

MHHA CONNECTION

Summer 2007 ♦ Volume 12, Issue 3



www.merryhills.com

A quarterly newsletter by the Merry Hills Homeowners Association

Last meeting for Briarcliff/North Druid Hills development study on September 6

The last meeting of the Briarcliff/N. Druid Hills development study conducted by Alex Garvin will be on Thursday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kittredge Magnet School on North Druid Hills Road. Alex Garvin's final master plan and zoning proposal for the area will be presented.

NOTE: This meeting was originally scheduled for August 29 and has been rescheduled.

DeKalb County Commissioners Rader and Gannon have appointed a committee of professional planners from the surrounding area who have volunteered to review and critique the study recommendations. The committee's review has determined that adequate traffic analysis data is not forthcoming within the scope of the study.

MHHA zoning chair Debra Edelson is a member of the technical review committee.

| In this Issue | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Briarcliff/N. Druid study | 1 |
| July 31 CAN meeting | 1 |
| New members | 2 |
| 2007 flag program | 2 |
| Crime update | 2 |
| Zoning and land use update | 2 |
| PDK Watch | 2 |
| Public officials contact list ... | 3 |
| ICE your cell phone | 4 |
| MHHA board members | 4 |

It's not a done deal, says Commissioner Rader

DeKalb Commissioner Jeff Rader has stated publicly that Sembler Company's proposed project is not a "done deal." DeKalb Housing Authority has a contract to sell their interest in the Park at Briarcliff and DeKalb School System has signed a letter of intent to sell the North Druid Hills Road school property, but both are contingent on obtaining appropriate zoning for the proposed project. On June 27, plans were unveiled to add the following residential and commercial space to the Briarcliff/North Druid Hills area: retail space equal to both Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza combined, and residential units equal to 6 Post Briarcliff complexes. Georgia DOT says North Druid Hills Road in 2006 had an average daily traffic of 50,000 cars south of I-85. The MHHA board took action and voted to send a letter to DeKalb Commissioners Rader and Gannon expressing the association's opposition to the development as proposed.

July 31 CAN meeting at Lakeside HS draws hundreds



More than 500 attendees packed a hot auditorium at Lakeside High School on July 31 to hear other viewpoints and voice their own opinions about proposed development at Briarcliff and North Druid Hills Roads.

The meeting was sponsored by state legislators Mike Jacobs and Kevin Levitas, and by CAN, the Civic Association Network, a coalition for the purpose of inter-neighborhood communication and cooperation in central DeKalb county. A PowerPoint program was presented by civic leaders including MHHA president Flo Wolf

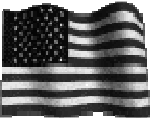
Audience members criticized the proposed development plans and were directed to organize their opposition and to contact public officials by snail mail as well as phone and email to make their viewpoints known. *See contact list on page 3.*

George Goldman, MHHA resident, pledged \$1,000 to start an opposition group and this group is currently in the process of formation. If you missed the July 31 Civic Association Meeting, you can view the PowerPoint presentation, photos and comments from the audience at <http://www.northbriarcliff.org/Reference/FlyOnTheWall/070731CANpubmtg.htm>.

New MHHA members

Barbara Blount, Christmas Lane
Emmanuel and Randee Goldberger, N. Holly Lane

2007 flag program



Flags were placed at driveways throughout our neighborhood in recognition of Flag Day, June 14 and Independence Day, July 4. The MHHA flag program this year was again sponsored by *Marc Goldin of RE/MAX of*

Buckhead at Brookhaven, www.marcgoldin.com and coordinated by MHHA member Larry Gilger with the assistance of the following neighbors who made flag deliveries: Linda Billingsley, Doug/Tracy Callas, Arlene Gross, Shirley Brickman, Gail Silverman, Ariel Asa, Matt Rachford, and Adrienne Feinberg. Thank you to Marc Goldin, Larry Gilger, and the delivery team who made this event possible!

