

the

# Berkeley Park Bulletin

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



BERKELEY PARK

**AUGUST 2003**

**Next Meeting**  
**Monday**  
**August 18, 2003**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Location - Senior**  
**Citizen Center**  
**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.

**Meeting location - time 7:00 pm**

**Senior Citizen Services Center on Commerce Drive.**

Plenty of seating and parking available. Enter through the front door on Commerce Drive, someone will be in the lobby to direct you to the meeting room.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dwight Glover

404-351-0640

[dwight\\_glover@hotmail.com](mailto:dwight_glover@hotmail.com)

We are finally making progress on the traffic issues on Howell Mill. We had a meeting today that included representatives from the city traffic office, department of public works, Clair Muller, the GA DOT and representatives from Underwood Hills and Berkeley Park, and Selig and Coro. The City has developed two redesigns of the Howell Mill - Chattahoochee and Defoors intersections and presented them to the GA DOT. The DOT reviewed the first two options and developed a third. We proposed a couple of additional ones today. David Witt from Selig offered to have URS make some recommendations for interim as well as long term solutions to the problems as part of the traffic study they are currently conducting for the Castlegate development. The city has \$4 million set aside for improvements to Howell Mill but we learned that this won't come close to the total cost to implement the long term solutions. There are federal matching dollars available for that but it will take until 2008 to get the process completed using federal dollars. Thus we are looking at some cheaper short term solutions that will fit into the long term proposals. There will be another meeting in early October to discuss the details of the options. I'm hoping that with Selig helping us we will finally make some progress.

Back to the Coro development (will it ever end). Clair Muller is in the process of trying to draft legislation to use the impact

fees from the project to build a turn lane on the other side of the street, thus saving the trees on Bellemeade. Coro has agreed to hold off on removing the trees along Bellemeade and building the turn lane until we have time to explore our options. Coro has resubmitted their site plan to the city for approval. The city asked them to change the cubic inches of trees to be replaced (the city reduced the total cubic inches), but not the number of trees. At this point, given their willingness to commit to not building the turn lane till we have time to explore all alternatives and their willingness to work with us on design issues, it is best for the neighborhood to not move forward with the tree appeal. After many conversations with the traffic engineers, I have become convinced that we will have significant traffic congestion if we do not have the additional turn lane at Northside and Bellemeade. We have moved Coro as far as we will be able to and continued conflict, in my opinion, will only hurt us in the long run. I would love to hear your opinion on the issue so please email and let me know what you think.

Before closing, I want to thank Elizabeth Sears for all the very hard work she has put into this issue on our behalf. Without question, there is no way we would have gotten any concessions from Coro but for Elizabeth's tireless efforts.

Dwight Glover

## V.P. LETTER

Mike Cosky

404-355-8050  
mcosky@mindspring.com

Hello Berkeley Park. I'm not sure how long its been since you've heard from me but I know its been a while. Things at the house of perpetual renovation are creeping along at their usual pace. After three years of work I must say that I am growing quite tired of home improvement. Although, occasionally, I do get motivated only to have something else come along to demand my time. Oh well, it keeps me off the mean streets of "tha B Park".

As I'm sure you all know, this month is when the CORO tree removal issue comes up again and as you might expect, I have something to say about it. By now I'm sure everyone knows that I can be very passionate when it comes to neighborhood preservation and I'm certainly not a fan of the type of development that is running rampant over Atlanta, but on this issue, I'm afraid I may be in the minority (or not, I don't know).

Do I like the CORO development? No. In my opinion it offers nothing for the residents of this neighborhood (nor was it ever intended to) and despite a lot of work by the folks at CORO, it is still just another suburban style development.

So why do I think I may be in the minority? Well, because I feel that we have gotten as far as we can with this. CORO has made it quite clear after the last meeting that any concessions that they have offered are on the condition that we do not appeal the tree removal again. It seems, right or wrong, as if they have lost their patients with us and this puts us in an unfortunate position. If we appeal and lose, we get nothing. If we appeal and win, then what? They forgo the turn lane and keep the trees but we still lose the other concessions they have offered. This wouldn't be the end of the world but I really don't believe that we will win.

After getting caught with their pants down over the tree count, I'm certain that they will have their ducks in a row this time and as long as they follow the letter of the tree ordinance, they can't help but win. I don't like being in this position but "it is what it is".

