

The LORE

April 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LORING HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



• President	• Security
• Treasurer	• Land Use
• Parks	• Social

President

We've had a busy couple of months in the neighborhood, so I'll try to keep things brief:

Our main focus has been on organizing the neighborhood to get involved in the redistricting of Atlanta Public Schools. As of last weekend, Superintendent Errol Davis made his final recommendations, keeping Loring Heights zoned for E. Rivers Elementary School. E Rivers will undergo a significant renovation beginning in fall 2013, and E Rivers students will transition to the current Sutton Middle School until completion of construction (Sutton students will move to the current North Atlanta High School in Fall 2013 when the new North Atlanta High opens). After completion of the E. Rivers renovation, Sutton will be repurposed as a 6th grade academy, with the existing North Atlanta High serving as a 7th and 8th grade campus. Essentially, we as a neighborhood achieved the outcome that the majority desired. Thanks to all for their time and energy on this significant issue!

Other than school redistricting, we had several other issues/accomplishments. Parks has continued to work toward the work on the park/playground (see more in parks update), as well as planting ornamental grasses in front of the CSO space with a "Love Your Block" grant. Parks continues to be involved with the maintenance of the CSO space, as well as committing to annual maintenance of the plantings at Loring and Deering. We have worked to drive higher membership through a membership card and benefits tied to having this card. Our neighborhood Master Plan was adopted by the city, which will give us more power in dealing with development and change in and around Loring Heights. As you can see, there's been a lot going on. Thanks to everyone - and keep involved!

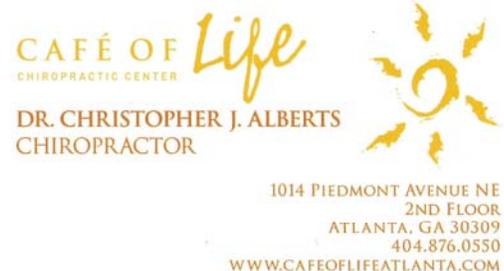
Brian

Treasurer

The LHNA operating account is currently at a balance of \$11,941.34. Of this amount, about \$2,800 is still committed to security patrols. Membership participation has far exceeded expectations this year and a big thanks is due to our Social/Membership Chair, Kevin Landry! We also have \$8,603 in the LHNA savings account, which is typically money we don't touch except for emergencies.

The Special Assembly Meeting in February elected to donate \$75,000 of the Atlantic Station funds to The Friends of Loring Heights Park organization. It is believed this donation will significantly increase the chances of "matching fund" grants from several organizations. With this withdrawal, as well as the nearly completed contract with TSW for issuance of our Master Plan, the current Atlantic Station fund balance is \$582,680.

Wes Sparkman



LHNA Members can take advantage of a
\$47 initial Consult & Assessment
(Valued @ \$150-\$225)(Medicare rules apply)

Parks

There's a lot going on with Parks this year. If you've been out walking in this spring weather, you've probably noticed the work going on in the park. The city recently removed several dead and distressed trees that had been tagged by the city arborist. And through the Friends of Loring Heights Park funding, we have begun on the initial phases of the landscaping by ridding of the invasive plants and groundcovers. This phase of the plan will take a while, so bear with us on this process.

We are in the home stretch on finalizing the bids with our site prep contractors and playground manufacturers. If everything proceeds as we hope, I will be setting up a community build for our playground in early June. Please stay tuned for ways that you can help in this build. I hope to make this a fun community build for the whole neighborhood where everyone can get involved from actually constructing the playground equipment, to feeding volunteers, to helping entertain children so parents can help out.

And all of this work costs money, so we have applied for another community grant from Park Pride and were recently named one of the finalists. A grant was also submitted to the EPA specifically for the pond and wetlands restoration.

So as you can see, Parks is busy. If you would like to know more or have any questions, please email me at lauramoneill@yahoo.com.

Laura

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Security

Greetings Neighbors,

I hope you are all enjoying the spring weather! We have had a safe start of 2012; although we have had a car break in on the south side of our neighborhood. This time of year, thieves tend to target lawn equipment so be careful when securing your lawn mowers and other maintenance items. Remember: always lock all your doors; both in your house, windows, cars, and in outside sheds. We live in an easily accessed part of the city so we need to be extra vigilant and careful everyday.

As a neighborhood, we received many donations for Holiday Security patrols. In an effort to provide patrols beyond the Christmas holidays, we had less patrols during the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. As a result, the neighborhood has scheduled patrols during most major holidays including Spring Break, Memorial Day, and Fourth of July. In addition, the Board recently approved funds to provide finances to also have security patrols during the Labor Day holiday.

