I-85 interchanges at Clairmont and N Druid Hills. As traffic is expected to increase at the interchange, the Department has programmed, and is actively designing long-term projects at the I-85 interchanges at North Druid Hills Road and Clairmont Road, as well as the Clairmont Road corridor south of the I-85 interchange. This area is a priority for the Department as well as the various local government jurisdictions.

The project at I-85 at Clairmont interchange will relocate the existing northbound exit ramp to an earlier point and lengthen the roadway section on the I-85 access road where traffic merges in before approaching the Clairmont Road intersection. This project will also create a third auxiliary lane on Clairmont Road southbound that will end beyond the Briarcliff Road intersection. A third southbound lane through the intersection will improve signal operations and capacity for the corridor.

The project at I-85 and North Druid Hills will increase capacity along North Druid Hills with added auxiliary, turn lanes and bridge widening for additional traffic going to the interstate. These projects are currently in the concept design phase and a public meeting will be scheduled in the coming year to discuss the improvements with the community and local stakeholders. Many of the project's improvements are recommended in the Development of Regional Impact coordination effort between the state, county, and City of Brookhaven to account for additional development traffic in the area.

These long-term improvements are currently scheduled to be completed near or just after the completion of the CHOA development opening in 2025.

This update was provided by Kathy Zahul District Engineer, P.E.

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Winter Cocktails

Even though it doesn't get all that cold in Atlanta, it does get cold enough to cozy up with a drink. These three classics are easy to make and will be delicious while you are watching the city shut down the next time we get 1 inch of snow.

Hot Toddy

This is about as easy as it gets. A delicious and warming nightcap. Also a soothing antidote when you feel a bit under the weather.

- 2 oz Bourbon
- 1 oz fresh lemon juice
- 1 oz honey

Top with 3 oz of boiling water. Stir until honey dissolves. Garnish with a slice of lemon and cinnamon stick (or clove) for garnish.



Spiced & Spiked Cider

This is great when you have friends over. You can make it ahead, and it makes the whole house smell warm, inviting, and delicious.

- 1 Qt Apple Cider
- 1 orange sliced
- 1 apple thinly sliced (horizontally)
- 1 inch of fresh and peeled ginger sliced.
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 cup dark rum

Combine Cider, Orange, Apple, and spices in a pot. Bring to boil and then reduce to a simmer. Cook for 10 minutes, stir in Rum and ladle into mugs. Garnish with apple slice



New York Sour

Not a warm drink but it is warming. The NY Sour is a whiskey sour made more interesting – and colorful – with a float of red wine. This is a twist on a classic with maple syrup replacing the simple syrup giving it an especially wintry flavor.

- 2 oz. of Bourbon
- 1 oz lemon
- ½ oz (1 tbl spoon) of maple syrup

Pour over ice into cocktail shaker (or clean glass jar) and vigorously shake until cold (30 seconds) then pour over ice. Finish the drink with ½ oz of a fruity Red Wine (like an inexpensive Cote de Rhone, or Pinot Noir) gently poured over the back of a spoon held just above the liquid in glass to create a beautiful colorful float on top.



Did You Know?

LVP Patrol does house checks for members of the LaVista Park Civic Association when you are away?

Join the LaVista Park Civic Association to take advantage of this and other great benefits!

To request a house check just download a house check form and leave it in the Patrol mailbox located at the Park entrance by the playground



WINTER EVENTS – Things to do in the ATL

Jan 20, 8am MLK 5K Drum Run,

Piedmont Park. Entire Run within Piedmont Park with a drumline the entire length of race. Register your PTA, Church, or other organization to benefit from proceeds raised. \$35 <http://mlkday5k.com/>

Jan 25, 10am – 4pm Atlanta Braves Chop Fest

SunTrust Park, Get up close and personal with your favorites as players and coaches make appearances throughout the day. Free- (autograph session is ticketed) <https://www.mlb.com/braves/fans/chop-fest>

Feb 1, 1pm-5pm Atlanta Winter Beer Festival,

Atlantic Station. 150+ beers, ciders and wine. Live entertainments. <https://atlantawinterbeerfest.com/>

Feb 2, 7:30am The Allstate Hot Chocolate

15K/5K, Centennial Park. The race that combines running for a great cause (Make-a-Wish Foundation) and hot chocolate treats at the finish line. (an estimated 4,000 pounds of chocolate melted for the event!) <https://www.hotchocolate15k.com/atlanta>

Feb 11 - 16 Hello Dolly

Fox Theater, 660 Peachtree St NE, The Tony award winning revival of Hello Dolly at the Fox. <https://atlanta.broadway.com/shows/hello-dolly/>

Feb 14, 7-11pm Valentines in the Garden,

Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Bring your sweetheart to the Botanical Garden for a romantic evening. Let the orchids, live music, savory bites and desserts. <https://atlantabg.org/calendar/valentines-in-the-garden/>

Feb 25, 12pm – 6pm Mardi Gras Streetcar Adventure

Atlanta's largest Mardi Gras event (costume encouraged) parading ticket goes around for an afternoon of adventure and exploration in Downtown Atlanta & the Old Fourth Ward using the Atlanta Streetcar with 35+ participating bars & restaurants. NOLA Drinks and Food with live music. Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler! <https://www.atlanta.net/amp/events/detail/mardi-gras-streetcar-adventure/110492/>

Feb 27, 8pm Dancing with the Stars Live!

