

MHHA ♦ CONNECTION



Fall 2010 ♦ Volume 14, Issue 1

www.merryhills.com

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MHHA Annual Meeting Sunday, November 7, 8:00pm

at Young Israel of Toco Hills, 2074 LaVista Road

*Parking available at Intown Community Church across the street

Speaker: DeKalb District 2 Commissioner Jeff Rader

Dear Neighbors,

DeKalb Commissioner Jeff Rader has been invited to speak at the Annual Meeting of the Merry Hills Homeowners Assn. (MHHA) on November 7. To make sure your concerns are covered at the meeting, we are asking your help in advance. What questions or topics would you most like Commissioner Rader to address?

You can use the online form at www.merryhills.com/questions.htm to send us your questions or topics of interest.

Why is it important to attend the Annual Meeting? A large turnout will allow us as taxpayers and voters to influence issues that concern us. Our local county government is facing challenges due to decreased tax revenues. What actions have been taken and which are being considered to address the revenue shortfalls? Recent cutbacks in service that have affected our neighborhood include closing the Briarcliff Library and closing the Kittredge Park pool in August before season's end. The closure of the Mason Mill recreation program was considered but averted thus far. This is an opportunity to discuss with our district commissioner this topic and others before he votes on a budget for next year that might increase property taxes or result in additional service cutbacks to close the budget gap.

Attending the annual meeting is a great way, also, to show your support for MHHA and the MHHA board members (*see MHHA Board on page 3*) who work on your behalf. Do not count on someone else to be there. Please plan to attend.

Flo Wolf, President
president@merryhills.com

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Membership Drive Kickoff

With annual membership expiring in December, it's time to kickoff our membership drive. See page 3 for membership dues information. Why join Merry Hills Homeowners Assn. (MHHA)? MHHA needs your financial support to sustain our all-volunteer organization. MHHA has been active as your neighborhood's civic association since 1996. During 2010, MHHA:

- Sponsored a Candidates Forum for GA State Senate election
- Communicated to elected officials opposition to "Ashkouti" proposal to redevelop North Druid Hills/Holly Lane with density of 30 rental units per acre
- Provided leadership and funding for Kittredge Park improvements as a founding member of Friends of Kittredge Park
- Informed residents about crime reports and crime prevention, Kittredge Park cleanups and master plan meetings, LCI study meetings, SLUP hearings, and more.

New feature! Pay dues online at www.merryhills.com (see page 3)

Pay dues now - you will be a member thru Dec. 2011 - What a Deal!

Kittredge Park Activities

Update on the Kittredge Park master plan from District 6 Commissioner Kathie Gannon:

“The last community meeting of the Friends of Kittredge Park was held in July to review the master plan for renovation and upgrades. This project is going slower than anticipated due to a new requirement to map the floodplain. The Watershed Department and their contractors are helping us accomplish this task so that ground breaking can be scheduled.

The remaining District 6 Bond funds from 2001 will provide for Phase I implementation that includes improvements at the entrance, benches, re-vegetation, trash receptacles, bike racks, and an eco-plan for the stream buffer restoration in the open area. Replacement of the bridge is included and will be paid for in part with federal FEMA funds. Phase 2 is in line for new park money and includes the Johns family homestead site/observation area, a nature preserve, and playground. I have asked the Parks Director and the CEO’s office to prepare an agenda item so that the Board of Commissioners can approve the Plan and have an historic document to track the planned improvements.”

See more photos at: www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Kittredge-Park/95443953911



Bridge and culvert destroyed by storm to be replaced

Volunteer needed!

MHHA appoints 3 of the 12 neighborhood representatives who guide the Friends of Kittredge Park (FKP) organization, according to its charter. If you have a strong interest in the future of Kittredge Park and would like to be our MHHA representative to FKP, email president@merryhills.com or leave a message on the MHHA Hotline at 404-935-6936. MHHA’s president needs to appoint at least one more representative or one will be recruited from another neighborhood and our voice in the park’s future will be diminished.

