

LAVISTA PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Q1 2026

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAVISTA PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
WWW.LAVISTAPARK.ORG



President's Column

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Happy New Year to all! As we look forward to 2026, the LaVista Park Civic Association will again host community-building activities, sponsor the neighborhood security patrol, and advocate with the City and County on issues affecting the neighborhood.

For the holidays, we arranged a "surge" in Patrol activity, with more and longer shifts – amounting to more than 60 hours of police presence beyond what the city would otherwise provide. Look for their marked cars with distinctive blue lights cruising our neighborhood. Members can have the Patrol check their house while they are away by downloading the form on our web site (follow the [Patrol link](#) at lavistapark.org) and dropping the filled-out form in the LPCA mailbox at the park entrance, 1319 Brook Forest Drive. Although they are old school, the paper forms are tried and true – our officers check them very time they come on duty.

Several of us attended a moving swearing-in ceremony for newly re-elected Council Representative John Funny on January 5. John gave a short speech, telling the audience that 80% of Brookhaven's business development in coming years will occur his council district (District 4). Major projects within a mile or two of LaVista park include the new children's hospital, opened in 2024, further buildout of the Emory Brookhaven medical complex (with a New Eye Center coming next year), and the 30-acre, \$600 M Northbend Project (former Corporate Square) which will include retail, offices, and housing. In all, these and other projects will include up to 2300 new apartments and townhomes, including much-needed workforce housing.



John Funny swearing-in ceremony, January 5

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING REMINDER:

JANUARY 15, 2026

7:00 pm Social with refreshments

7:30-9:00 pm Meeting

Special guests:

Rep. Scott Holcomb, 101st Georgia House District

Rev. Lisa Heilig, Toco Hills Community Alliance

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1438 Sheridan Road

The upside of all this development is the economic benefit, drawing in home buyers and perhaps encouraging a refresh of aging commercial properties bordering our neighborhood. There are concerns, however, about traffic congestion and potential cut-through traffic on residential streets. Here the LPCA has an important role to play in keeping residents informed, weighing in on zoning changes, and seeking ways to suppress cut-through traffic and speeding. It will be much better to anticipate and plan for development impacts than to play catch-up later.

We are considering establishing a LaVista Park Business Alliance. We have quite a few members with home-based businesses, and it would be great to have our members do business with other members. Listing would be free, and the directory would be distinct from our Friends of LaVista Park program, which is targeted to larger businesses and provides paid advertising in the newsletter and elsewhere. If you have thoughts about how to implement such a program, please contact our Executive VP, Dan Martin, execvp@lavistapark.org.

I want to close by expressing sincere thanks to everyone who helped make our programs a success this year – members of the Board of Directors, events volunteers, those who have written the city or attended Council meetings, park volunteers, and all who have worked behind the scenes. Mike Principino, our Registrar, deserves special credit for a massive update of our resident and membership list, email database, and membership cards. I look forward to seeing everyone at our events in the new year.

Fall Festival a Big Success

This year's fall festival, held on October 26, was bigger and better than ever. Despite chilly weather, more than 100 people attended. We served grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. For the kids, we had face painting, a treasure hunt, a fairy house booth, and real fire trucks to climb on. New this year, we had representatives from community and conservation organizations. Dajawn Williams from Eco-Addendum gave a naturalist tour of the park. Other organizations had booths, including the Peachtree Creek Greenway, Georgia Native Plant Society, Trees Atlanta, and the Brookhaven Bicycle Alliance. Elected officials John Park (mayor), John Funny (Council Representative), Whitney McGuiness (School Board) and Michelle Long Spears (County Commissioner) all stopped by.

We thank fall festival committee member Emily Qiu-Collins (chair), Lucas Curry, Neil Heronime, Dan Martin, Charity Prather, and Ray Solis; our silent auction donors; and our fiscal sponsors. A \$2500 grant from Park Pride allowed us to provide free admission, free food, and space for conservation and park groups. We encourage you to visit their web site (parkpride.org) to learn more and support their work. We hope to see you at next year's Fall Festival, again planned for the last Sunday of October.