Fox Theater, For those of you who can't get enough. Live "glitz and glamour" just like on TV. Meet the cast opportunities. <https://www.foxtheatre.org/events/detail/dwts>

Feb 27 – March 1, Atlanta Salsa Bachata Festival

Westin Peachtree Plaza. 50 workshops, 20 world class instructors and over 72 workshops, parties and dances for you to enjoy. <https://www.atlantasbf.com/>

March 13 – 15 10am - 6pm American Craft Show

Cobb Galleria, 2 Galleria Parkway Over 250 diverse makers from across N America, displaying thousands of hand crafted items to browse, and shop. <https://craftcouncil.org/shows/apply/atlanta>

March 18- 22, The Annual High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction

High Museum of Art. The top charity fundraising event in Atlanta. Benefits the Exhibition and Education Fund for the museum <https://www.highmuseumwine.org/about-us/>

Hot Chix Rock!

LaVista Park resident Delia Champion made a name for herself when she started the legendary Flying Biscuit Café back in the early 90's.

In 2010 she decided to focus on her chicken sausage and again is garnering national media coverage at her Delia's Chicken Sausage Stand. This is another one of Delia's favorite recipes...



Chicken Burger Recipe

- 1 lb Delia's Ground Chicken (1 chub)
- 1/4 cup onion (finely diced)
- 1/4 cup panko bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon low salt soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 large egg, whisked
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt



Place all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Gently mix. Divide into 4 patties. Make sure center of patty is thinner than the outside rim of the patty.

Place on parchment paper and put in freezer for 1 hour to firm. Pan sauté or grill patties. Cook patties to 170° (about 10 minutes).

You can purchase Delia's chicken sausage in area grocery stores like Kroger and Publix or at both restaurant locations...

East Atlanta 489 Moreland Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30316 (404) 474-9651

West Side 881 Marietta St NW, Atlanta, GA 30318 (404) 254-0408
thesausagestand.com



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Christina Jobe Davisson, vp1@lavistapark.org

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Vice President, Section 3

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Park Coordinator

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Webmaster

Bob Owen, technology@lavistapark.org

Fall Festival Committee Chair

festival@lavistapark.org

Tour of Homes Committee Chair

Jim Wildermuth

Yard Sale Committee Chair

Steve Graves

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
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Drainage Problems	404-297-3840
Code Enforcement	770-724-7940
DeKalb Rape Crisis Center	404-377-2428
Driver's License	678-423-8400
General Information	404-371-2000
Marta Complaint Line	404-848-4800
Potholes	404-297-3840
Sanitation	404-294-2900
Property Tax	404-298-4000
Traffic Signal Malfunction	404-297-3929
Trees Down	404-297-3840
Voter Registration	404-298-4020
Water Billing	404-378-4475
Zoning	404-371-4915

Mayor:

John Arthur Ernst Jr.	phone	404-637-0710
	cell	404-664-8694

City Council District 4 in Brookhaven

Joe Gebbia	404-637-0718
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State Representatives:

Sen. Elena Parent	404-656-5109
Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver	404-656-0265
Becky Evans	404.656.0109

Brookhaven City Hall

4362 Peachtree Road NE	404-637-0500
Brookhaven, Georgia 30319	

LVP Security Patrol 404-827-8635

If you see a crime in progress, or something that just looks suspicious or out of place, your first call should ALWAYS be to 911. The Patrol works limited hours and may or may not be on duty. The patrol does have a dedicated phone line on which you can leave a message.



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	Goodrowe Doyle Real Estate Collective	David Goodrowe: 404.333.3190 Matthew Doyle 561.707.6139	
	Peachtree Creek Animal Hospital	2171 LaVista Rd, Suite 100 404.982.8009	Free nail trim
GOLD	Atlanta Pride Massage	www.atlantapridemassage.com	Receive a FREE upgrade to a 75 minute massage for the price of 60 minutes.
	EATaliano	2480 Briarcliff Rd 404.321.2111	10% off bill
	Mellow Mushroom Emory	1679 LaVista Rd 404.325.0330	10% discount (not to be combined with other offers)
	Rain Thai and Sushi Bar	2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 404.325.6963	\$5 off on purchases of \$40 or more
	Athletic Club North East	1515 Sheridan Road 404.325.2700	2 personal coaching sessions for new members
SILVER	Delias Chicken Sausage Stand	489 Moreland Ave SE 404.474.9651 881 Marietta St 404.254.0408	quarterly meeting catering
	K & M Foreign & Domestic Auto Repair	2195 Briarcliff Rd 404.633.1677	10% off all products and services
	Next Age Fitness	1602 Lavista Rd 404.325.2524	10% off purchase of 5 workouts
	Nicola's Restaurant	1602 Lavista Rd 404.325.2524	10% off bill

Friends Program – SHOW YOUR CARD

One of the benefits of membership in the LaVista Park Civic Association are the incentives offered by the Friends of Lavista Park. These 12 local businesses have made contributions to our civic association to be good neighbors who support our mission as well as to incentivize you, our members, to patronize their business. While many of you patronize them, I know some of you don't request the discount offered, feeling that you're helping the business. Unfortunately, this approach makes it more difficult to get them to sponsor us on a recurring basis. They actually judge how effective our Friends program is in generating business by pulling data from their cash registers to see how many discounts were requested. If you don't request the discount at check out, they don't recognize you as a member of LaVista Park! So please, show your LVPCA card when patronizing a Friend (a photo on your phone doesn't count!). If you can't find your card, send an email to registrar@lavistapark.org and we will send you another one.

Larry Hoskins
president@lavistapark.org



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Newsletter Published Quarterly

Editor: John Cassanos
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Design: wendyodesigns@gmail.com



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