

*President*  
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*Vice President*  
*Flo Wolf*  
*vicepresident@merryhills.com*



*Secretary*  
*Arlene Gross*  
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*Treasurer*  
*Steve Jenkins*  
*treasurer@merryhills.com*

**October 2004, Vol. 9 No. 4**

## **President's Message**

Thanks to Traci Lanford and all the volunteers, we had a very successful block party this year. It was well attended and fun was had by all. We are also moving along well with the incorporation of Jodi and Bramble into our association, thanks to the efforts of our new section representatives: Section 9 Representative (Jodi Lane) Simon Ghertner and Section 10 Representatives (Bramble Road) Victor and Nelda Rousso. The Arnold Property (Toco Hills Park) has been deferred once again until the January DeKalb County Planning Board Meeting to give the county more time to negotiate the acquisition of this land as a park. The owners of the land are said to finally be open to selling the property as opposed to leasing it, which has been one of the stumbling blocks of the negotiations. We are still in need of a Zoning Chairman. If anyone is interested in zoning, please contact me at [president@merryhills.com](mailto:president@merryhills.com) to learn more.

*Steve Bighouse*

## **Kittredge Park Update**

As announced at our block party, our neighborhood received exciting news by way of DeKalb County's Green Space Initiative and the Arthur Blank Foundation. A deal has been negotiated to purchase a combined 28 acres from the Gatchell Home and the Audubon Society. This land is accessed by the side street off Holly Lane near the Gatchell Home and the side street between the Open Campus football stadium and Kittredge Magnet School. The land is going to be added to the current Kittredge Park to provide our area with a very large new green space/park. As part of our semiannual meeting in November, we are planning to have a discussion about what we would like to see as part of the new park. Many thanks to Linda Billingsley, our past president, and Liz Beyer, North Druid Hills HOA's current president, for their efforts in helping to facilitate this park for our area. We also need to express our appreciation to Commissioner Judy Yates, who allocated \$4.5 million of her total \$7.2 million for the purchase of this land. She has also allocated \$400,000 for renovations, trails and enhancement of natural areas. The county will have to do some demolition and construction before we will be able to start utilizing the park, so please be patient as this work is carried out.

## **CCTMA Transportation Study Includes LaVista Road and Toco Hill Transportation Improvements**

A transportation study by the Clifton Corridor Transportation Management Association (CCTMA) is in the process of identifying transportation needs and improvement priorities in and around the Clifton Corridor, that will alleviate congestion and allow for future growth of the corridor. Some possible improvements listed in the study are widening LaVista Road and Briarcliff Road and adding streetcars; rail transit on North Druid Hills Road; and redevelopment of Toco Hill Shopping Center to include residential, retail and multi-modal concepts. The study's recommendations will be incorporated into the DeKalb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, currently in an update process. The CCTMA has published a 25-page summary of its August public meeting on its website, [www.cctma.com/PublicWorkshop3Summary.htm](http://www.cctma.com/PublicWorkshop3Summary.htm), where comments and suggestions may also be given to the CCTMA study team. It is projected that after a series of three workshops that will gather input from representatives of neighborhood and civic associations, including Merry Hills Homeowners Association (MHHA), the study will complete its final recommendations by February 2005. MHHA Vice President Flo Wolf is representing our association. MHHA residents can send comments and suggestions about the study to

[vicepresident@merryhills.com](mailto:vicepresident@merryhills.com). For more details, see the "Latest News" page on our website at [www.merryhills.com](http://www.merryhills.com).

### **Affordable Housing for Orthodox Families**

Two real estate developers are partnering to create affordable housing near four of Atlanta's Orthodox synagogues. The developers bought the Toco Hills Apartments along LaVista Road with condominium conversion in mind. The plans for the gated community include about 30 home sites, a playground and a common room to hold minyan and simchas. The homes will be designed with observant families in mind, including large kitchens and dining rooms. They plan to donate a portion of each sale back to six participating Atlanta Jewish organizations and hope the total donation will amount to \$50,000. **(Reprinted in part from *The Jewish Times*, June 22, 2004)**

### **Development Around MHHA**

- New Facility for Open Campus High School: *The Champion Free Press* on July 30, 2004, announced that the DeKalb School System has purchased the old American Fare property on Mountain Industrial Way for a new driver education facility, which will open Aug. 9. Other uses of this property will include "A new 155,000-square-foot Open Campus High School to replace the existing Open Campus at the Jim Cherry Center." Designs are currently underway for the facility, but no time table was given. Open Campus at Jim Cherry shares the old Briarcliff High School with the DeKalb School of the Arts, 2415 N. Druid Hills Road.
- Mason Quality Homes is building new homes at 1265 and 1381 Jody Lane. The existing homes have been demolished. The developer's name is Marc Greene.

### **News of Interest**

- School Speed Zones on LaVista Rd.: Everyone should note the new 25-mile-per-hour speed zone on LaVista Road during school hours. The speed zone starts at about 2074 LaVista and continues through to Biltmore Drive. There are at least five crosswalks in this stretch. The reduced-speed limit applies in the morning and afternoon hours (these hours are posted on the signs.)
- During recent severe weather, our neighborhood lost large trees on N. Holly, Merry and Holly Lanes.
- Neighborhood Watch/ Crimes:
  - In June, someone tried to enter the Dollar Store at Toco Hill through the roof, without success.
  - There was a burglary at Weatherstone Townhomes while the homeowner was present. The burglar managed to escape over the back fence.

