

the

Berkeley Park Bulletin

www.berkeleypark.org



BERKELEY PARK

DECEMBER 2002

**Monday
January 20, 2003**

**NPU-D Meetings
Fourth Tuesday of
every month
Meetings start at 7:30
Agape Center
on Bolton Road**

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Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association Vision Statement

To create an area of intown living that is safe, clean and has the direction and determination to take on tasks that are beneficial to the neighborhood and its residents.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ted Huckabee

404-609-9309

tedhuckabee@earthlink.net

Hello Neighbors,

I can't believe I am writing my last newsletter article as the President of Berkeley Park. It has been two great years and we have seen Berkeley Park change a great bit. But now is the time when we need new leadership in Berkeley Park. Will it be you?

There are several important issues facing Berkeley park in the coming year. The Castlegate property is under contract the Atlantic envelope site is going to be developed and of course the Atlantic Station project is nearing completion. This area and Berkeley park are ripe with progress and prosperity and we as a neighborhood need to keep our interest on the front burner. We need to make sure that Berkeley Park is going to be looked upon by developers and the city as a neighborhood that cares. You live here and you pay taxes shouldn't you see some return on your investment? Of course you should, but it will take more work and more time because Berkeley Parks wheel always needs to squeak in order for it to get the grease.

Do you care what goes on within your neighborhood? Do you care what goes in at the

Castle Gate site? Do you care about crime and cut through traffic in your neighborhood? Do you care about developers and city government and fees and your tax dollar? Of course you do. But you need to get involved and make sure Berkeley Park has a bright future.

I hate to rant and rave but I love my neighborhood and I want to see it prosper. And as of today 12 10 02 I have had no one express interest in filling my position as President. No one! We are having elections in January at the next meeting, we as a neighborhood need you. I can say that being involved with the neighborhood association has been a very rewarding experience. I have met alot of great people and enjoyed working with all of them. I am not quitting because I don't like it or it is hard or I don't want to do it anymore. I am leaving because I want to give other people the chance to bring their ideas and energy and passion to the position and to the neighborhood. So please step up to the plate and help Berkeley park prosper.

See you in January!

Ted Huckabee

V.P. LETTER

Mike Cosky

404-355-8050

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Hello everyone. This month's installment will be a short one as I am preparing to leave for a week long job in Savannah. There are a few things on my mind this month so I will try to hit them all quickly before I go.

I'm sure everyone is aware of the recent rise in crime in the neighborhood which brings me to my first point. How well do you know your neighbors?

The lovely Mrs. Cosky and I were planning to hold another holiday open house this year but when I told people in the last newsletter to contact me if they were interested, I did

not receive even one response. So, it didn't seem a big deal when I found out that I would be out of town the weekend that we had planned on having it. What does this have to do with crime? Well, to me its all about knowing your neighbors. Who belongs, who doesn't. When does something seem "not right". Neighborhood gatherings are a great way to meet people, get to know them a little, put a face with the house down the street. This way, we are better equipped to look out for each other if we know who "each other " is.

The other topic I must touch on briefly is

the Castlegate property. If you missed the article in the "Story", there is a new development being planned that would be much worse for this neighborhood than the Home Depot that we fought before. The BPNA executive board is meeting with the developer this week to voice our concerns so it should be interesting to hear the results.

We need to keep on top of this. Anything that gets put on this land will have a huge impact on our neighborhood so we need to ensure that whatever it is has as positive an effect on our neighborhood as possible. We will do our best to keep you up to date on this and if you want to get involved please contact ant BPNA officer or just come to the next meeting.

With that said, put up some decorations, wish well to your neighbors and have a wonderful holiday season and oh yeh, lets kick the butts of those preying on our neighborhood!

TREASURER REPORT

Kendra Huckabee

404-609-9309

kendrah@titlelaw.com

The balance in the BPNA account is \$581.35.

It's time to pay dues for the upcoming year. (\$10.00, \$5.00 for seniors) this is your chance. You may forward to 761 Berkeley Avenue. Thanks!

Please make checks payable to "Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association"

Send to: BPNA Treasurer
761 Berkeley Avenue,
Atlanta, GA 30318

SENIORS

Tawn Chi

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Happy Birthday to Irene Boggs of 778 Berkeley Avenue who was born on December 11th!

NEWSLETTER

Sharon Arnold

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Next month the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association will be holding nominations/elections for new officers. This includes President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, NPU-D Representative, Land Use and Development, Beautification, Membership, Crime Watch and Newsletter chairs. These are all important positions within the association. None of these positions is a full time job, most of the time it's just write an article for the monthly newsletter and attend the BPNA meetings on th third Monday of odd numbered months.

When people pitch in to help with all the positions no one person has to do much. It's been fairly quiet with regard to development around here, but it appears as this is going to change soon. We need to have an active and involved association in order to address developers and the City of Atlanta in these matters. The crime situation on the other hand has not been quiet lately, and unless we stay involved and vigilant it could get worse. If you have not provided your name, address and phone number to Corey, please do so before the next BPNA meeting.

Get involved with your community - we all benefit!

CRIME WATCH

Corey Greika

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Well, we have had a little too much excitement in our neighborhood over the last couple of weeks in regards to crime activity, and it is quite alarming. Starting November 15th, we have had four (4) home disturbances including theft or vandalism, three (3) cars being rifled through and items stolen, one (1) car stolen, and two (2) armed robberies. That's a total of ten crimes in a span of 26 days!

