

Kittredge Park Improvements

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Kittredge Park was expanded from less than 3 acres to more than 30 acres as a result of the 2001 Parks and Greenspace Referendum. In addition to the protected wooded acreage, the park has a swimming pool and ballfields. There are currently two entrances to the park, one on Holly Lane and another on North Druid Hills Road across from Target between Kittredge Magnet School and DeKalb School of the Arts.

This is your neighborhood park, and it is a great asset to all those who live nearby. Help us persuade DeKalb County officials to move forward with enhancements to Kittredge Park by voicing your opinion to the following officials. Contact information is listed on page 5.

- Parks and Recreation Director Marilyn Boyd Drew
- CEO Vernon Jones
- District 2 Commissioner Gale Walldorff
- District 6 Commissioner Kathie Gannon

You can sign an online petition to improve Kittredge Park. Click the link to the petition on the Parks page of our website, <http://www.merryhills.com/Parks.htm>.

Jody Lane Sidewalks

Construction of a sidewalk on Jody Lane was scheduled to start on July 10 and be finished by September 8. However, residents on Jody Lane have questioned the advisability of placing the sidewalk on the east side of the street, so construction has been delayed. The DeKalb County Public Works Director expects the sidewalk to be completed by the end of 2006.

2006 Flag Program

We hope you noticed the flags placed at driveways throughout our neighborhood in recognition of Flag Day (June 14) and Independence Day (July 4). This year, the MHHA flag program was sponsored by Marc Goldin of RE/MAX of Buckhead at Brookhaven. Larry Gilger coordinated the flag program and was assisted by a team of volunteers who distributed the flags: Linda Billingsley, Doug and Tracy Callas, Arlene Gross, Shirley Brickman, Gail Silverman, Ariel Asa, Simon and Hannah Ghertner, and Nelda Rousso. Thank you to our flag team and to Marc Goldin for making this program a success.

Elections 2006 Info

Any registered voter may vote an absentee ballot by mail without having to provide a reason for doing so. Call DeKalb Voter and Elections, 404-298-4020, for an absentee ballot application.

June 29 Candidates Fair

MHHA President Flo Wolf and Section 9 Representative Simon Ghertner were among the volunteers who staffed the June 29 Candidates Fair.

I think it is always helpful to be able to talk to a candidate face to face. I was happy to meet everyone I wanted to with no problems whatsoever.

--Linda Billingsley



Zoning and Land Use Issues

① **Congregation Shaarei Shamayim** sent a letter to 1500 households in July soliciting interest in a condominium project that would include space for the congregation on its current site at 2490 North Druid Hills Road. The proposed condominiums are one- and two-bedroom units. The property is zoned R-85 (single-family residential) with a Special Land Use Permit for a house of worship.

② **Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael** has purchased the 3.74 acres property formerly owned by the Gatchell Home and zoned R-85. The property is bounded by homes on Holly Lane and by Kittredge Park. Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael, a private high school for boys currently located on Briarcliff Road, applied to DeKalb County for a special land use permit (SLUP). According to the application, Ohr Yisrael plans to use the existing building with minor modifications. The SLUP is scheduled for a public hearing by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners in January 2007.

③ **Green Street Development** has applied for rezoning to build 21 homes in place of 3 existing homes at 2527, 2533, and 2545 North Druid Hills Road. The company presented a Conceptual Plan on July 26 to neighbors who live next to these properties and to MHA board members. This rezoning application is scheduled for review and decision at the following DeKalb County public meetings:

October 18, 6:30pm — District 2 Community Council Meeting, Northlake Library at 3772 LaVista Road

November 7, 6:30pm — Planning Commission, Maloof Auditorium at 1300 Commerce Drive in Decatur

November 20, 6:30pm — Board of Commissioners, Maloof Auditorium at 1300 Commerce Drive in Decatur

