

the

# Berkeley Park Bulletin

[www.berkeleypark.org](http://www.berkeleypark.org)



BERKELEY PARK

**AUGUST 2002**

**Next Meeting  
September 16  
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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### 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

404-609-9309

[tedhuckabee@earthlink.net](mailto:tedhuckabee@earthlink.net)

Hello Neighbors,

I would first like to thank everyone for coming to the last meeting we had some interesting debate and I think we got a lot accomplished. It is important that we as a neighborhood stay unified and continue to fight people who don't share our common goal of a better single family neighborhood. There is a variance meeting coming up for the property on Verner. I am not sure the date but I have seen the sign. It is important for all interested citizens who voted against Mr. Wang's proposal to go and voice your

concerns at the variance. If I am in town I will certainly be there. I look forward to seeing you there. Also we may have an earlier meeting this month because of Dwight Glover's hard work on getting our neighborhood registered with historic status. We will let you know via mail if we need your attendance earlier than the planned meeting. I do look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting when ever it may be, So until then be a good neighbor.

Ted Huckabee  
BPNA President

## V.P. LETTER

Mike Cosky

404-355-8050

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*Hey, I'm entitled to my opinion, right?*

Howdy Berkeley Park. I hope that I'm not wasting my time here as the deadline for the newsletter is today. Hopefully Sharon will cut me some slack as I have been out of town for the past two weeks.

Wow what a busy month July was! It feels good to have a day off and hopefully I can get a little something accomplished around 757 Antone. Lets see...since we started this addition Franz has built 5 houses and will probably finish his townhouse project before I'm done too. Oh well, maybe he and Bob could donate some extra materials, money, and labor to help finish my project. You know, as an act of charity for the neighborhood.

Speaking of Franz and Bob, I'm sure most of you know that those attending the last BPNA meeting reluctantly voted to approve Third Millenniums proposed town house development at the corner of Antone and Tallulah (I think the vote was something like 17 to 11). I don't like the idea of town houses being built in the neighbor-

hood period, but because of the commercial zoning of the property its not likely that we would get anything else. At least with Franz and Bob we know that we will get quality structures that will sell for a price that should keep the riffraff out (although there is the pesky well heeled riffraff that can be so troublesome). I have friends in Candler Park who are currently fighting a slap 'em up, vinyl sided, "burbs" style town house development in their 'hood so you see, things could be a lot worse.

The other topic I would like to touch on again is the GRTA's proposed northwest transit line. I attended the last NCA meeting to hear GRTA representative Jim Ritchey address this issue and from what I could tell, the NW transit line would provide no benefits to NW neighborhood residents what so ever. Unless of course you consider driving to Cumberland mall to catch a train downtown a benefit. On August 26th at 6:30 pm there will be another meeting with the GRTA at the R.M. Clayton treatment plant on Bolton road so please try to attend.

I must say it sure has been quiet around here now that the three rental properties surrounding the Cosky compound are vacant. The house next door is for sale and hopefully it will sell before the owners are forced to put it up for rent again. The house across the street is being fixed up (on the inside at least) but I fear that the only people who will be able to afford the high rent they are asking is a dozen or so college students. And, I'm quite sure that there is some sort of neighborhood celebration being planned now that Bobby and Brittany have moved away. I find it somewhat amusing that there can be pimps, hookers, and drug dealers in our midst and hardly a word is said about it but let someone put junk in their front yard and have a few stray cats and we're ready to see the return of the lynch mob. What's even more amusing is that I don't believe that anyone even bothered to address their grievances personally with the accused party. Instead, they opted for the more neighborly approach of attacking them behind their back. Sure the junk was unsightly and they obviously were not a good fit for our neighborhood but they weren't criminals either and I must say that I am a little disappointed at how the whole thing was handled.

Well, I'm sure that some of my neighbors are now planning to have me whacked for my dissenting opinion but hey, that's the biggest reason I do this. So until next month, have a great month Berkeley Park and I'll be watching my back.

## TREASURER REPORT

Kendra Huckabee

404-609-9309  
kendrah@titlelaw.com

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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coreygreika@tindallcorp.com

Well, Berkeley Park has had to deal with a burglary threat over the last few weeks. Homes on Tallulah were burglarized, and a 6'-2" man known as a burglary suspect has been seen walking from the Castlegate and Atlantic Envelope Site towards our neighborhood, probably up to no good we suspect.

What can we do to thwart this latest problem? A few things come to mind:

1. Alert 911 if you see anybody suspicious in our neighborhood. If the 6'-2" suspect is seen call 911 and report that you have seen a burglary suspect in the neighborhood. They should come quickly.

2. Keep an eye on foot traffic around Castlegate and Atlantic Envelope site. Reports have been that temporary shelters have been built on these sites. If you see these shelters please report them to the police so that they can follow up. If you see any suspicious activity call 911.