Normally I would try to be all witty and sarcastic but the truth is, this is very hard for me to say. I have such respect and affection for those who have worked so passionately to save these trees and to make this development as good for Berkeley Park as possible but as I said before, I think we have gone as far as we can. Is it giving up? I don't think so. Its just the negotiating process and considering that we had nothing to negotiate with, I think we did pretty well.

Dwight Glover has informed me that Claire Muller is pushing legislation that would allow the impact fees paid by CORO to be put toward a turn lane on the other side of Bellemeade and CORO has agreed to postpone the removal of the trees and construction of the turn lane for three months to see where this goes. With this in mind, Dwight is asking that once again residents contact him with their opinions on this matter.

I'm sure that there are those who will disagree with this but please try to understand that there are strong opinions on both sides of this issue and we are just trying to make sure that the majority is represented. You know, this isn't easy and I welcome anyone who wishes to take my place to please do so (really, please).

Again, as you all know, this is just one man's opinion. Come

to the meeting Monday night and let yours be heard and let the rotten produce fly!

## TREASURER REPORT

Elaine Evans

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Treasurer's Report Dated August 11, 2003:

Balance from Bank of America statement dated July 31, 2003 was \$821.69, and was in balance with the ledger balance as reported to BPNA Newsletter on July 3, 2003. Two checks have been written. Check number 1096 in the amount of \$79.26 was payable to Dwight Glover for expenses incurred by Neighborhood Survey. Check number 1097 was payable to Key Concept Services (\$124.12) in payment of invoices for Web Hosting, Renewal of Domain Name, and the printing of the newsletter.

Currently the ledger balance is \$618.31.

If you have not paid your BPNA dues for 2003, please do so now. Our balance is getting low and the newsletter and website are monthly expenses. Dues can be mailed to me at 759 Berkeley Avenue, or paid to me at the next meeting. Please either pay by check or with exact change in an envelope with your name on the outside so you will be credited as a paid up member. Dues are a very low \$10.00 (\$5.00 for Senior Citizens). Thank you for your attention.

## MEMBERSHIP

David Soofian

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davidsoofian@yahoo.com

No report this month.

## SECRETARY

Kendra Huckabee

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kendrah@titlelaw.com

Dwight Glover announced that Berkeley Park is now approved and listed on the National Historic Register. There are no strict covenants involved with being listed on the National Historic Register. Not all properties qualified, if you would like more information, please contact Dwight Glover. Information will also be available on the web site soon.

Presentation by Coro Realty - we were shown a new plan with trees to be replaced. The development will be named Berkeley Heights with around 180 apartment units. Once the development is complete the decision will be made as to apartments vs condos, depending on what the market will bear. The apartments will average 885 sq ft and rents will start at about \$850/month. The units will be geared towards professionals with amenities such as tile flooring, granite counter tops, etc.

The city has acknowledged that an extra lane on Bellemeade will need to be added for better movement of traffic.

Coro had agreed to consider a list of neighborhood wishes but asked that we get it to them in a timely manner and be realistic. Coro promised to respond. Some of the issues raised - height bars to prohibit trucks on Bellemeade, dress up the facade, side walk away from the street closest to the buildings using the trees as a buffer, reviewing the line of visibility at Northside Drive and Bellemeade, install sidewalks all the way up to Commerce, review the triangle bulb at the Northside Drive

entrance to the project, provide details for lighting and signage.

Brett discussed the survey developed by Cliff (grad student from Tech and Berkeley Park resident). Cliff gave information about the survey information and how it would and would not be used.

Discussion regarding Coro's offer to donate \$5,000 to Berkeley Park to be used for a traffic study or to be put in Berkeley Park's bank account. A motion was made to accept the offer from Coro. The vote was 11-0 in favor. A further motion was made to have Coro apply the money to a traffic study. 3 in favor, 8 against.

## SENIORS

Tawn Chi

404-351-8288  
tawnchi@earthlink.net

Happy Birthday to Katherine Kent of 800 Holmes St, born August 6th, Judi Keating of 772 Antone St born August 10th, Dorothy Gregory of 720 Berkeley Ave born August 12th, and Ruby Parker of 1615 Tallulah St, born August 26th.

