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April 2004, Vol. 9 No. 2

**General Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 23, 2004, 4:00pm**  
**at Torah Day School on LaVista Road**

Mark your calendars for the spring membership meeting at the Torah Day School on May 23 at 4:00PM. We will be sending out a flyer with the agenda and guest speaker list. One of our big agenda items for this meeting will be to vote on the expansion of our membership to include Jody Lane and Bramble Road. We hope to get to see as many of you as possible at the meeting.

Steve Bighouse, President

**EXPANSION PROPOSAL**

The business part of our General Membership Meeting will include an important item: a proposal to amend the MHHA Bylaws. The Board has voted in favor of amending the Bylaws to extend the boundaries of the MHHA to encompass Jody Lane and Bramble Road. The integration of Weatherstone Townhomes into our membership has proven to be an asset. Bramble Road and Jody Lane, although not part of the Merry Hills subdivision, seem to be another natural fit for expanding our association since the homes on these streets directly abut our current boundaries and share many concerns.

It is proposed to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Merry Hills Homeowners Association, Inc. as follows:

**Article III Membership**

Jody Lane and Bramble Road added to the included street names.

**Article V Section Representatives**

Section Representatives will be increased from 8 to 10 with one representing Jody Lane and the second representing Bramble Road.

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERY**

With the next news letter, we will cease hand-delivery to those households who are on our e-mail list. If you want both e-mail and hand-delivery of your newsletter, send a message to mailinglist@merryhills.com.

**NEW VOLUNTEERS**

The Board currently has three vacancies for those of you interested in participating in your neighborhood association. We are looking for a secretary, zoning chairman and section representative for Section 6 which encompasses 1260 to 1402 Holly Lane.

**PARKS UPDATE**

As of publication, negotiations continue between the County and property owners on the proposed Toco Hill Park/Commons to lease the land for forty years. Meanwhile, the rezoning of the property to commercial is again on the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners agenda for a hearing on Tuesday, April 27.

DeKalb Commissioner Judy Yates has allocated \$400,000 for improvements at Kittredge Park, \$350,000 for repairs to the swimming pool and \$50,000 for miscellaneous items. Another \$20,000 was allocated to add a dog park at Mason Mill Park, where site development is already in the works.

#### **NEIGHBOR PROFILE: NICK LODGE**

Nick Lodge has been a Merry Hills Homeowner since 2003. He is one of the top cake decorators in the world. Born and trained in England he and his partner Scott Ewing own and operate International Sugar Art Collection. It is a cake decorating school and store located in Norcross. Nick teaches courses around the globe. He has written several books on cake decorating. Before leaving England and moving to the United States he was commissioned to do several cakes for the Royal Family including one of the wedding cakes for Prince Charles and Lady Diana. To learn more about him you can visit his website at [www.nicholaslodge.com](http://www.nicholaslodge.com).

#### **INFILL HOUSING FORUM**

Oak Grove Civic Association and North Druid Hills Residents Association sponsored a forum to discuss the impact of infill housing on our neighborhoods. It was held in a very full gym at Lakeside High School. They did an excellent presentation using PowerPoint and showed several striking examples of bad infill development. It certainly got the attention of the DeKalb CEO who was present. Commissioner Jones initiated a task force to see what can be done to regulate the development so it fits in with the neighborhoods. Some changes discussed were limiting the amount of grading to a property, rechecking the amount of area that could be covered by buildings and concrete, and better enforcement of the maximum 35-foot building height. We will keep you posted on the outcome.

#### **CENTRAL DEKALB CANDIDATE FORUM**

A candidate forum is in the planning stages for the end of June to take place before the DeKalb primaries. It would bring together all the candidates who want to participate for an evening of interaction with the voters of our area. Format and location are still being discussed but we will get details to you as soon as it is finalized.

#### **BARKING DOG ORDINANCE**

According to the current Noise Ordinance of DeKalb County domesticated or caged non-farm animals may not make any vocalizations for more than fifteen (15) minutes without interruption or more than thirty (30) minutes if intermittent. These time limits do not apply if the vocalizations are given as a warning to the presence of an intruder.

Anyone can complain but they cannot do it anonymously. Call Code Enforcement Officer Heckert at 404-294-2641. Give your name and the address of the barking dog, as well as the name of the owner if known. Start a log of when the dog barks and for how long and possibly why.

#### **NEWS OF INTEREST**

- The LA Fitness Gym which is located in the Loehmann's Plaza Shopping Center is going to be expanding and relocating to the old Harris Teeterspace across from Toco Hills. This should happen sometime towards the end of summer
- Saturday Market at Piedmont Park started in April. The weekly open air market will feature Georgia-grown produce, baked goods, fresh garden flowers and herbs, along with chef demonstrations and musical entertainment. It will be near the 12th Street entrance and take place every Saturday through October 17 from 8 am to 12 noon.
- Don't forget that you must be registered by June 21 to vote in the July 20 primaries. Several of the county offices are open this year.

#### **NEW BABY LIST**

Laura and Chris Trainor, Christmas Lane, have a new baby girl, Julia, born in February.  
Janna and Richard Mansker, Merry Lane, also have a new baby girl, Phobe, who arrived in March

#### **NEW PROPERTY OWNERS**

Harold Stiefel has recently purchased 2026 and 2032 LaVista Road, and 1235 Christmas Lane.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

No reported disturbances since the last newsletter.

## TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY UPDATE

Sidewalk repairs have recently been made that were requested by MHHA during the past year. Report other broken or unsafe sidewalks by calling 404-297-3840 and providing the street address that adjoins the sidewalk.