Green Street Development Conceptual Plan



④ **Young Israel of Toco Hills** notified MHA that it intends to apply to DeKalb County for permission to use property comprised of six lots on LaVista Road and Pinetree Circle for construction of a house of worship. The property is zoned R-85. A house of worship is a permissible land use in this zoning category, but requires a Special Land Use Permit from DeKalb County. The property totals at least 3 acres and includes homes at the following addresses:

1235 Christmas Lane
 2026 LaVista Road
 2032 LaVista Road
 2038 LaVista Road
 2046 LaVista Road
 1725 Pinetree Circle

Zoning and land use issues near North Druid Hills Road and Holly Lane



Crime Update

A report from the DeKalb Police Crime Awareness program showed officers responded to the following incidents in our community during third quarter of 2006 (the complete report listing all incidents is available at www.merryhills.com/watch.htm):

- Holly Lane – burglary (no force) on 4/13/06
- Jody Lane – theft by taking on 4/21/06
- Merry Lane – burglary (forced entry) on 6/9/06
- Wembley Court – theft from vehicle on 4/12/06

On May 29, our neighborhood was canvassed by a man dressed in a T-shirt displaying ADT Security and Honeywell patches who did not possess the required DeKalb County permit for solicitation. An alert resident on Bramble Road called 911—and the MHHA Hotline—and police removed the individual. A similar incident was reported by the Medlock Area Neighborhood Association (MANA) to police. Police are familiar with this suspicious activity and always ask these canvassers to leave the area. If you encounter someone fitting this description, refrain from giving him or her any information, make note of which way he or she is headed and call 911 immediately.



To report a crime or suspicious activity:

Call 911 to report the incident.

Call the MHHA Hotline, 404-935-6936, to report the incident so an alert can be distributed to our residents if warranted.

Toco Hills NORC Distributes Beacon Lights

On August 3, Deborah Carter with Toco Hills NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities) delivered complimentary beacon safety lights to seniors in our area. Much to the delight of our younger neighbors, a firetruck accompanied Ms. Carter. NORC is currently housed at the Mason Mill Recreation Center. NORC offers monthly lunch and learn programs and outings to those in the 60+ age group—2,097 adults over the age of 65 live in Toco Hills, or 15.73% of the total population. Some of the services available through NORC are home-delivered meals, home-sharing assistance, and answers to questions a senior or family member may have on aging services.

For more info about NORC's services or membership, call 404-633-3033 or email dcarter@jfc-atlanta.org.

Our Neighbors

New MHHA members

Hwei Chen and Jim Kirkland

New neighbors

Barbara Blount

Anna and Noah Hartman

Sholly and Julie Feifer

Wes Sargent

Katy Winthrop

Matthew Rachford

Charles and LaShanah Cooper

Debbie Rochester

Harvey and Sheila Barry

Congratulations

Anna and Noah Hartman have a new baby boy who was born in June.

Condolences

Arthur Strauss passed away in July. Arthur was well known to many neighbors as the proprietor of Arthur's Kosher Market on Briarcliff Road.

DeKalb County Code and Ordinance

One way to make a neighborhood attractive is for residents to gain familiarity with the local property maintenance code and zoning ordinance. The following list summarizes regulations that are designed to protect the environment and maintain the appearance of our neighborhood.

- Remove trashcans from the curb on the same day after trash pickup.
- Keep grass and weeds cut below 12 inches high.
- Keep all stored items in an enclosed area instead of outside. This includes such items as tires, appliances, auto parts, and old furniture.
- You can erect a fence up to 4 feet high in the front yard and 8 feet high in the side or rear yard.
- You cannot park a junk vehicle (one which is inoperable or lacks current tags) in a residential zone.
- You can park vehicles on a paved surface, but you cannot park on the grass.
- You can park a business vehicle—such as a passenger car or pick-up—in a carport or to the side or rear of the house.
- You cannot keep a commercial vehicle—such as semi-tractors, panel vans, school buses, cargo vans—in a residential zone.

DeKalb County officials can enforce the Property Maintenance Code and the Zoning Ordinance by issuing a warning with a set period to come into compliance. They can then issue a citation to appear in court. For more info, call Code Enforcement at 404-417-1240.

