

the

Berkeley Park Bulletin

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BERKELEY PARK

JULY 2002

Next Meeting

July 15

7:00 pm

Fire Station #23

NPU-D Meetings

Fourth Tuesday of every month

Meetings start at 7:30

Agape Center on Bolton Road

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Special Topics

Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association Vision Statement

To create an area of intown living that is safe, clean and has the direction and determination to take on tasks that are beneficial to the neighborhood and its residents.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ted Huckabee

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Hello Neighbors,

I don't have much to say this month because I missed the last meeting. I am sure that our fearless vice prez did an outstanding job in my place. So thanks Mike. I do have news from the city regarding sidewalks on Bellmeade. The work is suppose to begin in early 2003 and be finished by spring of 2003. The sidewalk is suppose to link Bellmeade to Deering through Northside road. So the more I hear the more you will know. Also

there has been a new bid put on the property on the corner of Antone and Tallulah. I should be able to give you more info at the next meeting. And lastly there looks to be some work going on at the old Atlantic moving company building on Forrest. I have noticed that they got a stop work and had been doing improvements to the building. Maybe for Lofts? I will try to find out and tell you at the next meeting. See you there.

TED HUCKABEE

V.P. LETTER

Mike Cosky

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Mike's article was written for the June newsletter

CONNECT THIS!

Some of you may remember the first time I had to chair a neighborhood meeting. It was when we were hearing the presentation for the Scary Queen as well as other important topics and the room was packed. I stammered my way through and lived to tell about it.

Well, I guess you could call this past meeting the polar opposite in that we probably had the lowest turn out ever! I suppose this could have been a good thing, since I am the worst public speaker ever, except for the fact that John Schaffner from The Story was there to report on the proceedings of the meeting. Sadly, all he had to report was that I had no idea what was going on since the agenda never made it to my e-mail box and the only e-board member that came was our lovely treasurer so there was nothing else to talk about. If you read The Story (and you should) you probably noticed that there was no report on our neighborhood meeting that week and I would like to thank John profusely for that.

Now on to the real reason that I do this...the griping! Again, if you read The

Story then you probably noticed the front page story on The Georgia Regional Transit Authority (GRTA) meeting held last week at the Moores Mill YMCA. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss eight (8) possible routes under consideration to connect the Town Center Mall area to Downtown Atlanta via rapid transit. Most of which will adversely affect NW neighborhoods to varying degrees.

Many of us have known for some time that Marta had a proposed NW line that ran perilously close to our neighborhood but I think we were put at ease because we believed that Cobb county would never allow Marta in their county. I believe, however that it will happen. The only uncertainty is the exact route it will take.

Do I have a problem with mass transit? No, not if its useful and efficient (which we all know Marta is neither and this line will be no different). What I do have a problem with is that this is just another example of how intown residents will suffer from a bone headed attempt to get suburbanites from their subdivision hell (or heaven if you are to believe them) homes to the massive office

IMPORTANT

Two presentations regarding land use in Berkeley Park will be made at the July Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association meeting.

**Plan to attend
Monday July 15th - 7:00 pm
Fire Station #23 Howell Mill Road**

Presentation by Franz Schneider and Bob Feshkens

703 Antone St.

Zoning C-1-C (conditional on a site plan)

Our site plan has 5- 18X36' Fee-simple townhomes.

Setbacks required:

10' Antone/ Our siteplan is 18'.

5' Tallulah and side/ Our siteplan is 20' both sides.

20' Buffer required where C-1 adjoins R/ Maintained on our siteplan

FAR ratios are lower than allowed (Section 3).

Siteplans available.

Presentation by Mr. Wang

The owner of the property located at 770 Verner for the purpose of a variance request. The variance includes 3' encroachment into setback zone and a privacy fence. Mr. Wang will then be presenting the variance request to NPU and in council forum.

park we like to call Atlanta. And do you know what the worst part is? After people lose their homes and the rest of us are blessed with the noise of clattering and screeching train cars all day and night, the GRTA will realize that just like Marta, people will not use transit if it is not convenient and doesn't take them where they need to go, and they will be sorry that they dissed Kathy Woolard and didn't put their efforts into her Belt Line transit proposal first.

