

# Berkeley Park Bulletin

June  
2008

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## President's Report

by Ron Horgan  
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Dear neighbors,

June is sizzling and so will the chili in two weeks in Mrs. White yard. It is that time again to get out and enjoy Atlanta heat with our neighbors. I would like to invite all the neighbors of Berkeley Park to join in **The Second Annual Berkeley Park Fund Raising Chili Cook-Off**, Sunday June 22nd from 2-6PM. With the success of last year's event we again are hoping to get between 6-10 official contestants for this one and again there will be no fee for the contestants. Thus far we have three official entries so please contact me at [rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org](mailto:rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org) if you would like to be a contestant. We plan to have some special guest judges from the neighborhood as well as some surprise guest judges. The contestants will need to provide the chili, obviously, the heating or warming equipment (I can provide some if needed), serving utensils and any special condiments you would like to go with your chili. BPNA will provide water and soft drinks and paper goods to enjoy our contestants' chili. We will also make arrangements to have pasta salad, cole slaw and tossed salad as well as Ribs and Chicken, burgers and dogs, chips and condiments to round off the menu. If anyone wants to help out with these items and the manning of the grill please contact me. We have secured live music for the event as well as the closing Forrest Way between Antone Street and Berkeley Avenue. So dust off your recipes once more and call or email me to get your name on the list as a contestant by June 10th. The admission will be \$15.00 per person to raise money for neighborhood improvements that are in the plans and offset some of the cost of the food and drinks. Mark your calendars and look for yahoo group announcements for continued details as well as a rain date. I have a new order of sweatshirts and t-shirts in for sale then also.

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As we all know lots of things are happening on Howell Mill. There is major progress with the project and we have been given a potential summer completion deadline. Many people have helped move this process along over the last several months with a concerted effort from many neighbors, neighborhoods and city officials. A big thanks goes out to the numerous individuals and groups that have pushed this process through.

Another exciting event for June, a **Atlanta Mayoral Meet and Greet** spearheaded by Melody Harclerode will be held on **Thursday, June 26 at 7 pm**. The first Mayoral Meet and Greet will feature Lisa Borders, member of the Atlanta City Council. The event will be held at the **Harclerode residence at 778 Holmes Street**. Space will be limited so the Harclerodes are asking folks to RSVP by Monday, June 23. Councilwoman Borders will speak for the first part of the event and then the floor will be open for our questions. We plan to start promptly at 7 pm. The BPNA will provide Wine and Cheese so put this on your calendar and come prepared with questions for the potential next Mayor of Atlanta.

Recently we have had some increases in crimes in the area. Many phone calls have been made to Major Sellers and the APD zone 2 command. The number for the zone 2 precinct office is 404-848-7231. I urge anyone who has worries or notices suspicious activity to call 911 immediately. Call 911. **CALL 911**. We all need to work together to keep the police presence in our neighborhood active. 911 calls are typically responded to very quickly. Major Sellers informed me, and it was reported in the AJC, that beat patrols were being increased by the new cadets as part of their "boot camp" training in parts of the city where crime is the worst. Even though we have heard and seen increased criminal activity in our area, Zone 2 is not receiving a beat presence because we are not as bad off as other Zones in the City. I guess in some ways this is good news but it is also sad to think that other areas are experiencing worse problems than we are. Nonetheless, the Major will proceed with more of the roadblocks and increased patrols in our area. I would advise people to buckle up, have your drivers license and insurance card handy and **STOP** at stop signs in order to avoid the hassle of getting a ticket.

There was talk of not having the monthly meeting on June 16th with the other events going on this month. After some email discussion with the board members ~~we decided to cancel this month's meeting~~. If anyone has any items that need to be discussed this month that have not been made officially known to the board please get in touch with me, and I will convene a special meeting to address those issues specifically. Please pass the word around. I will post that the meeting is canceled at the Senior Center that night and we will send out reminder to that effect later. **We will have a regular meeting on Monday, June 16 at 7 pm in the Senior Center, as there are a few items that have been added to the agenda.**

Hopefully the summer's heat and hectic summer schedules for folks can be forgotten for a few hours at the Chili Cook-off. I look forward to a slab of ribs and a cold beverage with my neighbors!