3. Let your neighbors know when you are out of town. Hide valuables out of plain site. Lock windows and deadbolt

doors. Leave lights on in the house. Have your neighbor pick up your mail if you go out of town for an extended period of time.

These are a few things that can go a long way in having a safer neighborhood. We actually do pretty well considering our location so close to downtown, but a little preventive care can never hurt!

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!

## BEAUTIFICATION

Mari Jorgensen

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*New Perennial Bed at the Fire Station*

We are in the process of making some improvements to the corner flower bed at the fire station. As soon as it cools down a little, we will put a new edge on the bed and plant some drought hardy perennials. In the meantime, please pardon the mess!!

## NEWSLETTER

Sharon Arnold

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Things have slowed down in Berkeley Park considering what we went through a few years ago. We skipped a newsletter in June. In July we distributed the newsletter to every household in the neighborhood. This month we will only distribute to those residents who previously indicated they want to continue receiving a newsletter. It's cost prohibitive to distribute the newsletter to all residents every month. The alternatives are



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to produce a newsletter every month and mail to those who really want it or to produce a newsletter every other month and deliver to every household. We would like to hear your opinion - please contact any of the BPNA committee chairs and let them know what you think. Of course, should an important issue arise a newsletter or flyer would be distributed throughout the neighborhood.

## SENIORS

Tawn Chi

404-351-8288

tawnchi@mindspring.com

We have some special birthdays in August. Katherine Kent of 800 Holmes St was born August 6th, Dorothy Gregory of 720 Berkeley Ave was born August 12th, and Ruby Parker of 1615 Tallulah St was born August 26th.

Happy Birthday Katherine, Dorothy, and Ruby!

## LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

Brett Marsengill

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Well its been a busy month around here at Berkeley Park. Seems as if the theme is multi-unit development. Franz and Bob have presented a plan for the corner of Tallulah and Antone in which a 5-unit town home development will be constructed. With Franz's architectural signature we probably have an idea of the physical appearance and they should sell for as much as any property in our neighborhood if not more. Hey it's better than a seven-eleven! Mr. Wong on Verner was denied by the Neighborhood Association a variance for enclosing 2 porches and invading setback requirements. It is thought that this property is ripe for a duplex or college rental setting. The application was also denied at the July NPU-D meeting. It now goes to the BZA hearing at City Hall on August 16th. I encourage those on Verner to stay on top of this and plan on attending this official variance hearing at 55 Trinity Avenue Atlanta, Georgia 30303 City Hall. We, the loyal servants of Berkeley Park, will of course forward information when available.

And finally, Steve Alger is converting the existing and properly zoned warehouse on Forrest Street into 5 smaller warehouse units complete with a new coat of paint. Warehouse usage is certainly not our preferred use and we will have to collectively monitor the use and the traffic patterns to and from the site, but it is at least looking better. Have a nice day.

Brett Marsengill, ASLA, AICP

## NPU-D

Richard Arnold

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Alternate: Franz Schneider

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### Variance Update

As many of you know, we had a Variance application (770 Verner) heard at the July BPNA meeting. Briefly, the applicant is seeking to enclose a porch within the required front

yard setback. The application was overwhelmingly denied at this meeting. Subsequently, it was also denied at the July NPU-D meeting. The next step is the BZA hearing at City Hall, which is scheduled for 16 August at 1 pm. I'll update everyone on the results of this hearing via eMail sometime during the week of the 22nd. The hearing will probably have been held by the time most of you read this, but I hope we have/had a good turnout at the BZA hearing to let that board here our voices of concern.

### Volunteer(s) Needed

To follow up my announcement in the last BPNA newsletter of my pending resignation as NPU-D rep for BPNA for 2003, I want everyone to know that we are still seeking someone who can fill this important position. The NPU is an important part of the city's Planning Department and having representation is vital to keep Berkeley Park informed of land use issues in and around our neighborhood. I hope someone will "step up to the plate" in the coming months. I will be glad to help and advise this person(s) in the coming year. And we really need two (2) people, a Rep and an Alternate.

### NPU-D Meetings

NPU-D meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. The meeting is held at the Agape Community Center located on Bolton Road, approximately 3/10th of a mile south of the intersection of Bolton and Marietta Boulevard. The meetings start at 7:30 pm.

## PIKE FAMILY NURSERIES

Cindy Underwood

(770) 921-1022 ext.131

cunderwood@pikenursery.com



### August Gardening Tips from Pike Family Nurseries

The hottest, driest month of the year is upon us. It's hard to imagine spending the afternoon working out in the hot sun with the mosquitoes, so why not find a nice shade tree and grab yourself a cold drink and remember that hints of fall are just six weeks away! Until September does arrive, here are some tips for gardening during the month of August:

- During water restrictions, don't water heavily every time watering is allowed. Annuals can go several days between waterings if they get a good soaking (either by nature or you) once a week.
- Avoid digging in your flower beds. Disturbing the soil in the hot months can damage surface roots, reducing the plants ability to take in water efficiently.
- Don't panic at the sight of wilted leaves. The roots cannot keep up with the water requirements of the leaves in the hot sun, so as long as the soil is moist the plants should perk back up by late afternoon or early evening.
- Check the soil in container plants every evening. Their water supply is more limited and may need a shower each day.
- Keep your garden attractive by removing dried out,

dead leaves & flowers. Mulch any empty areas to deter weed growth.