The GRTA, along with state and local governments seem to believe that the city of Atlanta is not part of Georgia (which I have suspected myself for some time now) as they display no compassion for its residents and no interest in developing intown transit that would actually be of use to intown residents and suburban super-commuters as well.

Connectivity seems to be the buzz word these days among people in mass transit circles, but if by connectivity they mean connecting suburbanites to Atlanta at the expense of intown residents then the only thing that I would like to connect is my foot to their a**.

TREASURER REPORT

Kendra Huckabee

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The BPNA balance is \$1,236.62. Dues are \$10.00 - Seniors \$5.00 Please make checks payable to "Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association". Send to: BPNA Treasurer

761 Berkeley Avenue,
Atlanta, GA 30318

CRIME WATCH

Corey Greika

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You can read the update from the Citizen's Advisory Meeting for Zone 2 here in the newsletter. Let's focus on the types of crime that directly affect us, and evaluate how well Berkeley Park has done:

Residential Burglary, (down by 4 from last year)- Berkeley Park has had instances with items stolen off of screened in porches and from under decks or homes, but since we have been more aware of keeping valuables out of those areas we have had no more problems. Good job, but keep your guard up.

Larceny from Vehicles (up by 15 from last year)- I consider this our most serious problem. We have had instances of windows knocked out and items stolen from vehicles. The best thing I can tell you is not to keep anything of value in you cars in plain sight, and don't forget to lock your car doors. If you see anyone snooping around the neighborhood call 911 and if you can, let them know you are watching them. As the Report says later on, the Police Department has been downsized due to budget cuts so response to 911 calls may be slow, so don't let criminals break into cars all the way down the street waiting on the police to show up.

Aggravated assault, robbery, and auto theft have traditionally not been problems in Berkeley Park, these are probably more prominent in the commercial districts and surrounding residential neighborhoods in Buckhead, but we must stay aware that these criminals are out there and could be walking through our neighborhood looking for someone to take advantage of. As the

Report states, overcrowding in jails means repeat offenders are walking our streets, so be careful.

So far this summer, we have had no reported incidences. Keep up the good work of protecting your property and valuables. Keep our neighborhood well manicured and trash free, and keep your eyes out for anyone loitering in our neighborhood. Let your neighbors know when you go out of town. These are the little things that go a long way in reducing crime in our neighborhood.

Thanks, and have a great summer!

NEWSLETTER

Sharon Arnold

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If you wondered where your newsletter was last month, because of summer schedules, there was very little to put in a newsletter. With a regularly scheduled meeting this month - July 15th, the executive committee agreed to skip a month on the newsletter. We also agreed to distribute this issue (and maybe one more this year) to every household in Berkeley Park. If you are not on the Berkeley Park mailing list, please contact me at the number above or visit berkeleypark.org to sign up for our e-mail distribution list.

SENIORS

Tawn Chi

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Happy Birthday to Walter Fritz of 744 Bellemeade Avenue born July 14th.

Seniors, please let me know if you need any assistance on the following:

- * Home Repairs
- * Jobs
- * Adult Day Care
- * Meals
- * Computer classes
- * Bus trip-vacations

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

Brett Marsengill

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On June 18th the BPNA Executive committee will meet to review plans offered by Third Millennium Development, Inc. as part of a due diligence study for the property located at 703 Antone Street, the corner lot of Antone and Tallulah. As some of you may remember, last year the property owner tried several times to gain a variance reducing setback and reducing required green-space allocation for a 5 unit town home/apartment. Much to our joy (and hard work) the variance was denied. Since then 3MD has spoke with the owner and is considering purchasing and developing the property. Our anticipated result of the June 18th meeting will be to initially comment on the plan and recommend formal presentation at our next scheduled Association Meeting for all to see. We all expect a much improved approach to the development of the land with 3MD now involved. As our neighborhood continues inner-urban-renewal, it is exciting to see developers who care about what they are doing being a part of this process.