SENIOR DINNER: We have to postpone this to September and would like some feedback on which day is best for you. Maureen Hetrick will be calling you for this information. If you don't think you'll be able to attend, please tell us so we may prepare a dinner and deliver it to you.

## NEWSLETTER

Sharon Arnold

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keycon1@mindspring.com

No report this month.

## BEAUTIFICATION

Mari Jorgensen

404-367-0965  
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No report this month.

## NPU-D

Bob Fehskens

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Some of the latest NPU news continues to either show up in the "The Story" or from various contacts made by your never resting BPNA officers...

However, I have run across a few upcoming activities that may be of interest:

Public Hearing – "City of Atlanta Proposed 2004 Budget" will be held on Monday, 8/25/2003 at the RM Clayton Water Reclamation Center (Auditorium) located at 2440 Bolton Road... should be quite interesting.

Zoning – "Everything you have ever wanted to know" – scheduled for Saturday, 8/23/2003 from 8:30a – 4:00p at City Hall East – Training Center (1st Floor) located at 678 Ponce de Leon Ave, NE.

Registration = deadline = 5:00pm, 8/20/03 – to register, call 404-330-6899 or e-mail vbell-smith@atlantaga.gov

Celebrate Atlanta's latest "Greenspace Acquisition" with Mayor Shirley Franklin on 9/6/03 from 9:30a – 2:00p at Beecher

Hills Elementary School. There are several activities planned for this 168 acre purchase (nearly as large as Piedmont Park!) that include site tours, environmental education activities for kids, mountain biking demo, food and many more festivities – Come one come all...

## CRIME WATCH

Corey Greika

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coreygreika@tindallcorp.com

Well, as the temperatures have been rising, so have the incidences of crime around our Berkeley Park community. About 2 weeks ago we had a night where just about everybody on Verner Street heard gunshots, although the direction of the shots could not be confirmed and the police had no incidences in their records. And a few days after that some of you may have seen low-flying helicopters and patrol cars around the neighborhood at about 9:30 pm. The Police were on the look out for an African American male wearing a plaid shirt carrying a red bag. He was allegedly attempting to break into a home in the area. Honestly, I'm surprised we have not had more incidences with the vacations people usually take during the summer, leaving their home vacant and exposed for a weekend or more. I hope that is a testament to neighbors working together and keeping an eye on a neighbor's property while they are gone. I know we have done that a lot this summer on Berkeley. Anyway, the incidences this past month have reignited a request from Deb on Verner Street to get the phone lists and block captains finalized, which I never did complete. So we will work together on that, and hopefully have something in place before the cold weather comes. For now keep your guard up and your eyes open, and alert your neighbors and the police if you see anything suspicious. Do not be afraid to call 911!

## LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

Brett Marsengill

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At our last BPNA meeting CORO attended and listen to our preferences, comment, suggestion on how to better make there proposed development neighborhood friendly. There were several, as to what I thought very reasonable requests such as landscape buffer between sidewalk and road, height restriction bars on Bellemeade and so forth. Well BPNA received his responses. It was VERY DISSAPOINTING, absolutely no concessions. Developers making the claim to be neighborhood friendly and then not following through give good developers a bad name. In addition, CORO has now put a stipulation on the \$5,000 promised to BPNA, that we (or any one of us) must not appeal the permit to remove trees along Bellemeade. Basically CORO has attended some meetings and provided a few hints of false support, false ideas of really caring about what the are doing to our community but the bottom line is that they have not changed one thing about there proposed development except as mandated by the city when they forgot 500+ caliper inches of trees. Below is a summarized response from John W. Lundeen III regarding our requests, judge for yourself:

Height restriction bars to prevent truck access to Bellemeade is not feasible.

We do not believe a roof over a sidewalk on the future building at the corner of Bellemeade and Northside to be feasible given grade differentials at this area.

We cannot provide a landscape buffer along Northside.

We are uncertain of the exact parameters of increase vehicular visibility with regards to the desire for increased visibility at the future building at Northside and Bellemeade.

Trees along Bellemeade will need to be removed to allow for the widening of the road.

We do not believe we have a viable alternative to a curbed triangle at the entrance to the project from Northside.

We cannot reduce the height of the retaining wall at the Northwest corner of the site.

We cannot commit to eliminate all construction traffic on Bellemeade.

