

**Berkeley Park Neighborhood  
Association**

727 Berkeley Avenue  
Atlanta, GA 30318

To:

*Next BPNA Meeting:*

*Monday, February 19, 2006*

*7:00 pm*

*Seniors' Center*



BERKELEY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# Berkeley Park Bulletin

February 2007

www.berkeleypark.org



INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

## Neighbor Profile

### A Park of His Own

By Maureen Hetrick 404-609-9873, maureenfh@mindspring.

Andrew Crawford has lived in Berkeley Park for almost 10 years, and in that time, he has doubled the size of his house, increased the size of his family by 400% and has become a renowned local artist. He has watched neighbors move in, get married, have babies and

of Howell Mill and 14<sup>th</sup> Street. He drove through Berkeley Park on his way to his Pharr Road apartment, and thought it would be a great place to live. Soon after buying his house on Berkeley Avenue, he moved his shop to its current location across Howell Mill Road on Bowen Street. Soon after that, he got engaged to his girlfriend, and they started their life together.



*Andrew Crawford at home*

move out. And he has tried to make a difference in his corner of Atlanta.

Andrew found Berkeley Park when his iron works studio was located in the U-Haul building at the corner

When asked why he chose Berkeley Park to live, he says it was for several reasons. The price was right, as many other neighbors who arrived in the late 1990s will attest. In addition, it was close to his shop, and Elizabeth liked it (they had been dating for awhile and got married the year after buying the house). Now he says it's the neighbors who will keep him here.

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In the past decade, Andrew's career as an artist has skyrocketed. He found great success after the Atlanta Botanical Garden bought a gate he crafted for a blacksmith exhibit in Madison, Georgia. That gate currently serves as the entrance to the Herb Garden. Soon afterward, the Garden approached him to design the gates that would be the entrance to the Garden under the flower bridge. INVESCO purchased the gates and donated them to the Atlanta Botanical Garden. This installation was large, notable, and opened a lot of doors for Andrew's business.

The Federal Reserve of Atlanta held a competition for artwork to grace the plaza of their new building on Peachtree, and Andrew's Lift sculpture won the competition. It commemorates the growth of Midtown and its impact on Atlanta.



*Lift Sculpture at the Federal Reserve Building on Peachtree St.*

Andrew and Elizabeth renovated their house in 2001. They placed a second story on top of their basic bungalow, doubling its size. They delayed finishing some of the interior, such as the bathroom and spare bedroom until 2003, a year before their son Edward was born. Andrew says the best way of dealing with a huge renovation is to do it in pieces.

In 2003, gasoline stored in the garage for the lawnmower ignited and burned the garage, causing a great deal of smoke damage in the rest of the house.

Andrew and Elizabeth moved out for a month to live in a hotel. This is an important lesson...just because the fire station is only 2 blocks away, we still need to be careful about storing flammable liquids!



# Neighborhood Calendar

## February

- |                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Mon. Feb. 19             | Berkeley Park Meeting<br>7 pm<br>Senior Citizen Services Center<br>1705 Commerce Dr.   | Contact:<br>Ron Horgan<br>(404) 355-0220<br>rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org   |
| Sat. Feb. 17             | Children's story time<br>Kroger on Howell Mill<br>1715 Howell Mill Rd.<br>11 am—12:30 pm Saturdays<br>for children ages 7 and under                          | Contact:<br>Mr. McMillan<br>404-355-7886   |
| Sat. -Sun.<br>Feb. 17-18 | Furniture and Décor Clearance<br>Saturday 10-5 Sunday 12-5<br>The Works - 711 Trabert Avenue<br>info@atttheworks.net   | Contact<br>Susan Wimberly<br>404-876-1359<br><a href="http://www.atttheworks.net/">http://www.atttheworks.net/</a> |
| Mon. Feb. 26             | Book Nook<br>Story time for children ages 3-7<br>Jimmy Carter Library<br><a href="http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/">http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/</a> | Contact:<br>404-865-7100<br>carter.library@nara.gov  |
| Tues. Feb. 27            | NPU-D meeting<br>7:30 pm<br>Agape Community Center<br>2351 Bolton Road   | Contact:<br>Jim Martin<br>(404) 351-6949<br>james.martin@me.gatech.edu   |