See you at the next BPNA meeting

NPU-D

Richard Arnold

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Seeking NPU Rep

Hello Berkeley Parkers,

Many of you know me as I have been involved with the BPNA and NPU every since Sharon and I moved to Berkeley Park in 1996. And from the time our neighborhood received "official" recognition as a neighborhood within NPU-D that year, I have volunteered to be the NPU Rep from our neighborhood. But it is time for me to move on and let someone else carry the banner and represent Berkeley Park within NPU.

This is my official notice of my resignation as the Berkeley Park Rep for NPU-D after the end of 2002. Although we are only halfway through the year, it is not too early for you to start thinking about how YOU can serve YOUR neighborhood organization. Whether it is by being the NPU-D Rep or taking on another BPNA leadership position, I hope many of you will consider participating in this basic civil responsibility and get involved with the BPNA for 2003.

The Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association is a strong organization that has accomplished much since it was formed in 1995. Just look at our home values if you don't think paying attention matters! A strong neighborhood organization like the BPNA needs dedicated neighborhood leaders to make it work well. I call upon everyone who enjoys living and owning property in Berkeley Park to take

the time between now and the fall to think about how they can serve the BPNA to make their neighborhood better.

Attend an NPU Meeting

NPU-D meets on a monthly basis on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is on July 23rd. The meeting location is the Agape Community Center located on Bolton Road, .3 of mile south of the intersection of Bolton and Marietta Boulevard. Meetings start at 7:30. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older whose primary residence is within the NPU, or any corporation, organization, institution or agency, which owns property or has a place of business or profession within the NPU.

An agenda is published for each meeting and is mailed to your home address. If you do not now receive the agenda, contact the Bureau of Neighborhood Conservation at 404.330.6190, fax at 404.658.7084, and ask them to place you on the mailing list.

PIKE FAMILY NURSERIES

Cindy Underwood

(770) 921-1022 ext.131

cunderwood@pikenursery.com



*July Gardening Tips from
Pike Family Nurseries*

A garden that conserves water does not have to be dull or uninteresting in appearance. There are many colorful plants and flowers to offer any landscape year round color...even in the heat of summer. Such examples include Bougainvillea, Lobularia, Allysum, Hibiscus and Plumbago.

There are also many drought-tolerant lawns that thrive in Atlanta, such as various types of Bermuda and some of the newer blends of Fescue (Rebel II). Some tips to remember for your lawn and landscape during the month of July are:

Water slowly and deeply so the soil can absorb at least 6" from the surface.

Water an established lawn 1" every 7-10 days. This is typically an hour's worth of watering. Over-watering produces shallow root growth, which causes the grass to lose its ability to resist drought-like conditions.

For planting beds, use soaker hoses or drip irrigation units. This not only conserves water, but also directs the water where it needs to go - to the root of the plant.

If you feel the need to fertilize in the heat of summer, use water-soluble solutions for plants. It is fine to fertilize Bermuda grasses now and then again in August and September. St. Augustine grass can also be fertilized in July.

Cut grass slightly higher than normal. This promotes deeper rooting and, therefore, less water.

Water early in the mornings to prevent water loss through evaporation.

A.M. watering allows the water to be absorbed throughout the day.

Keep in mind the type and the size of container you use for container gardening. Clay pots are porous and will dry out faster than plastic ones. Smaller containers will need more frequent watering than larger ones.

Prune back fall-blooming perennials by 1/2 to 1/3, such as Asters, Chrysanthemums, and Heliopsis. This will result



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in fuller plants in the fall. To encourage flower formation throughout the growing season, continue to deadhead repeat bloomers.