In stark contrast SELIG recently held a meeting to ask the NCA and Berkeley Park which traffic intersections we would like to have studied for traffic impact due to the development of the Castlegate site. They also the study will factor in the impact from Coro (see above), basically a three fold increase in what they originally intended on doing for the traffic study. Plans are still current for a Costco downstairs and boulevard style retail on top all accessing from Howell Mill. Apartments on Commerce will be able to exit to both Howell Mill and Commerce. We have been asked not to name some of the prospective tenants, but I can tell you we will all be shopping, being entertained, eating and generally browsing within a few minute walk of your house. A lot yet to be determined including traffic concerns, but Selig is really working and listening to the community. Mr. Lundeen...take notes!

News from E. Rivers Elementary - August 2003

## E. RIVERS ELEMENTARY

Liz Jacobs

404-350-9000  
lizzyj@bigfoot.com

Summer is over and it's back to school time! The summer has flown by and the students at E. Rivers are back and ready to start a brand new school year.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Bob Woese as our new principal this year. Mr. Woese was our Instructional Specialist for the past two years under our former principal, Ms. Penny Dollar. When Ms. Dollar retired at the end of last year, we were thrilled to welcome Mr. Woese into his new position at the school. Mr. Woese came to Rivers from Sarah Smith Elementary, where he was the assistant principal. Prior to that, Mr. Woese was one of the original French teachers in the Elementary School Foreign Language Model Program that is still in practice at Rivers today. Mr. Woese is a talented and gifted educator, and we are happy that he chose to be the principal at our great school!

We are also pleased to welcome another new face at Rivers, Mrs. Sabrina Hayes, our new Instructional Specialist. Mrs. Hayes came to us from Pitts Elementary where she was the Instructional Specialist for three years. Prior to her administrative position, Mrs. Hayes was a classroom teacher for several years. Mrs. Hayes is a wonderful addition to our school family.

Our annual Gift Wrap Fundraiser Sale will begin on August 25. We will once again be selling our wonderful Innisbrook gift-wrap and gifts, and would like to encourage you to purchase

some from your neighborhood children who attend E. Rivers. Your support in our fundraising efforts is always greatly appreciated.

Do you have a son who would like to join Cub Scouts? There will be a Cub Scout informational meeting in our school auditorium on August 26 at 7:00 pm. E. Rivers, Garden Hills Elementary and The International School have teamed up to make a great pack. Join them for fun and educational scouting activities. Please call Robert Charles at 404-351-5158 for more information.

As always, we welcome prospective parents and visitors to our school. Tours are held monthly and upon request. Please contact Ann DuPre for tour information at 404-351-7765. If you are a prospective parent and would like to receive an invitation to our Prospective Parent Open House in October, please contact Ann. Our school website is also a great source of information: [www.erivers-elem.org](http://www.erivers-elem.org).

### CHILDREN'S PLAY DATE

## SPECIAL TOPICS

We do not have one for August, however the United Methodist Church on the corner of Howell Mill & Holmes Street is having a Church Yard Sale and Children's Festival on Saturday, August 16th.

We need volunteers for future Children's Play Dates. Please call me if you would like to do this.

It's only for 2 hours and it's a great way to meet other mothers & fathers that live in your neighborhood.

Contact Tawn Chi, 404-351-8288 or via e-mail [tc@tawnchi.com](mailto:tc@tawnchi.com).

### CREATING AN ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR THE CITY

In pursuit of turning Atlanta into a best-in-class City, last fall Council President Cathy Woolard organized a forum of City leaders and local and national experts to develop an Energy Conservation Program for City operations and facilities. By utilizing the pro bono assistance of the Department of Energy (DOE), the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA), and the Southface Energy Institute, the City has spent almost a full year developing and implementing programs that have saved a significant amount of money on the City's multi-million dollar energy bills through smarter and more efficient energy use.

#### *Tracking Cost*

The City of Atlanta currently spends over \$20 million a year on utility bills. In tracking the City's electricity expenses, the first step was to analyze the bills and create a methodical tracking system for them. To that end, experts on loan to the City from GEFA first examined the City's disjointed array of energy accounts and conducted specialized analyses of each facility's rate structure. In cooperation with Georgia Power, the City made adjustments to several of its electricity accounts that have led to both one-time savings and ongoing reductions in the City's monthly bills. The City is also improving its account management practices to ensure the most effective use of taxpayer resources and to more effectively track electricity use in the future.