- Be careful not to over water. Plants often wilt because of a lack of oxygen, so check the soil moisture around the stem before grabbing the hose.

- Shrubs should be watered deeply once a week. Many plants, including azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons are starting buds for next season's blooms at this time.

- Avoid excess evaporation when watering your lawn by using a sprinkler that produces large drops of water instead of a fine mist and remember to water early to allow the grass to "drink" all day long.

- A last blast of fertilizer should be applied to warm season grasses (Bermuda, St. Augustine or zoysia), but be sure to irrigate immediately to carry nutrients down to the roots and wash any residue off plants.

- Plant late-summer/fall-blooming bulbs like spider lilies, crocus, meadow saffrons and autumn daffodils.

- Plan, plan, plan. August is a good month to evaluate your garden and make a list of spring bulbs, perennials, shrubs, trees, ornamental grasses, vines and ground covers you'd like to add once the weather begins to cool down.

## SPECIAL TOPICS

A few people in the neighborhood (Verner and Antone) have reported finding dead blue jays possibly infected with the West Nile Virus. Blue Jays and Crows seem to be most susceptible to WNV, so it's imperative that these birds be picked up immediately (within 24 hours) to be tested for the virus.

It's the best way for them to track the disease in the area, and prevent it from spreading.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued advice to cities and counties all over the United States concerning the West Nile virus. People are urged to avoid mosquitoes and get rid of places that can hold standing, stagnant water because that's where mosquitoes breed.

Here are a few ways to prevent the likelihood of contracting the West Nile virus:

- \* Keep outdoor activity to a minimum. When outdoors, wear long pants and long sleeves.

- \* On exposed skin, use mosquito repellent that contains less than 30 percent DEET for adults and 10 percent DEET for children over age 1. Do not use DEET on infants.

- \* Eliminate standing water, prime breeding ground for mosquitoes. Empty old tires, barrels, planters and other objects that hold water.

- \* Clean gutters, flat roofs and air-conditioner drains frequently.

- \* Change the water in birdbaths, pools and animal dishes at least once a week.

- \* Repair screens on the entrances to homes and businesses.

- \* Keep grass and weeds mowed.

Can WNV affect my pets?

Dogs, cats and other small mammals do not generally become ill if infected with WNV. However, horses can become ill and even die. Check with your veterinarian about availability of a newly licensed equine vaccine for areas where WNV is prevalent.

To report dead birds call 404-524-7368. Call 404-730-5296 (Fulton) for a recorded message about mosquito prevention.

### It is time to fix Atlanta's sewer problem

By Greg Stone, Channel 2 Action News Vice President & General Manager  
August 4, 2002 -- How would you like to pay nearly \$1,800 a year just to flush your toilet?

If you live in the city of Atlanta, that could be a painful scenario.

Why?

The City of Atlanta Sewer system stinks, literally. In fact, the city is in violation of the federal Clean Water Act. Experts estimate it will cost the city \$3 billion over the next 12 years to fix it, as required by a federal court order.

Historically, the cost of sewer repair has fallen upon the rate payers -- people who own property in the city. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that \$3 billion split among property owners is siphoning off their personal income too much -- nearly \$1,800 a year for the average homeowner. Businesses would find it almost cost prohibitive.

So what can we do?

Cities like Boston and San Diego have lobbied to get federal dollars to help them out, and they got it -- billions of dollars that we helped raise through federal taxes. So, that's why we're asking you to take action.

Write all of our Congressional representatives to "Get Atlanta the Money."

Sorting out this issue is extremely important NOW as Congressional budgets are fixed by October. And we don't want Atlanta to go down the drain.

I'm Greg Stone.

### SAMPLE Letter

Dear Congressman/Senator:

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Without federal support for the City of Atlanta's \$3 billion sewer improvement, Atlanta will become unaffordable for residents, our children and for future business and economic development.

Please support the City of Atlanta's request for federal funds for sewer improvements this budget year.

We're counting on YOU to help save our city.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print address)

Here's how you can contact Georgia's senators and representatives.

#### SENATORS

Max Cleland  
Senator\_Max\_Cleland@Cleland.senate.gov  
Washington Office  
461 Senate Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
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Zell Miller  
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Fax: (202) 228-2090

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In addition, when any Berkeley Park resident refers family, friends or co-workers to me for their real estate needs, I will donate \$250 after closing to the Neighborhood Association in the homeowner's name.



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