July is also a good time to prune back fast-growing shrubs such as Privet, Glossy Abelia, Cherry Laurel and Hollies. The new growth will still have time to harden off before winter's chill arrives.

Always remember to have an ample supply of fresh water for pets that remain outside during hot summer days. They'll thank you for it!

SPECIAL TOPICS

Update from the Citizen's Advisory Meeting
held on 7/2/02 from 5 to 6 PM.

National Night Out is scheduled for the first week of August. I have contacted Christina Walker for more information.

July 2 was Chief of Police Beverly Harvard's last day. Major Spillane hopes to have the new chief speak at the next Citizens Advisory Meeting.

If anyone has any questions they would like asked or answered please let me know by the end of August.

The city is about to go through another round of layoffs of civilian employees, as a result response time to 911 calls will be affected. As well as trying to file a police report for this incidents when an officer does not need to respond. If you ever have a problem trying to file a report please contact Christina Walker - 404-609-7211.

Statistics for Zone 2, Beat 209 (Year to Date Totals)

Residential Burglary

2001 27

2002 23

Down by 4

Nonresidential Burglary

2001 20

2002 20

No Difference

Larceny from Vehicles

2001 25

2002 40

Up by 15

**There is a serious problem with repeat offenders, the police are unable to send these repeat offenders to jail because of the over crowding problems.

**Many incidents go unreported because the victims do not have much taken or nothing of value is taken. These statistics are probably low.

Aggravated Assault

2001 17

2002 20

Up by 3

Robbery

2001 11

2002 13

Up by 2

**The Hispanic population has been targeted for robberies. Generally because they don't report the incidents because they are afraid or because they are illegal.

Auto Theft

2001 29

2002 32

Up by 3

**There is an auto theft initiative centered around Peachtree Ave. North up to Lenox Mall and Phipps Plaza. The police monitor the parking lots. They have been targeting Beat 204.

Felonies are up by 16%.

Moving violations down by 11%

DUI up by 19%

Traffic: non-moving down by 14%

Major Spillane stated for Zone 2 the projection for the month of June should be down 13% (everything rolled together - crime should be lower). The projection for 2002 is that crime is down by 15%.

Lt. Agan stated to please drive carefully because the police department is trying to increase its number of traffic violations. they will be out in force writing tickets.

Neighborhood Updates:

Loring Heights was concerned with the response to 911 calls on Friday and Saturday nights. Last Saturday at 4 AM a man was seen walking with a flashlight looking into cars and houses. A resident called 911 but it took over 30 minutes for a police car to respond. Four cars had been broken into. Major Spillane stated that during the weekends, especially in the summer, the police are focusing on the Buckhead Village and response time might not be as good as it should be.

Brookwood Hills - Armed robbery occurred a few weeks ago around 6 PM at the intersection of Brighten and Peachtree.

Pine Hills - Over the last several weeks there were 4 houses with their doors kicked in. In all the cases the home owners were out of town.

New Scams:

Don't leave your keys in your car!! There have been several incidents where members of a health club in Buckhead (in the Disco Kroger shopping center) have had their cars stolen because they leave the keys in the car. They use the electronic locking devise to lock the car and leave the keys in the car. This is also occurring at night clubs/bars when women put their purses in the trunk when exiting their vehicles. Perpetrators are watching and taking advantage of an vehicle that can be easily stolen.

If you have any questions you may contact me via email or phone 404-355-8425. Thanks for making our neighborhoods a safer place to live!

Wensday Tumulak

Bolton Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Keeping your pets safe

About 6 weeks ago my male Orange Tabby, Coosa disappeared without a trace - I mean, poof gone. At the end of the first week he was gone, I found my female Calico Cheyenne in a pool of blood, her tail nearly chewed off. After \$500 worth of bills to save her, I discovered the Black male

unneutered cat who resides at 758 Antone on my deck attacking Cheyenne on the leg.