Friends of Kittredge Park (FKP) has organized monthly cleanups in the park during the past year to prevent ivy and privet from crowding out and destroying desirable native trees and shrubs. Cleanup efforts by volunteers from the surrounding neighborhoods and student volunteers recruited through Park Pride and Emory University have made a positive impact on the park.



Emory student volunteers



Flo Wolf removing kudzu near Holly Lane entrance to park at site of future playground

Crime prevention

Crimemapping.com reported the following incidents in the vicinity of MHHA during July, August, and September:

Street robbery

- Beechcliff Dr., July 23 (gun)
- Briarcliff Rd., July 6 (vicinity Whole Foods)
- N. Druid Hills Rd., July 7 (gun, vicinity Target)
- N. Druid Hills Rd., July 15 (vicinity Toco Hills Shopping Center)
- N. Druid Hills Rd., Aug. 27 (purse snatching, vicinity Target)

Robbery, residence

- Willow Lake Dr., July 1 (gun, Park at Briarcliff Apts.)
- Willow Lake Dr., July 9 (home invasion, gun, Park at Briarcliff Apts.)

Auto thefts

- Carolyn Dr., July 21,
- N. Crossing Cir. Aug. 19
- Willow Lake Dr., Sept. 17 (Park at Briarcliff Apts.)

Burglary, residence

- Holly Ln., July 23
- Bramble Rd., July 23
- N. Holly Ln., Sept. 28

Crime prevention *(continued)*

You can keep informed about criminal activity at www.crimemapping.com. You can view incidents reported by entering “your street address, Atlanta GA 30329” in the search box. You can sign up for email crime alerts by clicking the “sign up” or “receive crime alerts” link at the top of the web page.

MHHA requested additional DeKalb police patrols in August and activated the MHHA crime prevention committee. Its initial activity was a “Take a Bite Out of Crime” Ice Cream Social on Sept. 1 at Bruster’s. DeKalb Interactive Community Police (ICP) officer Obester, who patrols the area by bike, spoke to residents about preventing crime in the area.

MHHA Board Members

In May of this year, the following board members were elected to office:

Flo Wolf, President
 Moshe Hiller, Vice President
 Lynn Koffsky, Secretary
 Dan Wenger, Treasurer
 Mitchell Bolgla, Membership Coordinator
 Ed Koffsky, Crime Prevention Coordinator
 Directors: David Kapenstein, Matt Rachford, Betsy Cenker, Bettina Bankamp, Jeff Cohen

Membership Dues

Membership is on a calendar year basis, January to December. Dues are \$25 per year for each new or renewing member household. Live on the following residential streets? Your household is eligible for MHHA membership.

Biltmore Drive (1305 to 1505)	Dalewood Drive Declair Drive	Nantahalla Court North Crossing Drive	Sheffield Drive Sheffield Glen Way Wembley Court
Bramble Road	Holly Lane	North Crossing Circle	North Druid Hills Road (2487 to 2827, odd-numbered residences)
Breezy Lane	Jody Lane	North Holly Lane	LaVista Road (1662 to 2204, even-numbered residences)
Briar Oaks Trail	Kittredge Court	Pine Tree Circle	
Carolyn Drive	LaChona Court	Pineway Drive	
Christmas Lane	Merry Lane	Reindeer Drive	

Pay Online with PayPal at www.merryhills.com



You can now pay membership dues online with PayPal. Join or renew MHHA membership -- click the “Join/Membership” link near the top of the page at www.merryhills.com.