Contact Information for Public Officials

DeKalb County Government

1300 Commerce Drive, 6th Floor
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Chief Executive Officer

Vernon Jones, ceo@co.dekalb.ga.us, 404-371-2881

Board of Commissioners

*commissioners for our neighborhood

*District 2: Gale Walldorff, 404-371-2886, galew@co.dekalb.ga.us

*District 6: Kathie Gannon, 404-371-4909, kgannon@co.dekalb.ga.us

District 1: Elaine Boyer, 404-371-2844, njmcbriid@co.dekalb.ga.us

District 3: Larry Johnson, 404-371-2425, larryjohnson@co.dekalb.ga.us

District 4: Burrell Ellis, 404-371-4907, bellis@co.dekalb.ga.us

District 5: Lee May

District 7: Connie Stokes, 404-371-3053, conniestokes@co.dekalb.ga.us

Parks and Recreation

Director: Marilyn Boyd Drew, 404-371-2631, mdrew@co.dekalb.ga.us
1300 Commerce Dr., Suite 200
Decatur, GA 30030

Planning and Development

Director: Patrick Ejike, 404-371-2155 or 404-371-2167, pejike@co.dekalb.ga.us
300 West Ponce deLeon Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030

Public Works

Director: Mr. Ted Rhinehart, 404 371-4778, pwdirector@co.dekalb.ga.us
330 West Ponce de Leon Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030

State Legislators

Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30034

Sen. David Adelman, 404-463-1376, david.adelman@senate.ga.gov

Sen. Pat Gardner, 404-656-0265, pat@patgardner.org

Sen. Mike Jacobs, 404-656-0325, georgiamike@comcast.net

25-Year Comprehensive Plan Nearing Completion

DeKalb County's 25-Year Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for adoption by October 31, 2006. The current draft of the plan is available at DeKalb County libraries and online at the DeKalb County Planning Department website, <http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/planning>. The Comprehensive Plan, which incorporates the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, will shape land use and development as well as the transportation infrastructure for our neighborhood through 2030.

Future Development

What nearby development does the Comprehensive Plan project? It identifies three nearby areas for future development as Neighborhood and Town Centers.

Sage Hill and the area surrounding the Briarcliff/LaVista intersection are designated as Neighborhood Centers. Development of a Neighborhood Center will include a mix of retail, services, and offices to serve neighborhood residents' day-to-day needs.

The Toco Hills area around North Druid Hills/LaVista/Clairmont Roads is designated a larger Town Center. Development of a Town Center will include a relatively high-density mix of retail, office, services, and employment to serve a regional market area.

Transportation Projects

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan identifies transportation projects as short-range, mid-range, and long-range, with recommended completion during the 2006-2011, 2012-2020, and 2021-2030 time frames, respectively. Funding for these projects will need to be identified for implementation.

Short-range recommended projects include:

- a traffic study and improvements for the Houston Mill/LaVista Road intersection
- intersection improvements for Sage Hill
- a transit center, including Clifton Corridor Transportation Management Association (CCTMA) shuttles, for the Toco Hills Town Center
- bicycle lanes on LaVista Road
- sidewalks on Bramble Road, Christmas Lane, Sheffield Drive, and Biltmore Road from Stephens Drive to Clifton Road

Mid-Range recommended projects include:

- intersection improvements and turn lanes at Briarcliff Road and LaVista Road
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along Clairmont and North Druid Hills Road from Decatur to Brookhaven via a transit center at the Toco Hills Town Center
- A rail commuter/shuttle station at the Sage Hill Neighborhood Center



Thank you to delivery team volunteers, including: Hannah and Simon Ghertner, Tracy Alexander, Arlene Gross, Tracy and Doug Callas, Shirley Brickman, Ariana Fass, Nelda and Victor Rousso, Linda Billingsley, Larry Gilger, Pat Jenkins, Ariel Asa, and Gail Silverman.

MHHA Connection

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zoning@merryhills.com

Val Schlorff and Virginia Smith,
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Newsletter printed by the UPS Store in
the Toco Hills Shopping Center



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