Sgt. Cooper, Officer Porter, and Officer Cook from the Atlanta Police department, Zone 2, were kind enough to address our concerns at the Crime Meeting Saturday morning, November 23rd. They had some great suggestions such as getting to know your neighbors and their activities so that you are aware when people are around their house while they are not supposed to be at home, and calling in to 911 when ANYTHING suspicious is happening, and staying on the line to give them full descriptions of the individuals involved, keeping anything of value out of view in your car or in your home, leaving plenty of lights on inside and outside to make it harder for criminals to lurk around the neighborhood, etc., etc.

We as a neighborhood have revived the Block Captain Phone Tree system, and we have discussed selling Berkeley Park Crime Watch stickers to neighbors for \$2 a piece to adhere to mailboxes and let criminals know that we are watching them. Please let us know your ideas on this, if enough people are behind it we will do it.

You can do the most good this holiday season by finding out when your neighbors will be out of town, letting your neighbors know when you'll be out of town, doing the things that the police officers suggested above, and really being aware of your surroundings. The times for the crimes over the last month have been a mix between morning, daytime, evening, and late night, so obviously at



TAQUERIA
del SQL

Open for lunch and dinner
Tuesday thru Saturday
Lunch on Monday

Lunch Mon - Sat 11 am until 2 pm
Dinner Tues - Thurs 5 pm until 9 pm
Fri - Sat 5 pm until 10 pm

West Side - Huff & Howell Mill
404.352.5811

any time a crime can be occurring. Please keep your eyes and ears open!

Thanks again for everybody's concerns and effort to keep crime out of Berkeley Park. Have a great holiday!

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

Brett Marsengill

404-350-0866

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The Berkeley Park Executive Committee met with Bill Ranck of Ranck and Associates to discuss this developer's interest in the Castlegate site. Currently the property is under conditional contract which basically states the land is to be purchased IF the developer can successfully obtain rezoning and other relevant impacts regarding proposed land use, anchor tenant and other undisclosed factors of the contract. Currently there is NO SITE PLAN and there is NO SITE PROGRAM. Bill met with the committee for the purpose of initial introductions and informal feed back as to some of the neighborhoods top concerns including traffic, apartment values, retail (big box) and other such factors discovered during the Home Depot battle. The meeting itself was very productive in terms of the developers attitude and understanding regarding working with the neighborhoods and cordial in our presentation of concerns. The next step will probably be the developer working on a site plan and continued conversations with the neighborhoods (ours and others) the NCA, the City of Atlanta and others. Basically we can expect a dialog between all arteries concerned. We will keep you posted as to schedule for workshops and look forward to everyone's participation.

NPU-D

Richard Arnold

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Alternate: Franz Schneider

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Franzforms@earthlink.net

As many of you know, the BPNA will hold elections in January for 2003 officers. However, we have already chosen the 2003 NPU-D Rep and Alternate Rep since this was required by NPU elections in November. The 2003 NPU Reps for Berkeley Park are Bob Fehskens of Antone Street and Brett Marsengill of Berkeley Avenue as the Alternate Rep. You can reach Bob at 404.352.0392 or Fehskens@earthlink.net and Brett at 404.350.0866 or b.marsengill@robertco.com. I wish to thank these neighbors for stepping up to the plate to fill these important positions within our association.

I hope many more neighbors will make the decision between now and the January BPNA meeting to get involved as a leader of the BPNA. There is something to be said about service to your community. For the small amount of time it takes, the rewards are big. There will be many positions to fill. So reflect over the holidays about the great neighborhood you live in and the wonderful neighbors you have been blessed to be living around. The Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association has made a difference in our neighborhood and quality of life for over 7 years and it needs your leadership now to continue the tradition. Please consider a leadership position today.

Thank you - it has been my pleasure to serve as the BPNA NPU-D Rep for the past 7 years. Please support Bob and Brett in their new positions.

E. RIVERS ELEMENTARY

Liz Jacobs

404-350-9000

lizzyj@bigfoot.com

Happy Holidays from your friends at E. Rivers! The students are ready for the holiday season and are also ready for their annual production of The Nutcracker. Each student has a part in the production, which includes plenty of singing, dancing and fancy costumes. It has even grown so popular that two performances are held to accommodate family and friends. Good luck to all the performers!

The students have also had a chance to perform French songs and carols at the Lenox Mall Food Court during the holiday season. They did an excellent job, and entertained holiday shoppers with beautiful music.

Our annual holiday tree sale was a huge success, thanks to support from our neighborhood friends! A big thanks to all of you who bought trees, wreaths and garland at our Christmas tree sale. We sold all of our supply except one tree! All proceeds raised by the tree sale will go toward special projects for the school funded by the PTA.

If you have questions about E. Rivers, or would like more information about our school, please contact Liz Jacobs at 404-350-9000 or lizzyj@bigfoot.com. Our school website also is a great source of information: www.erivers-elem.org.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Holiday Gathering

This years Holiday Gathering will take place after the frantic holidays are over. A chance to wind down after the December whirlwind. It will be the weekend after New Years. Either January 4th or 5th. The definite time and place are still being worked out, should have the information to you very soon.

Sad News

As you know we have supported Mondo with space in our newsletter for about 3 years. We received this letter from them last week.

Dear Friends in Berkeley Park -

I've got a bit of sad news - Mondo will be closing in January. on the 18th. We will be having a sale on the 25th.

Thank you for all the ads you have run for us. We have enjoyed the support of your neighborhood.

Thanks - Jane Thompson, Owner

Neighborhood Patrol

A neighbor suggested we initiate a volunteer patrol, where neighbors take turns patrolling the neighborhood during the night time hours. If you would be interested in helping out please contact any of the current BPNA officers.

One More Time

Remember we have to be diligent and vigilant when it comes to combatting crime. If you see anything or anyone suspicious - CALL 911. Give the 911 operator as much information as you can, be specific, small details can make all the difference.

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**Happy Holidays
to All!**



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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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