#### *Conserving Energy*

## Facility Managers

The Department of Energy's Rebuild America program representatives have provided the City with detailed modeling information about the largest energy-using facilities that are supported by the City's general fund -- including City Hall downtown and City Hall East. For example, we discovered that City Hall used almost as much energy during the middle of the night (75%) as it did during the middle of the day. By shutting down heating and cooling equipment at night, the average monthly bill in City Hall dropped from \$49,675 in 2001 and 2002 to \$41,793 in 2003, an immediate savings of about \$8000/month.

### *Employee Energy Conservation*

When turned off each night, a single computer can save the City about \$15/year. With their current efforts, Energy Coordinators in each City department will save over \$5000/year simply by ensuring that computers and other office equipment in their own office spaces are turned off at night. Savings will continue to grow as the program expands to include other City facilities.

Lighting accounts for nearly 40% of the electricity use in office buildings. By turning off lights when they are not needed during the day and before leaving the office at night, Energy Stars are attempting to reduce electricity use by 10% in City facilities.

### *Partnerships*

Participants in Atlanta's Energy Policy Charrette include GEFA, DOE, Southface and City officials

The Southface Energy Institute and GEFA are also loaning to the City a full-time Research Fellow, Cyrus Bhedwar, who will help develop the Energy Conservation Program throughout 2003. Cyrus has been working out of Council President Woolard's office since February and has assisted the City to develop an energy management tracking system, to conduct the employee energy conservation program and to research "sustainable" policies for City operations - including purchasing regulations for energy-efficient equipment and energy-efficient standards for City construction projects. He will work hand and hand with Council President Woolard's staff and with the City's Environmental Manager, Ben Taube, to continue to develop programs and policies for the *Energy Conservation Initiative*.

Learn more about our progress at [www.cathyatlanta.com](http://www.cathyatlanta.com)

## SUPPORT YOUR ATLANTA POLICE OFFICERS

Want more police patrols in your neighborhood?

Tired of slow police response?

Tired of no police response?

You can make a difference!

The Atlanta Police Department is suffering from extremely low morale due to personnel shortages, frozen pay increments, lack of raises in years, and poor equipment.

We need your help! Atlanta Police Officers are leaving to work for departments which provide better benefits to their officers. This prevents us from being able to respond to all 911 calls in a timely manner and investigate criminal activity thoroughly. We are forced to prioritize the calls and respond to the most serious ones and take the others by phone. We also can only work to investigate the most serious crimes rather than all of the crime. We simply don't have the manpower to investigate every

car break-in, every lawn mower theft, or every incident of credit card fraud.

How can our quality of life improve if we allow this type of crime to continue without investigation and prosecution.

Our leaders are failing to recognize the problem and act on it.

We need YOUR support because you are the ones that will suffer with us, not our leaders. Most police supervisors do not live in the City of Atlanta and are not subjected to criminal activity when they go home after their shift. However, the officers will tell you the TRUTH and stand with you as citizens to make this a better place to live and work.

Please support your Atlanta Police Officers by attending the City Council Budget Hearing on August 20th at 6:00 Pm in the City Council Chambers at 55 Trinity Avenue. We would greatly appreciate a few hours out of your busy schedule.

[www.atlantaofficers.com](http://www.atlantaofficers.com)

## HELP WANTED

Now accepting resumes for Receptionist at Artisan PictureWorks, a full service video production firm in Berkeley Park.

Duties: Directing telephone calls for Artisan and MBC Cable Network; greeting visitors, liaison with couriers, mail distribution and other assigned duties.

Please call Judy Matre at 404-355-3398 OR EMAIL: [judy@artisanpictureworks.com](mailto:judy@artisanpictureworks.com)

## FOR RENT

785 Verner St., \$1250 a month.

It has 3bedrooms and 2 baths, HVAC, washer/dryer/ hardwoods, 9 ft. ceilings, yard, garage.

If interested call Paula Walker 404-872-3775.

Thanks to Mike & Deborah Wagner for passing along the information from the Arborist - Peter Jenkins.

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## Working with you and your Neighborhood Association . . .

For every home that I sell in Berkeley Park, as either a Listing or Buyer's Agent, I will donate \$250 to the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association.

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.



**Jeff DePaola**  
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Direct Line 404-257-4791  
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