## March

- |              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| Mon. Mar. 19 | Berkeley Park Meeting<br>7 pm<br>Senior Citizen Services Center<br>1705 Commerce Dr. | Contact:<br>Ron Horgan<br>(404) 355-0220<br>rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org |
| Wed. Mar. 21 | NCA Meeting<br>7:00<br>Byrere@aol.com  | Contact:<br>Mike Koblentz<br>404-641-6005                              |

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**Jeff DePaola**  
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Office: 404-609-9898  
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In 2003, Andrew decided to run for the office of president of the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association. His wife, Elizabeth Sears, had jumped into neighborhood politics earlier that year by filing suit to save many trees that were slated to be cut down on Bellemeade due to a planned new development. Although several large trees were sacrificed to the development, Elizabeth's lawsuit forced the developer to provide an accurate count of trees that would be cut down. As a result the developer then paid the appropriate fees and replanted the correct number of trees.

Without her work, fewer trees would exist in Berkeley Park. That process taught Andrew that a single person could get involved and could make a difference, and that working for change in his own neighborhood was a worthwhile proposition. He served as the BPNA president for three years.

During his tenure as president, Andrew began to realize that Berkeley Park was a truly impressive neighborhood. House prices have increased, due to the old adage of "location, location, location." The neighborhood association is strong, and despite its small size, neighbors have convinced giant developers to acquiesce to the demands of the residents through diligence and tenacity.

But Andrew noticed a trend: young couples moved into the small houses in Berkeley Park, but when they had children many of them moved out. Andrew said he felt

that families were the missing piece in the diverse patchwork of Berkeley Park. If more people moved into Berkeley Park intending to raise families there for a long time, the neighborhood would increase its value based on the number of people with a long-term interest in the neighborhood who might join

(Continued on page 4)



The stegosaurus in front of Andrew's Berkeley Ave. home



the neighborhood association, renovate their houses, and make a commitment to improving the area. Andrew felt that more families would live in Berkeley Park if it had what its name implied: a park. He set out to make that happen.

Andrew is no longer the president of the BPNA, but is now the chair of the Park Committee. He has a new baby girl in his family, which has strengthened his commitment to make the neighborhood friendly to families and children. He also feels strongly that the park would benefit not only families with children, but also every resident. Green space increases home val-

ues, and gives people a place to meet their neighbors.

Andrew's studio will soon be the home of several large sculp-



Entrance gates at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

tures left over from a show at the Georgia Museum of Art on the UGA campus in Athens. The reception to celebrate this installa-

tion will be in the spring, and the neighborhood will be invited. In the meantime, stop by the house with the giant metal dinosaur in the yard and talk to Andrew about the park. He could really use your help.

See more of Andrew's work at [www.andrewtcrawford.com](http://www.andrewtcrawford.com)

## Letter from the President

By Ron Horgan

(404) 355-0220, [rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org](mailto:rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org)

Dear Neighbors,

This past month has been very exciting for me personally as the new head of BPNA. There have been quite a few things taking place in our neighborhood and hopefully more good develop-

ments will continue.

At January's meeting I mentioned that one of focuses would be the continuation and implementation of a neighborhood park. The park committee has



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Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association  
Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Member (\$10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior (\$5)

\_\_\_\_\_ Business (\$20)

- Only dues-paying members may vote in the BPNA.
- Up to 3 residents of one address may be members of the BPNA.
- Each member business receives only one vote in the BPNA.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would also like to purchase a Berkeley Park flag (\$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please add me to the Berkeley Park e-mail distribution list.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me a paper copy of the monthly Berkeley Park Newsletter (the electronic version is distributed through the e-mail list).

