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Berkeley Park Bulletin

January 2008

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Vice President's Report

by Deborah Celecia-Wagoner

Happy New Year Berkeley Park! Our family really enjoyed hosting the BPNA holiday party. There are so many great people in our neighborhood and we loved having you all in our home.

There has been a lot of noticeable clean up which is great news! I am a firm believer that clean streets deter crime. Please keep it up.

In the wake of our drought, remember to watch the conditions of large trees for weak or diseased limbs that may fall causing damage or injury. In addition, we need to pull together to rake and bag the fallen leaves away from storm drains. Leaves in these drains can cause significant storm back up in the event of a strong rain.

Please join us at the next meeting.

The next BPNA meeting is Monday, January 21, 2008 at the Senior Center on Commerce Drive (corner of Commerce/Tallulah and Bellemeade)

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Election Report

Maureen Hetrick
404-609-9873
maureenfh@mindspring.com

The results of the November election are as follows:

President : Ron Horgan

Vice-President: Deborah Wagoner

Secretary: Mike Hagearty

Treasurer: Nina Kleine

Directors At Large : Jim Martin, Jeffrey Rogerson, Jennifer Gibson

Thanks to all of the nominees and congratulations to those elected. The board will be choosing committee chair positions, so if you are interested in chairing a committee (or just serving on one), please contact Ron Horgan at rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org or (404)355-0220

City News

Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST)

The municipal option sales tax (MOST) is one tool the City of Atlanta uses to help keep water rates lower. Approved by Atlanta voters by a 3-1 margin in July 2004, the MOST allows the City to spread the financing of the \$3.9 billion Clean Water Atlanta program to visitors and business travelers who use our infrastructure but don't pay for it.

The MOST adds 1 cent to Atlanta's tax rate, so people buying products inside City limits pay a total tax of 8 percent on most items (excluding cars and prescription goods such as eyeglasses and insulin). From October 2004 through October 2007, the MOST generated more than \$332 million – money that was designated specifically to roll back projected water rate increases. Based on financial results for last fiscal year, the City would have had to raise water rates approximately 48 percent to compensate for the lack of revenue had the MOST not passed.

The vote for MOST reauthorization will be on the February primary ballot. If the MOST passes, Atlanta's in-City tax rate will remain at 8 percent.

For more information, contact Janet Ward, 404-589-2691. Check out our website: www.atlantawatershed.org

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Peachtree Streetcar Public Forums The Peachtree Corridor Partnership is hosting public forums to discuss possible improvements coming to the Downtown and Midtown sections of Peachtree Street, including the concept of the "Peachtree Streetcar." Funding alternatives will be presented and I urge you to attend one of these meetings to learn about these initiatives and to express your views. The meetings are as follows: • Wednesday, January 16th 6:00 - 8:00 pm—ATT - Midtown Two Building, 725 West Peachtree Street • Tuesday, January 22nd 6:00 - 8:00 pm—First Presbyterian Church 1328 Peachtree Street, NE
http://www.peachtreecorridor.com/news/new_news_page4/

[United Way kicks off 2007-08 Community Investment Volunteer recruitment](#) [175 Volunteers Needed for Fulton County](#)

United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta is calling for Community Investment Volunteers to help determine how and where United Way should invest in the region. Each year United Way recruits hundreds of volunteers to be part of the process that determines how United Way will invest in our community. This year, there is a need for 175 volunteers in Fulton County.

Volunteers come from all areas of our community. No previous training is required, just someone that is interested in building a stronger community. Community Investment Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, reside in one of the 13 counties in metropolitan Atlanta and attend a Community Investment Volunteer certification seminar. Certification seminars will be held in January 2008. If you are interested in becoming a Community Investment Volunteer or learning more about this opportunity contact INVolunteers@unitedwayatlanta.org.

Last year, Community Investment Volunteers allocated more than \$31 million to more than 200 local nonprofits, in 13 counties. Between January and April volunteers are responsible for reviewing funding proposals, conducting site visits at nonprofit organizations and ultimately recommending to the United Way Board of Directors in June for final approval on how and where United Way should invest in our region.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Investment Volunteer or learning more about this opportunity contact INVolunteers@unitedwayatlanta.org or visit the United Way website at <http://www.unitedwayatlanta.org/d0-volunteer.asp>.