Our security patrols are officers in motorcycles so please say hello when you see them. An additional service of our patrols is regularly checking the homes when owners are away. Thus, if you are going out of town for a holiday weekend and contributed to the Holiday patrols, send me your address and times you'll be out of town and I'll let our patrolmen know.

Lastly, the best security for a neighborhood is to get to know your neighbors! With the change of weather, we're all outside more often. Take the time to get to know your neighbors so that we can all be on the lookout for each other. And as always, if you see something suspicious – CALL 911.

Nancy Lamb



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Land Use

It has been a pretty busy start to 2012 for our neighborhood with respect to land-use issues. I won't be surprised at all if it continues to be a busy year. Some pundits say 2012 could be a year with new and positive growth leading to new projects and developments from within our neighborhood in terms of renovations and new houses and outside of our neighborhood in terms of private developments and government spending projects. I am seeing both examples. The LHNA Land-Use Committee is staying on the up and up with these issues to protect and guide the interests of our neighborhood. We are here to help. Please contact us if you have issues with the City, new developments in the neighborhood, or any other issues you see land-use related. I can help guide you or find you the right answers for any variance requests you need to send through the neighborhood and City if you are looking forward to a new project. Or, if the City has erred and affected you negatively (as happened with stop work notices on projects for a couple of our neighbors on Kenwood this year) we can address them with the City for you.

The EZ Mart at Northside Drive and Deering has in many peoples' eyes been an eye sore for so long and seems to be getting worse in some regards with respect to the graffiti and general maintenance on one particular side of the building. The committee forced their hand with an agreement late last year for them to obtain our approval for their liquor license permit as required by the City ONLY if they kept up the property and used anti graffiti paint on their building. We have made them aware they are not keeping their end of the bargain, and that we are monitoring their progress; we may have to invoke the signed agreement with them to get faster resolution. We are working on it.

Chef Drew at Endive on Mecasin recently reached out to us to make us aware of plans to incorporate a restaurant and the location he now uses primarily for catering and special events. The concept that was to be part of the original space – a restaurant that would initially open perhaps Wed/Thurs thru Sat for dinner and maybe Sunday Brunch, then slowly evolve from there. We talked about a possible patio. Also, the Catering operation would remain in effect too. Drew is very proactive and wants to work with the neighborhood on any issues as it pertains to parking, noise and liquor licensing – I know this would be a great little addition to the neighborhood. Drew is thinking maybe an opening at the end of summer but we will have to work with him as a neighborhood for him to approved for the required permitting.

Speaking of event spaces, there will be events every weekend in April for the Summerour space between Trabert and Bishop. Be aware of increased traffic and people during these times.

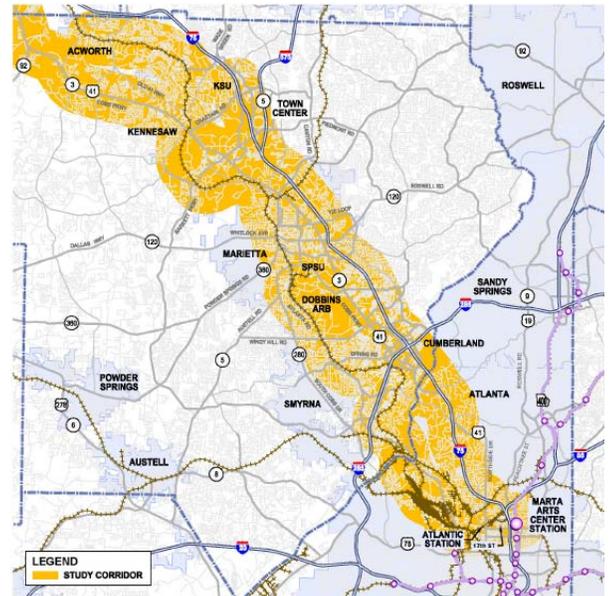
The Loring Heights Master Plan was recommended for approval by the Atlanta City Council CDHR committee in March. This is a positive stop for our Master Plan to be codified by the City. We all had input on this over the last couple of years. Thanks to those that attended the meetings and added value.

