

# The LORE

November, 2011

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LORING HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Loring Heights  
Neighborhood  
Association

• <b>President</b>	• <b>Treasurer</b>
• <b>Social Chair</b>	• <b>Land Use News</b>
• <b>Security Chair</b>	

***The November General Assembly Meeting will be held on  
November 15, 2011, 7PM at Midtown Church.***

***We will vote for 2012 Board Members and changes to the LHNA bylaws concerning  
membership dues and voting.  
Please plan to attend!***

## President

FROM THE DESK OF THE LAME DUCK:

Time to take a break! Thanks for letting me help the neighborhood for the past few years and for your support! The Board has done a lot of heavy lifting over the past few years and while some are measurably big wins (i.e. the Atlantic Station settlement) others take years of incremental politicking, convincing, badgering and persistence (some efforts are even still in motion). Despite being in the City of Atlanta, nothing in this world seems to be solved with a phone call anymore – it takes effort from many people to make Loring Heights a better place to live.

I will still be peripherally involved as the Ad Hoc Committee Chair charged with overseeing the Master Plan process that will be finalized by March 2012 and also the core Ad Hoc Steering Committee which will begin the difficult task, sometime in the first quarter of 2012, of determining how we would like to allocate the Atlantic Station settlement funds. I will also remain as a source for information to the current Board, but it is time to have some new direction so we can concentrate more on having some fun instead of always tasked with fighting the battles (although it will still be important to stay on many of the ongoing tasks to keep on top of things).

Some Recent Highlights:

- Starship appears to have exhausted all of their appeals and we are seeking action by the City to have the signs taken down.
- Beltline will be presenting their final Master Plan for Subarea 8 which includes Loring Heights (centered around the CSX tracks to the north) at the same time we present our Master Plan to Council.
- Our Master plan will be presented to the neighborhood in draft format in December and final format for General Assembly approval in late January. It then goes through the City process to be approved by Council in March.
- NPU-E is creating a task force to deal with special event issues along with Midtown and Ansley – this will probably spread to include event facilities and the current alcohol licensing procedure and code.
- We believe we have finally made some headway to have Watershed provide some maintenance of the CSO Greenspace, but we will need to be creative to add some program of our own as we just do not feel it is enough – stay tuned!
- A committee was formed over the summer, under Land Use, tasked with chasing some of the more flagrant Code Enforcement issues. While it has been four months since we initially reported a number of properties to Code Enforcement, about one third remain in neglect and we are escalating.
- We have been very aggressive in chasing micro-grants to beautify certain spots in the neighborhood, including the intersection of Loring and Deering and in front of the CSO.

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## President (continued)

- The Community Garden was a great success in its first year – looking forward to winter crops!
- Redistricting – thanks to many of you who have written in to Yolanda Adrean's office. She has reacted positively to strike a potential deal where we remain in her District. Hopefully, we will have good news on that front as the redistricting will be finalized in December by Council.
- Amtrak (an ongoing saga): We have developed, with the City and Brookwood, a traffic control signage and enforcement program should Deering Road be shut down in the spring. We also continue to encourage enforcement until the time comes that Amtrak will be relocated. I truly believe it will within the next couple years -- a little more...patience.
- We are in permitting for the Park Improvement Plan and continue to finalize the layout of the playground. We hope to have permits in hand and begin construction of the Phase I playground in the spring of 2012.

I am sure I am forgetting some things, but feel free to ask me directly about them and thanks again for your support of the Board and Loring Heights!

Thanks,

Ron Grunwald

## Social

Hello neighbors,

From all the reports and comments I received, the Fall Fest was a huge success and a great event that will get better and better in the coming years! I understand ALL costumes were winners that night and some of those costumes included The Bi-plane Boy, The Tall Giraffe, The Astronaut, and Tic Tac Toe Boy.

The Family costume winners were The Strong Man and The Sushi Chef family.

We also received a note of thanks from our Brookwood neighbors for including them in our event. They enjoyed meeting new people and seeing old friends. I personally would like to thank Cindy Baumgardner for her ideas and for pulling all the details together to make the event a success!