Drop off or mail this form, along with your check, made payable to BPNA to:

Karen Brady  
792 Berkeley Ave.  
Atlanta, GA 30318

*(Continued from page 4)*

met and is in the process of creating a fund raising program to make the park a reality. We have been able partner with the Georgia Land Trust organization to help the neighborhood move forward on the project. Katherine Edens of the GLT is on the calendar to speak with us at the February BPNA meeting. One of the Trust's main functions is to be our vehicle for people to make donations for the park tax deductible. Look for more information on this exciting neighborhood project coming to you soon.

Two fun events are being organized in our neighborhood. One event will be in April and one in May. The event for April will be a Chili cook off party coordinated with the Berkeley Park firemen. Look for information and specifics to follow and bone up on your favorite recipe for this new event, which hopefully we can build into an annual happening for Berkeley Park. The May 5<sup>th</sup> event will be will be a Senior Citizens Services of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. sponsored "SWEEP DAY". Steve Hargrove of the Senior Services is asking for volunteers to help in any way they can or are able. Financial, hands on and in-Kind donations are welcome. Steve is hoping to be at the February meeting to dis-

cuss this project and also give us information on how we can tap into resources to help our seniors on a more regular basis.

I would like to reinstitute our Crime Watch Block System. For quite some time Westly Hetrick has been the Chair of this Committee and has asked to step down and allow another neighbor to Chair the Committee. I would like to thank Wes for all he has done for the neighborhood to this point, and I know the neighborhood extends this same gratitude. I also know Wes will help anyone who volunteers. We previously worked with a block system, so I don't think this would be very difficult to reinstate.

Mike Koblentz of the NCA spoke to the neighborhood at last month's meeting on the reestablishment of BPNA's involvement in the NCA organization. I would like to discuss this topic at the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with the neighborhood to see where we stand as a neighborhood on this issue and form a plan one way or another moving forward.

I hope to see many of you at the meeting.

Thank you,  
Ron Horgan

## January Minutes

By Michael Hagearty

mhagearty@mindspring.com

### Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association meeting minutes, January 2007

- 25 neighbors participated in the Jan. 15 meeting at the Senior Citizens Center on Commerce Drive.
- Newly-elected BPNA President Ron Horgan opened the meeting with remarks about his goals for the coming 12 months. Among other things, he cited the purchase of a lot for use as a neighborhood park, and to advance other priorities set forth in the Blueprints plan. He encouraged neighbors to bring other issues or ideas forward for discussion.
- Resident Mike Egan sent word that he is seeking assistance to file BPNA's taxes. Anyone with specialized knowledge (i.e. a CPA) is encouraged to contact Ron Horgan at rhorgan@ansleygolfclub.org.
- Planning has begun for an upcoming neighborhood clean-up day. Carol Gray, who is filling in for Elizabeth Sears, will be sending an e-mail with details to the BPNA mail list.
- A reminder that 2007 membership dues are now being accepted. Cost is \$10/year per individual with a maximum of three voting members per household.

- City Councilmember Clair Muller gave an update on the Howell Mill Road/Chattahoochee Avenue project. She said the construction could begin as soon as March and is expected to last six months. She also noted neighborhood concerns arising from the mulch dump on Howell Mill and Forrest Street and code violations involving the blockage of a dry creek bed.
- Joann Brown of the city's Bureau of Code Compliance delivered a presentation and took questions from neighbors concerning the so-called "Techatoriums." She said she was busy pulling paperwork — checking on variances and/or special use permits — for the 21 addresses within Berkeley Park that appear to be nonconforming properties. She said that any properties found out of compliance would be required to convert from its current R-5 (two-family residential) zoning back to R-4A (single family residential).
- Northwest Community Alliance Chair Mike Koblentz requested time to formally invite BPNA to rejoin the NCA. No action on the part of BPNA was taken, and will be discussed at a future meeting. At the request of Maureen Hetrick, he agreed to provide a sum-

(Continued from page 14)

ton. We had deferred that one in at our last meeting in December because the developers were not prepared. We again voted to defer it because the developers could not decide on what it was that they wanted to build. The sentiment of those who voted against the deferral (the vote was 30 to 20) seemed to be that everything that the developers had discussed in the past was ill-suited to the site, and therefore it was a reasonable assumption that whatever they would arrive with in February would be similarly inappropriate. After that, we voted unanimously to rezone the site next door to Pangaea on Huff Rd for a residential development that will be built by Trammel Crow. They had been very cooperative about modifying their zoning request and site plan to address neighborhood concerns. Finally, we voted to rezone 43 acres on the other side of Huff road for a new development by Brock Built that will be primarily residential and will incorporate "smart growth," "new urbanism," "pedestrian friendliness," and lots

of other desirable, but poorly defined features. There was surprising little discussion of this application given the size of the proposed project.