Ron

## Neighborhood News

**Lisa Borders to talk to Berkeley Park**

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City Council president and mayoral candidate Lisa Borders will meet with residents of Berkeley Park on Thursday, June 26 at the home of Melody and Mark Harclerode at 778 Holmes Street. The event will begin promptly at 7 pm. Ms. Borders will speak for 10-15 minutes and then will take questions from those in attendance.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Melody Harclerode at [mharclerode@TheArchitectureGroup.com](mailto:mharclerode@TheArchitectureGroup.com) or (678) 222-0375 by 10 pm on Monday, June 23.

### **Suzuki School opening in Buckhead**

The Suzuki School, the only school in the United States authorized to use Dr. Shinichi Suzuki's name and philosophy in the context of a comprehensive early childhood education, will open a second location in Buckhead this fall. The new school will be housed in newly renovated space in the Ahavath Achim Synagogue at the corner of Peachtree Battle and Northside Drive.

For more information about The Suzuki School, please visit the school website at [www.suzukischool.com](http://www.suzukischool.com) or call 404-869-1042.

## **NPU-D Report**

by Jim Martin

[james.martin@me.gatech.edu](mailto:james.martin@me.gatech.edu)

The May 27 th NPU-D meeting was mostly about the city's budget problems. This was not an explicit item on the agenda, but the topic permeated discussion of many other items that were. The meeting opened in a somewhat tense mood as no one knew for certain whether any of the city staff members who we are accustomed to seeing had been laid-off in the massive round of firings that took place since our last meeting. The tension was heightened by the fact that most of these staff members arrived late to the meeting because of traffic. Luckily all of them are still employed.

Council Member Felicia Moore and Georgia State Senator Horacena Tate discussed the city's budget woes. According to Felicia the problems are compounded by the lack of accurate information about spending and political considerations related to the impending election year. These discourage city officials from implementing much needed, but potentially unpopular fiscal controls. The depth of this problem may be illustrated by the rumors that several council members may not seek reelection. According to John Schaffner ([http://buckhead.lps2.com/Articles-i-2008-05-30-179421.112113\\_Clair\\_Muller\\_may\\_not\\_seekreelection\\_to\\_City\\_Council.html](http://buckhead.lps2.com/Articles-i-2008-05-30-179421.112113_Clair_Muller_may_not_seekreelection_to_City_Council.html)) these may include our own Clair Muller.

We had 18 city ordinances on our agenda. This is probably a record. 17 of them related to instituting or increasing fees to offset budget shortfalls. The most controversial of these was the ordinance that will increase water and sewer rates over the next four years. Many people have focused on the magnitude of these increases, which will total over 80%, however my main concern is over the proposed time frame. The council has voted unanimously to audit the Department of Watershed Management, whose funds are segregated from the city's general fund. I have not heard any rationale for authorizing a rate

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increase now that will take effect four years in the future without a reliable budget projection or any results of that audit. Also, as we have recently learned, the effects of a drought and the associated water conservation can have profound impacts on Watershed's revenue stream and the plan has not been reviewed by a climatologist. The best that I can figure is that the ordinance is intentionally deceptive. It is either intended to make the current budget picture look better than it is by placing the largest rate increases in the future where they can be included in budget projections before they have ever been paid for (much like the scheduled expiration of the Bush tax cuts in 2010). Or the future year increases are artificially large and the actual increases, when implemented, will be toned down from these in order to seem more palatable when they must be paid for.

We had four zoning cases on the agenda. In the first, we unanimously denied an obscenely dense rezoning of the RA Siegel site at the corner of Chattahoochee and Ellsworth, which we had deferred in April. The applicants for this one were not present. They knew that the prospects for this it weren't good after a chilly reception at our April meeting and an overwhelming denial by Underwood Hills earlier in May. Apparently, the developers are now considering whether or not to throw in the towel, as the city's planning staff has also taken a dim view of their proposal. All of this is currently scheduled to go to the ZRB on June 12.