Our next event is the "Members Only" Holiday Party scheduled for December 4th from 5:30 to 8pm at Endive on Macaslin. Check the LHNA calendar and the Social message board for more details once confirmed. Please make sure to pay your dues for 2011 in order to enjoy this catered event with your LHNA neighbors.

With regard to membership, be sure to attend the next General Assembly meeting for proposed changes to the membership terms. For 2012, there will be a concentrated effort to increase our membership numbers and have more "Members Only" events as part of the benefit of joining LHNA. Our numbers have been significantly down over the past two years, so stay tuned for more details in the next few months.

For 2012, there are plans in the works for a neighborhood BBQ cook off in addition to the Easter / Spring event, The First Friday Fiestas, The Fall Fest and Holiday Party.

Please email me directly if you have any interest in participating in a series of Progressive Dinners/Tour of Homes to be held in the neighborhood. My idea for a Progressive Dinner/Tour of Homes is to provide an event where ideas can be shared by touring neighborhood homes. Residents that may be considering a home improvement, residents with similar floor plans and residents that may have recently completed a home renovation project can share ideas while divvying up the courses of a meal between houses. I am personally always interested in seeing what others do to their homes...why not share a meal while doing so?

I am always open to suggestions for other events, so please do not hesitate to contact me directly @

kevin.paul.landry@gmail.com with your ideas and comments!

Kevin Landry

LHNA Social Chair

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## Security

Greetings Neighbors!

Neighborhood Watch:

I held a small Security Meeting in early October to describe our Neighborhood Watch program that I am trying to implement. I have broken up our neighborhood into 16 distinct zones and am seeking Block Captains to get to know their neighbors in each of their zones. Each zone has approximately 20 houses in it. So far, I have 7 Block Captain volunteers which means – I need you! I am especially seeking volunteers in the Lofton Road, Garden Lane and Trabert Avenue areas. Please email me at [nancyelizabethlamb@gmail.com](mailto:nancyelizabethlamb@gmail.com) if you would like to know more and volunteer.

Holiday Security Patrols:

The holiday season is fast approaching which means we will be hiring a security patrol to keep watch on our homes. This year, we will hire Officer Poole and his team again, who provided coverage during the summer for us. His patrols include the following benefits to members:

1. Patrol the assigned neighborhood and respond to all calls in the 'hood.
2. Each shift officer will check all the out of town houses that belong to the patrol. Officers will walk around the house and make sure all is okay while the member is on vacation. They will also pick up papers and put them in the trash, if necessary.
3. If a resident is out of town and we respond to an alarm, we will leave an alarm notice to inform them that we checked the house.
4. Off duty officers will NOT take the place of the assigned beat car. However, off duty officers work with assigned beat cars to help make neighborhood safer.
5. Police supervisor will notify the 'hood of ongoing crime patterns in the area. (note from Nancy: I got a call from Sgt Poole this morning about a higher frequency of late night knocks and break-ins)
6. Once the patrol is established, we will provide non emergency phone number so residents can contact patrol officers for non emergencies. This number will **not** replace 911.

Typically, his team patrols in 5 hours shifts. In the past we have had them patrol mainly during the night. I hope to be able to have these night patrols consistently during the Thanksgiving, Christmas/Hanukkah/Festivus and New Year's holidays. To contribute and participate in the Security Patrols, please send a check for \$75 to me at 371 Deering Road. I have a lock box mailbox so feel free to drop a check in there. The check should be out to Loring Heights Neighborhood Association.

In an effort to streamline and make efficient use of planning, please know that I will NOT TAKE CHECKS after Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving). By doing so I can better plan how much security we can provide.