Holiday Mingle

IVCPA sponsored a Holiday Mingle and Toy Drive event at Rain Restaurant on December 14. Rain is a member of the Friends of LaVista Park program, where members enjoy 10% off every dine-in bill, to a maximum of \$10. At the event, more than 20 members enjoyed sushi rolls and other light bites. We collected a carton full of toys, which were donated to the Toys for Tots program. Many thanks to Executive Vice President Dan Martin, who organized the event, and to all who participated.



Spotted Around the Neighborhood



We spotted IVCPA members Jazmin Lucio and her husband, Lucas Curry, at the Grand Opening of the Local Tavern on January 7. Jazmin is an environmental engineer with Georgia Power and a member of the City of Brookhaven Youth Advisory Council. Lucas is a watershed restoration engineer for the Nature Conservancy and serves as IVCPA Park Coordinator. He is also a member of the Brookhaven District 4 Citizen Advisory Council. Both are Georgia Tech grads. Jazmin and Lucas live in Section 4 of the LaVista Park neighborhood. We hope to see you at this new local business!

Restoring the Forest in LaVista Park and the Urban Landscape on Cheshire Bridge Road

The three-acre park at the center of our neighborhood is a unique old forest remnant, with trees that are well over a hundred years old, a bedrock outcrop, and sensitive wildflower species on the forest floor. Like most parks in the Atlanta Metro, it is also severely impacted by invasive species that have spread from nearby residential landscapes. On December 14, the LVPCA sponsored a volunteer event to remove English ivy. It was cold but sunny, and we were pleased to see 17 people turn out. We pulled up massive amount of ivy, although much remains.

In all, we had four of these events last year. In addition to the ivy, we removed chaff flower, Mahonia, Nandina, and horned holly. Incredibly, a total of more than 120 people came to work at these events, including lead naturalists from Eco-Addendum (the City's nonprofit contractor), volunteers recruited from the neighborhood, Brookhaven Eco-Stewards, and people who signed up with Hands-On Atlanta. We had long-time residents, young families, high school and college students, and even a "Cop City" protester doing his court-ordered community service. Eco-Addendum calculates that we received more than \$12,000 in donated labor over the course of the year.

We have yet to have any substantive updates from the City of Brookhaven about the park master plan adopted last summer. We hope to hear soon whether funds will be available, and if so, when and in what amount. In the meantime, we hope to have Eco-Addendum back in the spring to show us the native plants sprouting up in the restored areas.

Just a short walk from the park, and on the other side of the city/county line, the LVPCA is partnering with the Piedmont Height Alliance to clean up the Cheshire Bridge Road commercial district and promote development of local businesses. The area has thriving restaurants and other businesses (including Friend of LaVista Park, Rain Restaurant and Peachtree Creek Animal Hospital), but these exist side-by-side with blighted or vacant properties. LVPCA Section 1 Vice President Ira Katz and President Bill Dynan volunteered at a trash clean-up on November 15. Some of us will also attend a court hearing this month where the owner of properties at the LaVista Road/Cheshire Bridge intersection will again face charges for neglecting court-ordered demolition and cleanup. We've heard that the former Pancake House may be remodeled as a PNC bank branch, but we have had no firm word on the future of the former Regions Bank at Sheridan and LaVista Roads.



Volunteers turned out on December 14.

Town Hall meeting to discuss PDK airport

At its meeting on November 18, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners voted 6-1 to approve construction of eight new hangars at Peachtree-Dekalb airport. LaVista Park is represented by Michelle Long Spears (District 2), and Commissioner Ted Terry (Superdistrict 6). Commissioner Spears reported receiving more than 700 comments, with the vast majority opposed. She voted no. Commissioner Terry says he switched to a "yes" vote after it was clear the proposal would pass, and to obtain concessions including shortening the initial term of the contract and establishment of a \$1M fund to aid residents impacted by airport noise and pollution. The commissioners who supported the project appear to have been influenced mainly by the revenue potential, without considering the impact on nearby residents.