About United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

For more than a century, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta has continued to mobilize people in our community to help tackle the issues that are too big for anyone to solve alone. What makes United Way unique is how it helps our community work together to make lasting impact on tough community problems that take all of us to solve. Last year, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta invested more than \$100 million in the community through programs and services that make a measurable impact on ending chronic homelessness, ensuring children start school ready to succeed, and other key regional issues. To find or give help, dial 2-1-1 or visit us online at unitedwayatlanta.org.

NPU-D Report

by Jim Martin

james.martin@me.gatech.edu

The December 18th NPU-D meeting was short and uneventful. We approved a liquor license for a convenience store in Riverside and a parking variance for a countertop wholesaler on Chattahoochee Industrial Blvd and wrapped the whole thing up before 8:30. The January meeting is also likely to be brief, since the more controversial cases that we are expecting have been deferred until later in 2008. The application to rezone the Healy Brown site to MR5B, which we deferred in November, has been withdrawn. The developer of that site is expecting to resubmit an application to rezone this site and the adjoining property along Ellsworth to a different zoning category. We do not yet have any indication what that will be or whether it will be any more appropriate to the area than the original application. In the meantime there are bulldozers moving earth on the property fronting Ellsworth, which appear to be involved in cleaning up soil contamination on that site in anticipation of it being sold to the someone who probably try to rezone it.

I am not sure whether 2007 overall was a good year or a bad year for NPU-D. We fought some bad rezoning and won (Anne St). We also talked some developers into toning down their ambitions to suit their surroundings (Huff Rd). Unfortunately, we also endorsed some rezoning without thoughtful review (Huff Rd) and we learned the consequences of similar thoughtlessness in previous years (Marietta Rd, Hollywood Rd, Northside Drive Corridor Study), where the promises of developers and city planners proved to be empty. We ended the year facing many of the same problems that we began with (techatoriums, traffic, trash, land speculation, aggressive developers, crime, etc.), but we do not seem to have added on too many new ones. Perhaps we will see more progress in 2008.

Next NPU-D meeting: January 22, 2008

7:30 pm

Agape Center, 2351 Bolton Road, NW

ALL NPU RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME!

Obituary

by Maureen Finneran Hetrick

maureenfh@mindspring.com

404-609-9873

Tommy Gregory

July 17, 1944 – January 4, 2008

Robert Thomas “Tommy” Gregory of 720 Berkeley Avenue died in his sleep on January 4 in the same house where he was born. He is survived by his mother, Dorothy Gregory, who lives at the same address. He was preceded in death by his father, Gratten Gregory, and his brother, Jimmy Gregory.

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Tommy talked often about how he walked to his elementary school, located where the Kroger is now. He had a career in property management and worked for Post apartments for many years. As a child, his grandparents lived in the house next door, and he remembered spending many hours playing in the area between the two houses.

His health had been poor for a number of years, and he moved back in with his mother after 2 strokes in 1999. Still, his health did not slow his engaging personality. Many who knew him will remember him as a fantastic person and easy to talk to. He will be sorely missed.

Seniors Report

by Tawn Chi
404-326-6969
tc@tcproperties.net

We're excited about caroling for the Seniors this year and providing them a beautiful holiday basket donated from Publix and Kroger. Thank you to these two major businesses for giving back to our neighborhood. We appreciate it very much!

Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped me put this event together for our Seniors including those who made the wonderful baked goods donated to the Senior Gift Bags! I am sure that they will be enjoyed!

We look forward to seeing the smile on their faces when we sing their favorite Christmas song they requested.

I am thankful for this opportunity to come together with other neighbors, to share in the Holiday Spirit of Giving. I am very proud to be a part of this neighborhood, and the bringing of Berkeley Park and Underwood Hills together.