Crime update

A crime report from the DeKalb County Police Dept. for April to August 15 is online at <http://www.merryhills.com/watch.htm>. MHHA has confirmed the following information with the DeKalb Police Dept.:

- Five houses were burglarized from April through Aug. 15 on LaVista Road and Merry Lane.
- Two armed robberies on North Druid Road. One at Fidelity Bank on July 11 and a suspect was caught and arrested. The other at Wachovia Bank on July 14 and the suspect is described as a black male, 5'8", about 30 to 35 years old, with no beard or mustache.
- On July 31, at 8:06 a.m., a black female approached a man at an ATM machine on North Druid Hills Road, requested his wallet and stabbed him. No arrest has been made. Police caution residents to use an indoor ATM machine or bank teller when possible.
- On Miles Lane (near LaVista Road) on August 14 at 10 a.m., a teenager returning home found a burglary in progress and was threatened with a sharpened screwdriver but unhurt. Jewelry/valuables were taken. Break-in was a forced entry through a locked door. Suspect was black, 5 ft. 10 in., wearing a ski mask and cap.



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.

DeKalb-Peachtree (PDK) Airport

Open DeKalb Inc. announced a breakthrough in its efforts to raise \$50,000 needed to initiate a second lawsuit to require enforcement of the contractually binding 66,000 lb. weight limit at PDK Airport.

An anonymous donor pledged to match up to \$10,000, on a 2 to 1 basis, all contributions to Open DeKalb Inc. made between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007. Open DeKalb previously raised \$20,000 through June 2007.

Contributions can be directed by mail to: P. O. Box 190895, Atlanta, GA 31119, or made on-line at www.opendekalbinc.org.

For more info, contact Larry Foster, 678-637-9227 or Nikki VanDerGrinten, 404-633-3952.

In August, MHHA board voted to contribute \$100 to Open DeKalb to support their lawsuit to enforce the 66,000 lb. plan limit:

Zoning and land use update

2527, 2533, and 2545 North Druid Hills Road

Since the rezoning of this property, it has been sold by the original homeowners to a developer other than Green Street Development for \$1.9 million and has once again been listed for sale at \$2.8 million. Green Street Development secured approval from the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) for a rezoning/land use change for this 2.6 acre parcel on North Druid Hills Road near Holly Lane. Approval of the rezoning is subject to a conceptual site plan shown to neighbors and a set of conditions that were negotiated by MHHA, North Druid Hills Residents Assn., and neighbors on Briaroaks Trail. The conditions of rezoning include:

- limiting construction to a maximum of 5 detached homes adjacent to Holly Lane homes and 16 attached townhouses adjacent to Briaroaks Trail
- retention of large specimen hardwood trees on the property

Temima High School

Temima High School and Congregation Beth Jacob (BJ) received a special land use permit (SLUP) from the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to construct an accessory girls' school on a 2-acre parcel next to BJ at 1839 LaVista Road. The existing building will be demolished and a new building constructed with a total square footage of about 25,000 sq. ft. Conditions of rezoning require

- relocation of the building out of the 75-foot county-mandated stream buffer
- removal of kudzu
- a variance for reduction of parking to accommodate relocation of the building out of the stream buffer

Contact List for Media and Public Officials

If you are concerned about the proposed Briarcliff/North Druid Hills Road development, take action.:

Attend meetings - Volunteer - Write letters - Send e-mail - Make phone calls
Tell school board members and county commissioners to "Say No to Sembler"

Media

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

72 Marietta St. N.W., Atlanta, GA 30303

Letters@ajc.com; Guest columns: dbeasley@ajc.com

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Connie Stokes, Super District 7

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Atlanta, GA 30303

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Atlanta, GA 30303-1223

Sonny Deriso, GRTA Chairman

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Idea: ICE your cell phone NOW!

Article courtesy of North Briarcliff Civic Association

Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. Make their job much easier with a simple idea called ICE (In Case of Emergency). Add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf. It only takes a few moments of your time to do. Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately. ICE was the brainchild of British paramedic Bob Brotchie, who recommends that you confirm with your ICE person that they are willing and that they are able to confirm your date of birth, your name, your address, and hopefully, things such as allergies, blood type, any previous medical history that may be relevant.

NOTE: Space at bottom of page left blank for mailing to those without e-mail. In the future, snail mail delivery may only be available to MHHA members due to cost constraints. If you are not a member of MHHA, make sure you sign up to receive newsletters by e-mail. You can sign up at www.merryhills.com using the Subscribe button.

MHHA Connection

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