How does all this affect LaVista Park? PDK is a general aviation airport, which has about 200,000 air operations a year, including many personal and corporate jets. The airport is about five miles from our neighborhood. We don't suffer the life-altering noise and pollution experienced by those living closer. We do, however, see and hear low-flying planes on their way to land at PDK, and this is a concern for many of our members. The county speculates that

hangar construction could lead to a small decrease in air traffic because of fewer relocation flights, i.e., aircraft arriving empty to pick up passengers or departing empty to a home airport. Construction of the hangars should otherwise have little direct impact on our neighborhood.

In the larger picture, however, future development of the airport could affect the neighborhood. If there were an increase in flights, larger aircraft, or a change in routes. Commissioner Terry held a Town Hall meeting on December 9 to discuss both the immediate and long-term issues at the airport. Several of us attended, and there is a [report of the meeting in Rough Draft Atlanta](#). One of the takeaways was the need for more public involvement, including reporting noise complaints on the airport's hotline, advocating for a moratorium on construction until the airport's master plan is updated, and advocating for more community representation on the county's airport advisory board.

If you'd like to be informed or weigh in on airport issues, including any updates to the master plan, please contact Bill

Dynan (president@lavistapark.org) or Mike Principino (registrar@lavistapark.org). The LVPCA will continue to watch for developments that could affect the neighborhood directly, and we'll keep our members informed of meaningful opportunities for public input.

Town Hall meeting with Commissioner Terry on December 9, photo by Logan Ritchie, Rough Draft Atlanta.





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As a long time homeowner in Lavista Park, I love helping my neighbors with all of their real estate needs!

If you're considering selling your home now is a great time to do so because the housing market should still favor Sellers in the near future.

While it's unlikely that the housing market will shift completely to favoring buyers this summer, it's looking increasingly likely that the market will be more balanced over the 12-18 months.

A balanced and healthy market is great for buyers and sellers alike.

If you would like to know how the market is fairing in your neighborhood and what you could expect to list your house for, give us a call!



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Bill Golden: Your LaVista Park Real Estate Expert

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- Thank you neighbors, friends, family, clients, and business partners & colleagues!



Bill Golden with assistant, Ida Lou



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KEY CONTACT INFO

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Zoning Coordinators

Joel Thomas, zoning@lavistapark.org

Park Coordinator

Lucas Curry, park@lavistapark.org

Technology Coordinator

Malcolm Barnes (outgoing), technology@lavistapark.org

Media Coordinator

Steve Osunsami, media@lavistapark.org

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency 911**Animal Services – Stray Animals** 404-294-2996**Drainage Problems** 404-297-3840**Code Enforcement**

Brookhaven: 404-637-0500,
code@brookhavenga.gov, or Brookhaven Connect app

Dekalb: 770-724-7940

DeKalb Rape Crisis Center 404-377-2428**Driver's License** 678-423-8400**DeKalb County General Info** 404-371-2000**Marta Complaint Line** 404-848-4800**Potholes**

Brookhaven: 404-637-0500, Brookhaven Connect app
Dekalb: 404-297-3840

Sanitation 404-294-2900**Property Tax** 404-298-4000**Traffic Signal Malfunction** 404-297-3929**Trees Down**

Brookhaven: 404-637-0540
Dekalb: 404-297-3840

Voter Registration 404-298-4020**Water Billing** 404-378-4475**Planning and Zoning**

DeKalb County
Brookhaven
or Brookhaven Connect app

United States Senate

Raphael Warnock, Senator (202) 224-3643
www.senate.gov/senators/117thCongress/warnock-raphael.htm