We have a total of (15) Seniors and they deserve the attention and deeply appreciate the honor we have made time to give them. Thank you for all your support.

Tawn Chi,
Director of Seniors
Berkeley Park & Underwood Hills

For photos of the Christmas Caroling to Seniors event, visit <http://berkeleypark.org/Carolling/>

Berkeley Park Go Green in '08

by Anna Wynne
Anna.Wynne@harrynorman.com
404-495-8283

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Looking for a simple way to be a little "greener" this year with the ease of the Internet? Check out <http://www.catalogchoice.org>. This website provides a free service that allows you to decide what gets into your home mailbox. Cutting down on your unwanted catalogs will greatly benefit our environment. Check out these scary statistics!

Each year, 19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers.

What's the impact?

- * Number of trees used – 53 million trees
- * Pounds of paper used – 3.6 million tons of paper
- * Energy used to produce this volume of paper – 38 trillion BTUs, enough to power 1.2 million homes per year
- * Contribution to global warming – 5.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equal to the annual emissions of two million cars
- * Waste water discharges from this volume of paper – 53 billion gallons of water, enough to fill 81,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools

Eco Facts cited from www.catalogchoice.org.

Atlanta Wins Playground Grant

After a national online vote, Atlanta was selected as a 2007 Playful City USA and will receive a \$25,000 grant from KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit organization that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. The details from the organization are detailed in the following press release.

2007 Playful City: Atlanta, GA

Project Plan: Atlanta truly understands the power of rallying its community and that notion is at the forefront of its plan: "Atlanta: A Playspace for Every Child by 2010." A three-year initiative, Atlanta's plan will use public/private partnerships as its foundation to launch an "army" of community leaders and create the Atlanta Taskforce on Play. The city will use the KaBOOM! grant to establish an online and real world community-building/education/action program that will improve the current state of play opportunities in the city by leaps and bounds!

City Profile

- * Population (2006): 486,111; ninth most populated city in the United States.

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- * Population under the age of 18 -- 101,066
- * Government: Mayor (Shirley Franklin) and 15 member city council representing the city's twelve districts and three at-large positions.
- * Ranks third in the number of Fortune 500 companies headquartered within city boundaries.
- * Founded: 1823
- * More than 250,000 people commute into Atlanta every day – the most of any city in the country with a population of less than 500,000.
- * The city was originally named Terminus and then Marthaville before finally settling on Atlanta.

PCUSA Initiatives

* In 2008, a Play Task Force consisting of Dept. of Parks and Recreation representatives and citizens from each of Atlanta's neighborhoods will present a report card, grading each state and federal legislator's commitment to play. The task force is currently developing benchmarks for the report card using the KaBOOM! commitments to play as a foundation.

The report card is designed to bring attention to the need for smart growth in Atlanta. As the area continues to attract new residents and develop at a rapid pace, the green/play space square footage continues to decline. Air quality issues (seasonal allergies and asthma) especially among children are significant, and the Play Task Force will use the report card to raise visibility around these issues and ask legislators to create a commitment to create, preserve and improve green/play spaces.

* In 2008, the Play Task Force hopes to launch atlantaplaygrounds.com. The purpose of the website is to encourage volunteer and community involvement by providing information on city play space locations and opportunities for improvement. The Atlanta Play Task Force believes community involvement is necessary to take the burden off of an already overtaxed Parks and Recreation Department and move the play agenda forward by energizing the individual voter base.

About Us

The Berkeley Park Bulletin is published monthly in print and at www.berkeleypark.org by the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association, a non-profit organization. It is distributed to all Berkeley Park residents 3 times a year. To subscribe to the monthly edition, submit an article or Talk Back letter, or inquire about advertising, contact the editor, Maureen Hetrick, at 404-609-9873 or maureenfh@mindspring.com. We accept appropriate articles from all Berkeley Park residents or other interested community members at the discretion of the editor and as space permits.

Membership in the BPNA is \$10 per person (up to 3 adults per address are eligible to become members), and \$5 for seniors. To join the association, attend a monthly meeting and pay dues to the treasurer, Nina Kleine, or the president, Ron Horgan. If you cannot attend a meeting but wish to join, or for more information, email us at info@berkeleypark.org.