At the meeting we heard from our code-enforcement officer, Jesse Evans. He is continuing to work on the Techatorium problem. Jesse introduced Ephnae Walker (I am guessing at the spelling of her first name), who is now heading up this investigation. Hopefully we will get an update on all this at the BPNA meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting we will also be voting on a special use permit for a strip club, which is proposed for a site on Howell Mill road next to the waterworks. That permit will be on the February 27<sup>th</sup> NPU-D meeting agenda. Everyone who lives in Berkeley Park and goes to that NPU-D meeting can vote for or against this application. Everyone who does not go to that meeting must trust the decision to others and cannot complain about it later.

### 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 [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.

## NPU-D Report

By Jim Martin

(404) 351-6949, james.martin@me.gatech.edu,

The January 23<sup>rd</sup> NPU-D meeting was my first meeting as NPU chair. Since there were no fist fights, I have decided to declare it a success. The meeting was fairly well attended, and a significant percentage of those who were there stuck it out to the bitter end around 10:30.

Most of the early discussion was about the ongoing problems at the sewage treatment plant. The latest short-term fix to the odor problems there was judged, by a majority of those present, to have produced the first observable improvement in the situation. Some people seemed to feel that this was more related to the wind having blown in a different direction since the fix was implemented than it was to the actual effectiveness of the fix. I am sure we will hear more about this in February. Another complaint to the Watershed Management department involved mysterious banging in pipes around the Bolton neighborhood. One resident described his washing machine walking across the floor when it wasn't running. The poltergeist explanation was quickly dismissed and blame seemed to focus on air bubbles in the city's water mains and excessive pressures in the system. No one thought that there was any

significance to the fact that the problem occurred in houses that were all built by the same developer.

We again voted to defer the special use permit application for the Carter development at the holiday inn site. They have asked to have this application "filed" (i.e. shelved) because they are rethinking the hotel component of their development, so we may not hear about this again for quite some time. I think that they have a good location for a hotel and my only objections to their earlier plans were related to building scale and style rather than ultimate use. This seemed to be the consensus of others who have reviewed the plans also. Development of the office tower on the site will go ahead. The latest plans for that are much improved over those that we have been shown in the past. There will be a line of two-story shops along Howell Mill in front of the tower that should soften the visual effect of its height as viewed from the street and create a more sidewalk friendly façade.

We heard three rezoning cases at the meeting. The first of these was for an apartment complex in Bol-

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many of those remarks in the February newsletter. (see page 11 for the article—Ed.)

- BPNA Vice-president Deborah Wagoner said that several BPNA officer positions remained open, and encouraged interested neighbors to volunteer. She added her desire to reenergize the neighborhood crime watch program. Those wishing to participate as a block captain or as part of a phone tree should contact Wes Hetrick at westly@mindspring.com.
- Barry Sermons (816 Berkeley) gave the BPNA details about his

home renovation. The work — adding a 2-car garage, adding a master bedroom and expanding the kitchen — will not require a variance.

- Kevin Holloway, on behalf of Wayne Vassey, spoke about Vassey's plans to divide his lot at 771 Holmes. He wants to reinstate the property as it originally existed: documents show Vassey's property was originally two lots, but currently the county recognizes as one lot. Property is zone R-4 (single-family residential). BPNA can comment on the partitioning but not object.

## Membership Committee Report

By Richard Arnold

404.429.9564, keycon@mindspring.com

Our new President, Ron Horgan, asked me to volunteer to be the Membership Committee Chair for 2007. I agreed. The 2007 BPNA Membership Committee has officially commenced business. I look forward to working with all of you to grow the BPNA membership and bring value to each and every one of you.