Jon Ossoff, Senator (202) 224-3521

www.ossoff.senate.gov/

United States Representative – 5th Congressional District

Nikema Williams (404) 659-0116
<https://nikemawilliams.house.gov>

Governor

Brian Kemp (404) 656-1776
<https://georgia.gov/contact-georgiagov>

State Senator 41st District

Kim Jackson 404-656-6882
legis.ga.gov/members/senate/4981

State Representative 101st district

Scott Holcomb 404-656-6372
scott.holcomb@house.ga.gov

Mayor – City of Brookhaven

John Park (404) 637-0710
john.park@brookhavenga.gov

City Manager – City of Brookhaven

Christian Sigman (404) 637-0513
christian.sigman@brookhavenga.gov

City Council – City of Brookhaven – District 4

John Funny (404) 637-0718
John.funny@brookhavenga.gov

Dekalb County School Board – District 2

Whitney McGinnis (404) 946-8344

Dekalb County Commission - District 2

Michelle Long Spears (770) 335-4080
mlspears@dekalbcountyga.gov

Dekalb County CEO

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson (404) 371-2881
ceocochranjohnson@dekalbcountyga.gov

Brookhaven City Hall (404) 637-0500

4362 Peachtree Road NE
Brookhaven, Georgia 30319

LVPCA Security Patrol

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**. If one of our patrol officers is in the neighborhood, the dispatcher will radio them, and if not, the dispatcher will send a regular on-duty officer. The LVPCA Patrol Coordinator also has a dedicated email (watch@lavistapark.org) and new phone number (404-919-2595) where you can leave a message about a non-emergency security concern.

FRIENDS OF LAVISTA PARK...show your membership card and save!

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| | Peachtree Creek Animal Hospital | 404-467-8779 peachtreeanimalhospital.com 1085 Lindbergh Dr, Ste 100 | Free nail trim |
| | Bill Golden Homes, LLC | 404-295-6270 billgolden57@gmail.com | Receive a reusable Bill Golden Homes tote swag bag filled & tailored to you + a complimentary market analysis & digital marketing plan. |
| | Doyle/Goodrowe Curated Living | Matthew Doyle: 561-707-6139 David Goodrowe: 561-707-6139 matthew.doyle@compass.com david.goodrowe@compass.com | 500 donation to the LaVista Park Civic Association |
| GOLD | Rain Sushi | 2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd, Atlanta, GA 30324 (404) 325-6963 | 10% off total bill. Max \$10 off |
| | EATaliano | 404-321-2111 marie@eatalianokitchen.com 2480 Briarcliff Rd | 10% off dinner bill |
| | Briarcliff Frame. Gallery. Gift. | 2187 Briarcliff Rd NE Atlanta GA 30329. 470-672-5143 | 50% off custom clearance frames. |
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| | William Godfrey MD Total Joint Specialists | Sandy Springs, Crabapple 770-580-7820 totaljointspecialists.com | |
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These local businesses have made contributions to the LaVistaPark Civic Association to support our mission and incentivize you, our members, to patronize them. They judge how effective our Friends program is in generating business by pulling data to see how many discounts were requested. Please be sure to always show your electronic or paper card and request your discount so they will recognize you as a member of LaVista Park! The list of Friends and their discounts is updated periodically, so please check "Pass Details" on the card in your Apple or Google wallet for the latest. If you have issues that your electronic card is missing or has not been updated to the current year, send an email to registrar@lavistapark.org and we will help you.

Newsletter Advertising Rates

This newsletter reaches over 500 households. Advertising rates start at \$35 per issue, or 4 ads for \$100 for a 1/8 page ad. Other ad sizes are available. Contact president@lavistapark.org for more details.

Camera-ready art should be submitted as: TIFF, EPS, PDF, or PNG.

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ALL DATA FROM FMLS AS OF 7.30.25 AND BELIEVED TO BE ACCURATE.