### **Hazardous Waste Reminder**

Recently, two sanitation workers were injured when an acid was discarded with household trash. Hazardous waste should NOT be included in household trash, but should be either recycled or disposed at hazardous waste facilities. Examples of common household hazardous wastes are used motor oil, oil-based paint, auto batteries, gasoline, and pesticides. Motor oil can be taken to a Jiffy Lube for disposal. If in doubt whether a substance can be included with household trash, or where or how to dispose of it, call the DeKalb County Sanitation Department at 404-294-2900.

### **People in the Neighborhood**

- Rabbi Michael Berger has been named the Headmaster of Yeshiva High School located at 3130 Raymond Dr. He is also a tenured professor of religion at Emory University.
- Doug Callas who has served as vice president and Section Rep. of MHHA, can lay claim to the longest commute to work. He now regularly travels to Australia.
- Louise Daniel, former Section Rep., has been seriously ill and is now residing in Plantation South in Duluth.
- Louise Shattles has moved to a retirement home in Blairsville.
- Marian and Lew Fern have been married 63 years. Can anyone top that? Let us hear about any anniversary over 50.
- Dr. Ronald and Elizabeth Nadler toured Vietnam and Cambodia for a month in the spring.

- Julia Libman has moved to assisted living in Buckhead.
- Katherine Ellis is selling her home and moving in with her son.
- Becky Shults is moving back to Cobb County.

**NEW NEIGHBORS**

Ray Calvey, Wembley Ct  
 Vera and Georgi Kazachka, Wembley Ct  
 Bik Yee NG, Holly Ln  
 Karthick and Stephanie Kasirajan, Wembley Ct  
 Brad and Lesley Sechinger, Wembley Ct

**NEW BABIES**

Chip and Kristi Mullins, a girl, Sidney Elizabeth, in June.  
 Eric and Cheryl Goldstein, a girl, Ella, in August.  
 Menachem and Dena Deutsch, a girl, Sarah, born in June.

**CONDOLENCES**

Dorothy Bovard lost her husband, Alfred.  
 Robert Kraus, a longtime resident aged 93, died in July.  
 Helen Lawson, a longtime resident, died in a nursing home at the age of 93.  
 Zelda Ross died in June.  
 Joe Vogt of the Vogt Riding Academy on Houston Mill Road, died at 89. He started the academy 50 years ago. Many local residents learned to ride and love horses there.

**Please Note -- Hotmail Account Users:** We will no longer be able to support NEW email addresses for Hotmail accounts. Too often the emails fail when the mailbox reaches its maximum size. We want to make sure that the email address we use to contact you is a viable one. If you are already subscribed to our mailing list, we are recommending that you provide an email account other than a free Hotmail account. Yahoo, for instance, gives 100 MB of free email storage in comparison to Hotmail's 1MB. Thanks for your cooperation!  
 Steve Jenkins/Email Admin -- mailinglist@merryhills.com

**2004 MHHA Membership \$20 - What a Bargain!**

The 2004 annual membership drive is well under way! Help us make this fiscal year bigger and better than ever. Without you and your continued monetary support, we will have a difficult time planning and paying for things like National Night Out and our annual Block Party, to name a few. Don't forget membership is renewed annually in January, so renew your 2004 Membership dues today. Take a minute to complete the form below and return it with your check to our Treasurer, Steve Jenkins. Or if you prefer, you can fill in the membership form online at our website: [www.merryhills.com](http://www.merryhills.com). Either way, you will need to print the completed form, make your check payable to the Merry Hills Homeowners Association, Inc., and mail your check with the 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  
Vice President..... Flo Wolf .....vicepresident@merryhills.com  
Secretary ..... Arlene Gross.....secretary@merryhills.com  
Treasurer ..... Steve Jenkins .....treasurer@merryhills.com  
Past President..... Linda Billingsley .....pastpresident@merryhills.com

**Section Representatives**

Section 1 ..... Erin DiChiara .....section1rep@merryhills.com  
Section 2 ..... Doug and Tracy Callas .... section2rep@merryhills.com  
Section 3 ..... Bess and Shawn Allen.....section3rep@merryhills.com  
Section 4 ..... Tracy Alexander .....section4rep@merryhills.com  
Section 5 ..... Shirley Brickman.....section5rep@merryhills.com  
Section 6 ..... Jean Cohen .....section6rep@merryhills.com  
and Betty Jean Dolan  
Section 7 ..... Jorn Winter .....section7rep@merryhills.com  
Section 8 ..... Ariana and Roy Fass .....section8rep@merryhills.com  
Section 9 ..... Simon Ghertner .....section9rep@merryhills.com  
Section 10 ..... Nelda and Victor Rousso section10rep@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  
Section 9 ..... Jody Lane  
Section 10 ..... Bramble Road

**Chairpersons**

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

**Holiday Schedule: Garbage/Yard Waste Collection**

Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11: No change in household waste. Yardwaste pick-up is Wed.  
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25: Household waste ONLY Tues. Yardwaste pick-up is Wed.  
Christmas Eve Day, Friday, December 24: Household waste is Tues./Thurs. Yardwaste pick-up is Wed.  
New Year's Day, Friday, December 31: Household waste is Tues./Thurs. Yardwaste pick-up is Wed.

Have an item for the MHHA Newsletter? E-mail to newsletter@merryhills.com by January 1, 2005.