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Berkeley Park is run solely on dues as well as advertisements from our sponsors. Please take a moment to visit our [sponsors](#) and thank them for their support of Berkeley Park.

Calendar

To place events on the calendar, please contact
Maureen Finneran Hetrick at maureenfh@mindspring.com or 404-609-9873.

December

Saturday, December 15

Neighborhood Clean Up Day

9 am—12 noon

meet at corner of Forrest and Berkeley

Contact: Elizabeth Sears

404-350-9420

esears@earthlink.net

Saturday, December 15

Music and Merriment Concert

Morningside Elementary and East Lake
Elementary

2—3 pm

Atlantic Station's Central Park

www.atlanticstation.com

Sunday, December 16

Neighborhood Holiday Party

780 Verner Street

2—6 pm

Contact: Deborah Wagoner

404-351-4417

Monday, December 17

Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association meeting

7 pm

Senior Center, 1705 Commerce Dr.

www.berkeleypark.org

Contact: Ron Horgan

404-355-0220

rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org

Tuesday, December 18

NPU-D Meeting

Agape Center

2351 Bolton Road, Atlanta

7:30 pm

Contact: Jim Martin

james.martin@me.gatech.edu

404-351-6949

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service

6 pm

Underwood Memorial UMC,

1671 Howell Mill Road

Contact: Benjamin Wiles

benjamin@underwoodchurch.org

404-351-3631

January

January 3-20

Performance: Forever Plaid

Thurs.-Sat. at 8:00PM Sundays at 2:00PM

Byers Studio Theatre at The Lyric

1705 Commerce Dr.

Contact: (404)894-9600 or

www.atlantalyrictheatre.com

Wednesday, January 16

Peachtree Streetcar Public Forums

6—8 pm

ATT—Midtown Two Building

725 West Peachtree St.

www.peachtreecorridor.com/news/new_news_page4/

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Wednesday, January 16

NCA Meeting

featured speaker: Fulton County Commission
Chair, John Eaves

7 pm

Rising Roll Gourmet Restaurant at the corner of
Northside and Bellemeade

Contact: Mike Koblentz at 404-641-6005

Monday, January 21

**Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association
meeting**

7 pm

Senior Center, 1705 Commerce Dr.

www.berkeleypark.org

Contact: Ron Horgan

404-355-0220

rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org

Tuesday, January 22

NPU-D Meeting

Agape Center

2351 Bolton Road, Atlanta

7:30 pm

Contact: Jim Martin

404-351-6949

james.martin@me.gatech.edu

Tuesday, January 22

Peachtree Streetcar Public Forums

6—8 pm

First Presbyterian Church

1328 Peachtree Street

[www.peachtreecorridor.com/news/new_news
page4/](http://www.peachtreecorridor.com/news/new_news_page4/)

February

Tuesday, February 5

Georgia Primary Election

Vote for Republican or Democratic candidates,
as well as a Municipal Option Sales Tax
Berkeley Park votes at the Senior Center
For more info, call (404) 730-7072

Saturday, February 2

Park Pride Xeriscaping workshop

Atlanta Botanical Garden

1-3 pm

To register, contact Walt Ray at

walt@parkpride.org, (404) 432-9320 or

<http://www.parkpride.org/xeriscaping.html>

Friday - Sunday, February 8-10

Performance: Peter Pan

Fri.-Sat. at 8:00PM Sundays at 2:00PM

The Ferst Center for the Arts at GA Tech
349 Ferst Dr. NW

Contact: (404)894-9600 or

www.atlantalyrictheatre.com

Monday, February 18

**Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association
meeting**

7 pm

Senior Center, 1705 Commerce Dr.

www.berkeleypark.org

Contact: Ron Horgan

404-355-0220

rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org

Tuesday, February 26

NPU-D Meeting

Agape Center

2351 Bolton Road, Atlanta

7:30 pm

Contact: Jim Martin

404-351-6949

james.martin@me.gatech.edu