Our second zoning case was for a transitional yard reduction for the Burtz St development in Riverside. The applicant for this one was not present and had not attended two previous meetings when we deferred the case. We rezoned the site for this project two years ago, but since then it has been on-the-ropes financially and has been redesigned more than once in the hopes of attracting new investment. No one was certain why the variance had been requested or which revision to the original plans it was intended to accommodate. There were two schools of thought on how to deal with this: defer the case again and see what happens or deny the application and reconsider it if and when information becomes available. This was the same debate that we had held twice before, only this time the denial side carried the day by a vote of 10 to deny, 3 opposed and 4 abstentions after a motion to defer was defeated 9 to 7.

The other two zoning cases weren't nearly as interesting. We unanimously approved a sideyard setback variance to accommodate a home renovation in Underwood Hills and we deferred a rezoning request for the Georgian Hills apartments on Collier Rd because the developer (Coro) is still in the process of working out the conditions for this with an NPU-C task force.

In June we will be reconsidering the abandonment of Spring Grove Avenue in order to accommodate the construction of a second office tower for the Carter project on Howell Mill next to the freeway. We had previously unanimously rejected this, but have been asked by Underwood Hills to reconsider. UHNA, which was opposed to the abandonment, is now in favor of it. Those who support this believe that something significant has changed since the previous vote. I am not one of them.

Next NPU-D Meeting: Tuesday, June 24, 2008

7:30 pm

Agape Center, 2351 Bolton Road, NW

ALL NPU RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME!

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## Seniors Report

by Tawn Chi

[tc@tcproperties.net](mailto:tc@tcproperties.net)

On May 18, Ron Horgan, Berkeley Park President and one of Atlanta's best chefs, prepared sumptuous dinners for all the seniors in Berkeley Park and Underwood Hills. This annual event was made possible through the use of the Senior Citizen Kitchen, which we appreciate very much.

"Thank Yous!!" to ALL the neighbors of Berkeley Park and Underwood Hills are pouring in via cards, emails, and phone calls from our Seniors.

We were able to serve 22 hot and beautiful meals including orchid topped dessert cakes, thanks to Ron and all of our volunteers:

Mindy & Mary Petzer, Tiana Chi, Traci Hart, Adrian

Pritchard, and George in the Kitchen.

Felicia Berkowitz, Danny Moore, Allison & Elaina

Bussone, Heather Gulesserian, Ben Bickerstaff, Tiana map

Chi, Cole Bickerstaff, Mindy & Mary Petzer, Allison

Evatt, and Dwight Glover helped deliver all the Dinners

to our Seniors.

And, William McKinley, manager of KROGER on Howell Mill deserves a BIG thank you for donating all the groceries! FLORIST ATLANTA provided the beautiful single roses in a vase with a card expressing our appreciation to each Senior.

What an event! Thanks to all the neighborhood support we did it again! We have more exciting ideas planned for our seniors. If you're interested in volunteering, please email me direct.

Tawn Chi

Director of Seniors

Berkeley Park & Underwood Hills

[tc@tcproperties.net](mailto:tc@tcproperties.net)

## Secretary's Report

by Michael Hagearty  
[mhagearty@mindspring.com](mailto:mhagearty@mindspring.com)

**Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association**  
**April 21, 2008**  
**Senior Citizens Center**

President Ron Horgan announced that on May 18 he and Tawn Chi would be preparing a dinner for seniors living in Berkeley Park and Underwood Hills. Kroger is donating the food. Volunteers are needed for residential delivery, between 5-5:30 PM. To participate, e-mail Tawn at [tc@tcproperties.net](mailto:tc@tcproperties.net).

Ron reported that number of BPNA flags for sale is running low. He is gauging neighborhood interest for a new order.

June 22 is scheduled for the 2 nd annual BPNA Chili Cook-off and Battle of the Bands.