It has been confirmed that \$100,000 was on the HOST project list for the addition of sidewalks to our interior streets as a safety improvement for our residents, especially children walking to Torah Day School. The project remains unfunded by the DeKalb Board of Commissioners (BOC). Contact MHHA resident Liat Lasker at 404-325-5427, for more information or to assist in efforts to secure funding.

Do you know which DeKalb County projects are proposed for federal funding through the 25-year Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)? Find out more by attending a presentation and discussion on Tuesday, May 11, 5 to 7pm, in the Maloof Auditorium. The meeting is an opportunity, as well, for voicing opinions on the RTP projects. The RTP projects include road, intersection, and sidewalk improvements across the county.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Have you paid your 2004 membership dues?

Renew your membership by sending your \$20 check (or more) to our Treasurer. Include a membership form to update any information that has changed. If you prefer, you can fill in the membership form on-line at our website: [www.merryhills.com](http://www.merryhills.com). You will need to print the completed form, though, and send it with your check to the Treasurer.

## MHHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Homeowners and residents in the Merry Hills neighborhood are encouraged to join the Merry Hills Homeowners Association. Dues are \$20 annually for new members and renewing members (or more, if you choose to make a greater donation). Membership is renewed annually in January. Complete this form, make your check payable to the Merry Hills Homeowners Association, Inc. and mail your check with this form to:

Treasurer  
Steve Jenkins  
1385 Holly Lane  
Atlanta, GA 30329

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member			<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member			<input type="checkbox"/> Owner			<input type="checkbox"/> Renter		
Name(s):											
Street address:											
City:				State:				Zip:			
Home phone:						Office phone:					
E-mail address(es):											
List me in the membership directory, which prints names, street addresses and home phone numbers of members (does not list E-mail addresses): (Yes/No)											
List my name in the membership directory: Exactly as above, or as follows:											
I am interested in volunteering for:											
<input type="checkbox"/> Board position			<input type="checkbox"/> Section representative			<input type="checkbox"/> Membership					
<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning			<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter			<input type="checkbox"/> Website					
<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch			<input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming newcomers								
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:											
I can contribute the following professional expertise to the Association:											

**MERRY HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board Members**

**Officers**

President..... Steve Bighouse .....[president@merryhills.com](mailto:president@merryhills.com)  
Vice President ..... Flo Wolf.....[vicepresident@merryhills.com](mailto:vicepresident@merryhills.com)  
Secretary..... Traci Lanford .....[secretary@merryhills.com](mailto:secretary@merryhills.com)  
Treasurer ..... Steve Jenkins .....[treasurer@merryhills.com](mailto:treasurer@merryhills.com)  
Past President ..... Linda Billingsley .....[pastpresident@merryhills.com](mailto:pastpresident@merryhills.com)

**Section Representatives**

Section 1 ..... Erin DiChiara .....[section1rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section1rep@merryhills.com)  
Section 2..... Doug and  
Tracy Callas ..... [section2rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section2rep@merryhills.com)  
Section 3..... Arlene Gross .....[section3rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section3rep@merryhills.com)  
Section 4..... Tracy Alexander .....[section4rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section4rep@merryhills.com)  
Section 5..... Shirley Brickman.....[section5rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section5rep@merryhills.com)  
Section 6..... Vacant .....[section6rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section6rep@merryhills.com)  
Section 7..... Jorn Winter .....[section7rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section7rep@merryhills.com)  
Section 8..... Roy Fass .....[section8rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section8rep@merryhills.com)

**Section Definitions**

Section 1 ..... 1252-1330 Merry, 1235 Christmas, 2002-2066 LaVista, 2178 LaVista  
Section 2..... 1331-1413 Merry, 2771-2801 N. Druid Hills  
Section 3..... 1246-1341 Christmas, 1724 and 1725 Pine Tree Circle  
Section 4..... 1348-1448 Christmas  
Section 5..... 1722-1755 Reindeer, 1708-1798 N. Holly  
Section 6..... 1260-1402 Holly  
Section 7..... 1406-1519 Holly, 2487-2515 N. Druid Hills  
Section 8..... 1426-1472 Wembley Court

**Chairpersons**

E-mail Administrator ....Steve Jenkins.....[mailinglist@merryhills.com](mailto:mailinglist@merryhills.com)  
Flags .....Larry Gilger.....[flagman@merryhills.com](mailto:flagman@merryhills.com)  
Neighborhood Watch....Todd Brown .....[watch@merryhills.com](mailto:watch@merryhills.com)  
Newsletter .....Lauri Trainor.....[newsletter@merryhills.com](mailto:newsletter@merryhills.com)  
Neighborhood Val Schlorff and  
Welcome ..... Virginia Smith .....[welcome@merryhills.com](mailto:welcome@merryhills.com)  
Zoning ..... Vacant .....[zoning@merryhills.com](mailto:zoning@merryhills.com)  
Webmaster .....Flo Wolf .....[webmaster@merryhills.com](mailto:webmaster@merryhills.com)

**Holiday schedule: garbage/yard waste collection**

**Memorial Day, Monday, May 31 and Independence Day, Monday, July 5**

**Mon.-Thurs, pickup will be Tues.-Thurs.**

**Tues.-Fri. pickup will be Wed.-Fri.**

**Yardwaste: Mon. pickup will be Tues. and Tues. pickup will be Wed.**

**Have an item for the MHHA Newsletter? E-mail to [newsletter@merryhills.com](mailto:newsletter@merryhills.com) by May 30.**