This is not the first time he has been on my property causing trouble. I called Animal Control who cited the man at 758 twice for no proof of rabies. Last week same Black cat was back and attacked Cheyenne as she sunned on my porch. Animal Control was again called and he was given another warning. The owner has until July to get rabies tags for 2 cats. He has also attacked a neighbors cat, it has now been 2 months since Coosa disappeared without a trace.

I brought these cats with me when I moved back from Macon 3 years ago, I raised them from birth and had no trouble until 2 months ago. Last week Cheyenne was missing for almost 3 days and when she finally did come home, she was malnourished and had obviously either been caught and held inside with no food or perhaps been caught in traps that someone is putting out to catch cats and sell them or to catch other types of animals. There are lots of possibilities as to what happened, but a search at the obvious places turned up no trace of Coosa. I believe he was Cat napped.

Berkeley Park residents should be on guard if they have cats particularly. Make sure they have tags, I had Cheyenne micro chipped so that if scanned by any shelter scans, the information will come up. A good 40 dollar investment in pet safety and peace of mind.

Sizing Up Mosquito Repellents

Botanical Products Don't Work as Well as DEET

By Salynn Boyles © 2002 WebMD Inc.

July 3, 2002 -- Legions of swarming, bloodsucking, flying vermin can really ruin that summer picnic or outdoor party. So what's the best way to fend off the mosquitoes and no-see-ums intent on making you their next meal? A host of products claim to effectively repel the nasty critters without chemicals. But timely research shows that insecticides containing the long-relied-on chemical DEET are more effective and last longer.

"DEET is not exactly the perfect product, so people are always looking for alternatives," dermatologist Mark S. Fradin,

MD, tells WebMD. "But it has been proven effective over 45 years of use, and there is almost no science to support the notion that it is highly toxic."

Always a summer annoyance, mosquitoes became more of a health threat in the U.S. three years ago when the first cases of West Nile virus were discovered. By the end of last year, the mosquito-spread virus had been documented in 28 states and was blamed for 18 deaths.

In the latest research, reported July 4 in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Fradin and colleague John F. Day, PhD, of the University of Florida, recruited 15 brave volunteers who agreed to test 16 different repellents by getting up close and personal with hungry, female mosquitoes. The test included seven botanical-based repellents, four products containing DEET, a product containing a newer insecticide, three repellent wristbands, and Avon's Skin-So-Soft Bath Oil.

The volunteers endured 48 separate tests, evaluating each product three times over an average of 10 days. Each repellent was placed on a volunteer's forearm and the forearm was placed in a cage filled with 10 disease-free mosquitoes.

The DEET-based products were found to provide complete protection for the longest time. Products containing 24% DEET protected for an average of five hours, while those containing 4.75% DEET kept the mosquitoes away for an average of 1.5 hours. The newly available insecticide IR3535, found in Avon's Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard Plus, protected for about 23 minutes.

The best performing non-DEET repellent was a soybean-oil-based product called Bite Blocker for Kids, which protected for about 1.5 hours. Botanical products with active ingredients such as citronella, cedar, eucalyptus, peppermint, or lemongrass gave very short-lived protection, ranging from an average of 3 to 30 minutes.

Skin-So-Soft Bath Oil, which became a popular insect repellent largely through consumer word of mouth, was found to protect for only about nine minutes. But the wristbands fared worse. The three tested bands offered virtually no protection whatsoever.

"They just didn't work at all, and they make some of the most outrageous claims about their effectiveness," Fradin says. "It's not like they provide a force field to protect you. I guess if you slapped the mosquito with your wrist it might work."

Fradin, associate professor of dermatology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, says most people turn to alternative products because they mistakenly believe DEET-based repellents are not safe.

"The alternatives are promoted as being safe, implying that DEET is not," he says. "But there have been fewer than 50 reported cases of any significant toxicity related to DEET in the medical literature. That is out of approximately 8 billion applications over more than 40 years."

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