According to the corporate By Laws of the BPNA, the Membership Committee is one of eight Standing Committees of the Association. Its purpose is defined as:

*The Membership Chair is to encourage and develop participation in the Association from all residents and property owners and to maintain the neighborhood information book.*

I guess I (we) have some work to do.

I am asking each of you to become a member ... NOW. Pay your dues as soon as possible. It's \$10 a head — that's \$20 per couple. You can not vote on neighborhood issues unless you are a

dues-paying member. Write your checks to the BPNA, Give them to Karen Brady – Treasurer of the BPNA. She and Patrick (her husband), live at 792 Berkeley Avenue. If you want to learn more about the structure of the BPNA, the committees and such, visit the wonderful Berkeley Park website at <http://www.berkeleypark.org/structure.asp>. It is very informative. You can also sign up for the eNewsletter there.

OK. I have now “encouraged” you as the official statement says. First task completed.

Develop participation. What does this mean? Attend meetings. Join a committee. Communicate. Talk to your neighbors. If you are a member and your neighbor is not, encourage them to become a neighbor. Attend parties. Participate in Clean-Up Days (really, these are fun – we usually have a small turnout, but there is no reason for a small turnout – one is coming up soon – meet some new neighbors – help make your neighborhood look good!) Become a Crime Watch Captain (look for more on this program from the Crime Watch Chair soon). Make suggestions. Talk to your Prez and Vice-Prez. Just participate.

OK. I have developed participation ..... NOT!

Seriously ... I have some ideas and they are forthcoming soon. Between now and then ... I am seeking individuals to join me on the Membership Committee. It is hard to have a committee of one. Some would call that a dictatorship or old Russia or Cuba. Surely we have some folks out there with some energy and ideas who will volunteer to assist the committee and association.

I have some ideas I need help with. Info packets full of offers from local businesses. “Welcome to the Neighborhood” kits. A revamped information book. By building members and working with the other committees, big tasks won’t look so big and we’ll get a lot done. But we need volunteers to help do the necessary work of any committee. The more members we have involved, the more we get done, and the better our neighborhood becomes. It’s a WIN-WIN for everyone. Please call or email me and volunteer or pass along any ideas and suggestions you have. I look forward to working with you during 2007 and meeting many of you that I don’t know yet.

Thanks - Richard

the 14 neighborhoods that participated in the Castlegate negotiating committee brought about the numerous changes to the "The District at Howell Mill" and Wal-Mart including the \$100,000 earmarked for Berkeley Park, the linear park, the urban friendly design and the numerous other conditions. I believe that Berkeley Park working alongside and within the NCA will currently help Underwood Hills, BP, and the rest of the adjacent neighborhoods, as we see continuing development as Novare Corporation and several other developers start unveiling their Howell Mill projects on the west side of the street and other projects emerge on the east side.

I do want to emphasize that the NCA has effectively attempted to work by consensus. We are a volunteer group that has built up a great deal of credibility with neighborhoods, developers and city officials. We don't want to fight amongst ourselves and we clearly are not overly formal. We do not want to be bureaucratic. We just want to be effective in making for a better Northwest Atlanta. We have been very strict in keeping all of us at arms length distance from anyone we negotiate with. We intend to remain lean and non-bureaucratic so that in a situation like the Bellwood Quarry we are able to quickly lend support for the city's purchase of the quarry and then be told that our jumping in made a big difference.

We have had guest speakers in

the past few years such as Mayor Franklin, Cathy Woolard, Gov. Roy Barnes, Jim Jacoby, CEO Atlantic Station, Mike Dobbins, Katharine Ross, and Charles Brewer, CEO Greenstreet Properties and have handed out our highest neighborhood awards to the late Bernadette Smith and Comer Hobbs, from Howell Station. On a personal note, I recently left NPU-E after 14 years. There is always a time to move on. I want to make sure that the NCA keeps promoting smart growth, keeps this very unique alliance we have with some of our developer friends, keeps staying effective, and has a good structure to take the organization forward over the next few years, with me or without me. Berkeley Park, similar to Home Park and to a smaller degree Midtown, has this unique mixture of commercial, residential, retail, industrial, and parkland that allows for a regenerated BP to emerge, particularly with your master plan. I would hope that Berkeley Park will see that it has something to gain by rejoining the NCA, while still maintaining your own independence. If you have specific questions about whether that can happen, please talk to some of the reps from Marietta St. Artery, Home Park, Underwood Hills and other neighborhoods where that scenario has been put into practice.