Dwight Glover met with the Trust for Public Land. The city is no longer in a position to put up money to help buy land for a park. However, he reported that a new law creates the opportunity for low-interest loans for parkland development. He is looking into that option for more information.

Melody Harclerode raised a discussion as to whether, given everyone's busy schedules, the neighborhood should reconsider hiring fundraisers to lead the park project.

Jim Martin reported that the development project at Deering and Northside has backed off plans to pursue MR5 zoning and instead seek a variance as an MR4A. He also informed attendees about a new mixed use/commercial project that is applying for MRC3 status. He expressed skepticism both that this was in the best interest of the area and in the application's likelihood of success.

## Crime Watch

compiled by Maureen Finneran Hetrick

On Tuesday, April 15th, a neighbor on Woodward Way -- between Dellwood and Peachtree Battle -- drove up to her house around 4 pm to find a couple sitting in a car going through her mailbox. The mail had not yet arrived, but there was an outgoing magazine subscription card in the box. Through the back windshield, the homeowner could see the couple reading the card. The car had Tennessee plates (685 JXC) and was a light brown color, older model, make unknown. The male appeared to have reddish hair and a receding hairline. He had a left eye that appeared to be partially shut and was in his mid 30s to mid 40s. The female had dark hair pulled on top of her head.

We've been having lots of mail theft around Buckhead, so please remember that you should never put outgoing mail in your mailbox at all. Take it to a post office box. And for goodness sake, don't use your

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red flag!! This is like an advertisement to criminals. It's also a good idea to have all your bills and statements with personal information sent to your e-mail address.

### **Letter from the Atlanta Police Department**

Good morning, as community leaders and Zone 2 residents, whom are interested in crime issues here in Zone 2, I have "blind copied" many of you on a theft from auto spree, which occurred on Friday, May 2, 2008. As you read the attachment, it informs you that several suspects were arrested for entering and taking items out of cars. Fortunately, an off-duty officer (SPO Billy Cartwright - Zone 1) working at 3380 Peachtree Road saw two Black Males and a Black Female tossing luggage into a trash receptacle and became alarmed. The officer contacted Zone 2 personnel (officers and radio dispatcher) and informed us of suspicious activity.

Our officers responded, located the Buick on Peachtree Road and stopped the vehicle. Their investigation revealed several purses, SIX laptop computers, GPS systems, cellular phones, and other bags - taken from 3368 Peachtree Road, 2339 Piedmont Road, and 1991 Howell Mill Road. I am forwarding the information to you, because we would request that you, as our residential leaders, please inform your family members, neighbors, and co-workers to PLEASE refrain from leaving ANY items of value inside of your vehicle. Criminals are venturing into the Zone 2 area, as stated by some of them, because they "know that stuff is left inside cars up here"...amazing!

Remarkably, we have arrested TWENTY SIX individuals, since January 2008, for entering and taking items from cars, as oppose to only FIVE suspects during the same timeframe for 2007. Furthermore, we have had 848 incidents this year and only 476 during the same timeframe for 2007. Even though we are making the arrests, the crimes are still occurring-the courts are releasing the suspects as soon as we leave them at the jail.

Thus, to safeguard our citizens, and lower your crime rate, we have to diminish the supply for these menacing individuals and groups. Again, please ensure that there are ZERO items left inside our vehicles, whether we are parked at work, restaurants, shopping centers, places of religion, or even our most treasured locations: the home! Eventually, with your help in getting the word out and our continued patrols and arrests, we should see a decrease in larcenies from autos. Moreover, please dial 911 whenever you witness anything to be suspicious. If there are questions, please inquire.

Thank you for all of your efforts and interest,

Lieutenant Khirus E. Williams  
Zone 2 assistant commander

### **About Us**

The Berkeley Park Bulletin is published monthly in print and at [www.berkeleypark.org](http://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

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[maureenfh@mindspring.com](mailto: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-Daniela 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](mailto:info@berkeleypark.org).

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