Pay by Check

To join or renew membership, complete the membership form and send it with your \$25 check to

Merry Hills H.A. with the following form to:

Merry Hills H.A., P.O. Box 98490, Atlanta, GA 30359



Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail address(es): _____

Contact me about volunteering for _____



DESIGN A LOGO FOR MERRY HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Merry Hills Homeowners Assn. is looking for an alternate to our current logo. If your logo is chosen you will receive a gift card to a local merchant. Submit your design along with a completed Logo Artwork Release Form on the next page to:

Betsy Cenker
bgcenk228@comcast.net or
1308 Bramble Road
Atlanta, GA 30329
Before the November 7 Meeting

Logo Artwork Release Form

Merry Hills Homeowners Assn. (MHHA) is looking for an alternate graphic design image or “logo” to depict our organization. This image may be used for a variety of purposes, including MHHA’s website, newsletters, signage, stationery, t-shirts, and other collateral and promotional pieces. MHHA is reaching out to our community to participate in this open design competition.

Artwork Contest Rules:

1. The winning artist will receive a gift card to a local merchant.
2. One (1) entry per individual.
3. All artwork will include the words “Merry Hills”, “Merry Hills Homeowners Association”, or initials “MHHA”.
4. All artwork must be on a solid white background on an 8 ½” X 11” size paper, or printable on 8½” X 11” paper. The design should be suitable for single color printing.
5. Include your name in the lower right corner of your design.
6. Submit your design with this form to Betsy Cenker at bgcenk228@comcast.net or 1308 Bramble Road, Atlanta GA 30329, before the November 7 meeting.
7. The winning design will be selected at the MHHA Annual Meeting on November 7.
8. Merry Hills Homeowners Assn. will determine the suitability of the design for use as a logo or for other purposes. All entries will become property of MHHA.
9. Contact Betsy Cenker at bgcenk228@comcast.net with any questions about the contest.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

I certify that the artwork submitted to Merry Hills Homeowners Assn. for the logo contest was made by the artist indicated, and was not copied from another photograph, illustration or website, or made by another. I understand that the artwork will not be returned. I give permission to Merry Hills Homeowners Assn. (MHHA) to reproduce, prepare derivative works, publish, distribute copies to the public, display publicly, incorporate in articles for sale, and use the artwork for all purposes deemed appropriate by MHHA and to distribute the artwork through a variety of media, including but not limited to print, television, websites, or any other means. MHHA may also permit a third party to exercise these rights, including but not limited to the right to display or distribute the artwork, in a manner MHHA deems appropriate.

Signature of Artist _____

If artist is under age 18:

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Rezoning and Land Use Activities

Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael

On September 14, 2010, Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael received a conditional special land use permit (SLUP) from the DeKalb Board of Commissioners (BOC) to build a place of worship and a dormitory (*see final list of conditions at merryhills.com/zoning.htm*). The site plan showed a total buildout of 43,000 sq. ft., about 5 times the existing square footage. In 2007, the BOC approved a 4-year SLUP that did not permit new buildings. Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael's 3.74-acre property has vehicular access through a driveway on Holly Lane. The property is bordered by homes on Holly Lane, Kittredge Park; and DeKalb School property.

Target on Briarcliff Road

In August 2010, a required pre-application neighborhood meeting was arranged by the owner of the wooded property behind Target on Briarcliff Road. The property owner, Scarlett Associates, proposed a 575-unit two-story storage facility for their property, but, as of publication, had not filed an application for rezoning. Under the current zoning ordinance, rezoning is required to build the facility. North Druid Hills Residents Association represents those residents closest to the proposed project.

Young Israel of Toco Hills

On January 26, 2010, Young Israel of Toco Hills received a conditional special land use permit (SLUP) from the DeKalb BOC for a place of worship on property fronting LaVista Road between Merry and Christmas Lanes. The site plan submitted with the SLUP application showed a 15,000 sq. ft. building planned for the 3.37-acre site (*see final list of conditions at www.merryhills.com/zoning.htm*).



Sign up for MHHA Electronic Alerts and Updates

MHHA uses an automated system, PHPList, to send email alerts and updates to MHHA residents. Keep informed with crime alerts, meeting notices, and other timely info. If you are not receiving MHHA email alerts and updates, you can sign up at www.merryhills.com.

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MHHA HOTLINE: 404-935-6936



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