Mike Koblentz  
Chair  
NCA  
Byrere@aol.com  
404-641-6005



those of us who chose the priority of wider traffic improvement over the sanctity of these trees. I know of a major advocate of the widening of the road who cried when the trees started coming down. I have always stated that this emotional issue had no right or wrong side, but it did create a tremendous amount of upset of some in BP who supported the protection of the trees. Because of the intense emotional issue, the NCA did not take a formal position. I would hope that people realize that people of good intent took different sides on the tree removal and the turn lane.

There was another major issue I believe that was misunderstood, and I want to attempt to correct the record. Before we added 5 "neighborhood friendly" businesses to the NCA Board, we used to (by consensus) have all the neighborhoods vote on all the major issues. Typically anywhere from 15-17 neighborhoods voted. When we decided to add neighborhood friendly businesses to the board, we were concerned that having as many as 17 neighborhoods vote and 5 businesses vote, gave the businesses only a token 20% representation on the board. We always wanted to keep our "neighborhood tilt" but did not want to skew it that much. We wanted the business component as real partners. So we decided to go with a smaller board (13) and give the business side 5 votes or specifically 40%. We felt that was way more fair. However, in the course of creating that board, the 8 member neighborhood side did not include Berkeley Park, Underwood

Hills and several other active neighborhoods that no longer would be directly voting. They would still have input, but not directly. We did not have more than 5 major neighborhood friendly businesses so the only way to reach the 60-40 percentage was to drop neighborhoods. Some in BP were upset about your neighbor "losing" your vote. I stated at the time that the neighbors board representation would rotate and BP needed to be on the next board. I do believe that BP should be on the NCA board in 2007. In addition we have set up another procedure where the 15 or so neighborhoods would be voting for the 8 neighborhood reps. In the future, as we find more neighborhood friendly businesses to join our board, we see having all the neighborhoods voting again and maintaining that 60-40 percentage. It may take some time.

I am sure that there are other issues, but I do want to state that Berkeley Park is a significant neighborhood and would gain by being on the board, as we would by having them back. Currently the NCA, Underwood Hills, BP (represented by Jim Martin) have been negotiating with Carter & Associates over the Holiday Inn site. Its clear to me that in this case, as has been the case in other negotiations with developers, the leverage of the NCA has helped. I believe that Eva Nason and the last president of Underwood Hills, Chip Gross would attest to this. I truly believe that the leverage of

## Fire Side Chat

By Keith Schumacher

404-853-4423, Station23@firehousemail.com

The big news at Station #23 is in the paint. Yes, that's right, the paint job that was donated by one of the local Firehouse Subs owners is finally hitting the walls. Our kitchen, dining room and restroom are getting a fresh coat of paint. This is brightening up the station and hopefully raising some morale. The kitchen cabinets are being repaired and the missing cabinet doors are being replaced.

This news and our plans were announced at the BPNA meeting last month. Shortly after the meeting, I was approached by BP resident Mark Sunderland who is a professional interior designer. Mr. Sunderland has offered his services to make our station more livable. He chose the colors for our paint job and obtained the paint. The first phase of the painting has been completed and we are looking forward making additional improvements. Unfortunately, Mark had to leave town due to a family emergency. Our thoughts are with Mark and his family and hope for the best.