The Connect Cobb project is something we should all keep our eyes on in the coming months. We certainly are at the board level. Ron Grunwald has spearheaded efforts to make sure they know we want to be involved in the conversation. They are looking for high capacity transit systems best suited for the Northwest Corridor, pictured below plowing right through our neighborhood. It is their focus for moving Cobb residents in and out of our City for work. The possibilities are a light rail, Bus Rapid Transit, and dedicated bus way. Three public meetings will be announced for late April/early May: one for Midtown sector, Buckhead sector, and West Midtown/Buckhead. Please look for notice from us in regards to this. For more information, visit <http://dot.cobbcountyga.gov/connectcobb.htm>

Finally, a couple of things are happening south of us with our Atlantic Station friends. We have been called to send a representative to the Design Control Committee that Atlantic Station leads of which we are a permanent member along with Home Park and Atlantic Station. I have volunteered to be the representative. The committee is called into formation any time there is a possible change to the development. It provides a means of ensuring that all buildings and improvement projects be aesthetically consistent and in harmony with other first class mixed use developments and the surrounding neighborhoods. Specifically, it has been called together for sale of a parcel of land near Ikea - where you turn to go off 17th street to Ikea, but on the Northside across from the existing condo apartments. When we convene the committee, I will update the neighborhood on any plans we see for this space.

While I am mentioning Atlantic Station, there was another interesting article in the Atlanta Business Chronicle that mentions that Jeff Fuqua has left the Sembler Co. to start his own firm Fuqua Development. Fuqua developed the Edgewood Retail District, the Lindbergh Plaza, and Town Brookhaven. While that is not pertinent to our neighborhood, there was a mention in the article that he is looking at new projects, and one he may start moving on is at 17th and Northside. We'll keep you posted.

Jeremy Faughtenberry



Social

Spring is in full bloom in the neighborhood and I hope everyone is out and about enjoying the weather and not suffering too badly because of the pollen.

Membership Update - Thanks to everyone who has taken the time join or renew!

With the recently adopted bylaw changes, we now have a cutoff date to renew your membership. LHNA dues will be accepted from January 1 of the calendar year until the date of the first General Assembly Meeting of the calendar year. From the date immediately following the First General Assembly Meeting to December 31 of the calendar year, any dues paid shall incur an additional late fee of 50%. A provision has been made to avoid the late penalty for new residents who move into the neighborhood after the First General Assembly Meeting.

We have several voting issues coming up this year and your participation is key to maintaining and improving the neighborhood. You have to be a PAID LHNA member in order to cast your vote.

Membership cards have been distributed. Please look to the "Sponsors" tab of the website for those businesses and individuals that support our neighborhood. If discounts are given by participating sponsors, it will be listed there!

Easter Egg Hunt - If you missed this event held on March 24th, you missed a swell time. There were 40+ kids hunting for eggs in the CSO space. The Easter Bunny made a special appearance to greet the kids and we could not have asked for better weather! A big THANK YOU to Cindy Baumgartner, Renee Alli, & Rick Ketaily for helping to hide the eggs and to the parents for dropping them off in advance so we could have a successful Easter Egg Hunt.

Friday Fiesta - The 2012 Friday Fiesta season begins with our first event on May 4th. The Friday Fiestas are once a month gatherings every 1st Friday of the month beginning May thru September at a neighborhood home which provides you the opportunity to meet your neighbors and socialize!

To join your neighbors, all YOU need to bring is your own beverage and an appetizer to share. It can be as simple as a bag of chips, cookies or your special appetizer recipe!

Here are the dates and addresses for this year:

Friday, May 4, 2012

Laura & Ken Matura, 529 Trabert Ave.

Friday June 1, 2012

David & Stephanie Pyron, 368 Lofton Rd.

Friday, July 13, 2012

Michele Torres, 344 Lofton Rd.

Friday, August 3, 2012

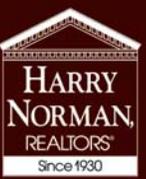
McCall & Chris Butler, 366 Hascall Rd.

Friday, September 7, 2012

Tom & Elise Lowry, 361 Hascall Rd.

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Other events are in the works, so please subscribe to the "Social" message board where I will provide updates as the year progresses. If you have any ideas for events you would like to see the neighborhood participate in, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at kevin.paul.landry@gmail.com.

See you in the neighborhood,

Kevin Landry

There are 3 easy ways to pay your LHNA dues:

- 1.) Go to LoringHeights.org and use the PayPal link**
- 2.) Drop a check by the treasurer's House
295 Deering Rd.**
- 3.) Mail this form along with your check to:
LHNA, P.O. Box 7845, Atlanta, GA 30357**

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