Nancy Lamb

Security Chair

## Treasurer

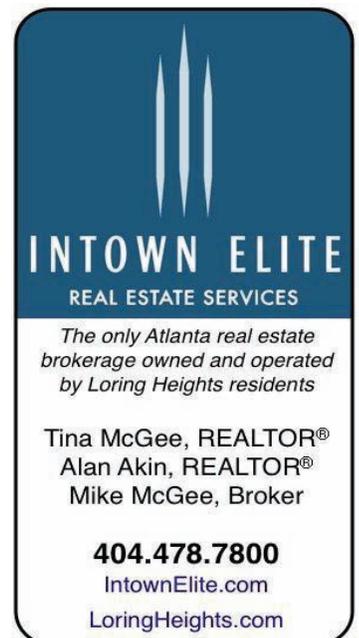
With the recent approval at a special General Assembly, we reimbursed LHNA \$12,037.33 from the Atlantic Station settlement funds. This reimbursement was made due to the legal costs incurred by the LHNA to achieve the final settlement, much of which was outside of the scope of the normal budget of LHNA. As of the end of October, we now hold \$5,908.25 in our checking account, \$8,601.39 in savings, and \$127.76 in our PayPal account, for a total of \$14,637.40 in our operating accounts. We have received significantly lower dues in 2011 than in any of the previous four years (roughly half of previous years), and thus may need to re-think our budget for 2012, which will be addressed by the new Board.

The settlement funds from Atlantic Station currently stand at \$685,419.79. This includes the reduction of the above mentioned reimbursement, as well as preliminary payments to TSW to complete our master plan of \$3,259.18. The funds are currently spread between SunTrust, ING and Wachovia to keep 100% of these assets federally insured. They are all earning slightly different (and I might add puny) interest rates at each institution.

As part of our upcoming General Assembly, we will be proposing some changes to the way dues are paid, and when they should be paid. Please come out to the GA to discuss.

Thanks!

Brian O'Neill



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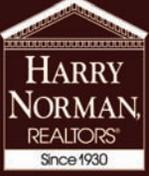
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## Land Use News

As many of you in the ‘hood know, the Land Use Chair is here to primarily steer the course of discussion as it pertains to changes in the neighborhood that affect its look, appearance, and livability. For example, it gives neighbors a chance to voice their opposition or support when someone needs to make a change to their property that breaches standard zoning ordinances, or if the City needs has plans to make changes in our neighborhood that we will need to come together for in a meeting to craft a unified voice that states our position to such changes. You can always reach out to me for help or concerns about land use issues. So please keep your eye out for Land Use meetings that are announced through the neighborhood message board.

Since the last issue of the Lore, we have not had any new requests for zoning changes or projects from neighbors that needed to be met about. It has been pretty quiet on that front. Hopefully, the economy will start turning around and if so, I suspect we will see more of these variance requests from businesses and neighbors. You all can have a voice in these requests when they come to us for approval. With that being said, there are still some important issues that land use is currently working on.

- First, the EZ Mart at the corner of Deering and Northside has a new operator and is up for review on their beer and wine license with the City’s License Review Board. The City needs our recommendation, and we are using this opportunity to work with the owner of the building to get a commitment to clean up the property in order to gain our support. Second, the Atlanta Beltline is really gaining steam, and we are right in its crosshairs for their route. It is creeping closer to us with the beginning development of the Northeast and Eastside corridors (<http://www.beltline.org/Portals/26/PDF/Map%205%20-%20Northeastnew.pdf>). We are considered Northside Subarea 8 of the Atlanta beltline project. President Ron has been staying in touch with Georgia DOT on the closing of Deering near Peachtree that could happen as soon as early next year for the reconstruction of the Amtrak parking lot (which interestingly enough is currently the original Peachtree Street bridge). Stay tuned for further updates.
- Lastly, many thanks to Ron for working with the City to have code enforcement actually enforce some of the more egregious violations by businesses, the City, and absentee property owners. Several complaints from neighbors brought this to our attention this year and these issues look to be improving.

Jeremy Faughtenberry

Land Use Chair

### There are 3 easy ways to pay your LHNA dues:

- 1.) Go to [LoringHeights.org](http://LoringHeights.org) and use the PayPal link**
- 2.) Drop a check by the treasurer’s House  
 367 N. Garden**
- 3.) Mail this form along with your check to:  
 LHNA, P.O. Box 7845, Atlanta, GA 30357**

**the lore**