Our Atlanta Citizens Emergency Response Team (ACERT) has decided to meet quarterly for operational updates and training. Meetings will be held at Station #23. You may also see our green vested ACERT members showing up on emergency scenes along with the Engine #23 crew. These experiences are part of ongoing training and review. There

is a possibility of additional training for new members. This will depend on the funding available. If we should experience a major emergency such as the recent tornados in Central Florida, you can look to your trained neighbors for

direction and help. ACERT members have been trained to provide service in major emergencies until additional professional emergency service agencies can arrive. Their green vest, helmets and equipment pack can identify them in an emergency. Please take the time to thank them for their hours of time in training and their commitment to our community.

With the upcoming demolition of the Holiday Inn property,

(Continued on page 10)

Carter Properties has given us permission to use some of the buildings for training before they are razed. This is an excellent opportunity to simulate several firefighting and rescue situations. We will not be burning any building down. What we will be doing is practicing the rescue of trapped firefighters, forcing entry for firefighting and rescue and ventilation of smoke and heat from burning buildings. We are even planning to simulate a hi-rise firefighting operation. This will provide an opportunity for ongoing training for field personnel such as the crews at Company #23. This will also be an opportunity for our technical rescue teams and our new recruits from the Atlanta Fire-Rescue Academy. You should see a lot of fire truck traffic before the end of the month. Don't be "alarmed," it's all for a good reason.

If you are using any type of fuel burning appliances such as a gas furnace, water heater or fire-place you should have a carbon monoxide detector. Each of our fifteen (ladder) truck companies has now been trained and equipped in gas monitoring. They will now be responding to carbon monoxide calls with the closest engine company. This is rather than having the Hazardous Materials team responding to all CO calls in the city.

During this time of year, please remember to keep heat sources away from combustibles. Space heaters should be monitored very carefully. Please "watch what you heat."

Keep warm – safely, and have a great February.

## Seniors Report

By Tawn Chi

404-326-6969

I am volunteering to return to assisting the seniors of Berkeley Park until we find someone. I would like to organize a trip to the Aquarium this spring/summer and need a volunteer to help me with this project. Also, I would like to continue the annual senior dinner I started 5

years ago. We will need some volunteers to assist in cooking, grocery shopping, and delivering the dinners to the seniors.

Please contact Tawn Chi at 404-326-6969 cell. Thank you.

## NCA Report

By Mike Koblentz, Chair, NCA

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Dear Berkeley Park Friends.

I made a guest presentation at the last meeting of BPNA. I appreciated the invitation from your new President, Ron Horgan, and the continuation of the positive dialogue started with Andrew Crawford over the past 6 months. I was ostensibly at your meeting to request the BPNA to consider coming back to the NCA, an idea I have floated with Andrew over the last few months.

The original idea of the NCA originated out of Berkeley Park with Linda Alcott and Richard Arnold who went outside of BP with the intention of garnering neighborhood support against the Goliath Home Depot which was attempting to impose a 2 big box suburban solution to the Castlegate site. The concept of having multiple neighborhoods coming together for increased leverage against a major developer or corporation was a smart move then, and it still makes sense today. Whether its the current urban design of "The District" at Castlegate, or MetroNexus, or the 14th St. Bridge or the fight against BFI, the main underlying theme has been the leverage and unity of multiple, nearby neighborhoods.

The NCA has taken that theme one step further over the last 2 plus years in bringing on board what we refer to as "neighborhood friendly"

developers and businesses. These are companies that have shown a willingness to cooperate during negotiations with the NCA or come together with us on common issues.

The 14th St. Bridge proposals, the purchase of the Bellwood Quarry by the City of Atlanta, and the Howell Mill Road improvements are examples of how the coalition of neighborhoods and neighborhood friendly businesses have created a great deal of leverage to bring about needed substantial, neighborhood oriented projects. The current NCA board consists of neighborhood friendly businesses such as Atlantic Station, Selig and Ace Hardware.

Berkeley Park pulled out of NCA for reasons that I am sure have been widely discussed within the neighborhood. Yes, we had differences on various issues, and there are two issues I want to address directly.

On the issue of the removal of the trees on Bellemeade, the NCA never took a formal position on that issue which was very divisive, even within your own neighborhood. I, personally, and several other NCA participants favored the widening of the road and the removal of the trees. I think people need to know that the removal of these trees caused distress even for