

Neighborhood News



Volume 18 Number 4
Fall 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAVISTA PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 244190 ATLANTA, GA 30324 WWW.LAVISTAPARK.ORG

Inside:

- Patrol Update, page 2
- Board Member Spotlight, page 2
- LLCC page 3
- Athletic Club Event Report, page 3
- Healthy Trees Update, page 4
- DeKalb Parking Regs, page 3
- Night at Nicola's Restaurant, page 7

LaVista Park Civic Association Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 20

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1438 Sheridan Road

7:00 p.m. social with refreshments

7:30 - 9 p.m. meeting

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

The 2010-2011 LVPCA board would like to thank you for your assistance and hard work in supporting our mission to keep LaVista Park a safe and enjoyable place to live. We have experienced first-hand your care for and commitment to the neighborhood, whether coming to a neighbor's aid after storms blew down trees and toppled power lines or aiding a neighbor when they quickly needed help collecting their displaced belongings. These are just two examples of how you reach out daily to make LaVista Park a true community,

Thanks to you, our membership goals were achieved by neighbors responding to our needs for support and providing extra financial contributions to ensure we did indeed meet our goals. We are touched by your spirit of giving and commitment to the neighborhood and we thank you.

The LaVista Park Patrol continues to provide us with security services, patrolling our neighborhood, responding to crime incidents and providing information for neighborhood crime alerts. We are fortunate to have seasoned DeKalb County police officers on the patrol, who serve our community with a great sense of pride and duty and continue to insure we live in a safe neighborhood.

Zoning and development activities have been light this

year. We did publicize meetings and/or surveys requesting your feedback on two significant items: the GA-400/ I-85 exchange and most recently, in conjunction with Lindbergh LaVista Corridor Coalition (LLCC), resident feedback on the Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative.

Our Communications/Technology Committee did a great job revamping and streamlining the LaVista Park Web site for better ease of use. This committee also reviews, prepares and distributes e-mail communications to the neighborhood.

The Citadel Garden Club provided an informative presentation on the LaVista Park at our April quarterly meeting. They have spearheaded park awareness and neighborhood participation in park improvements such as plantings in color beds at two entrances plus Wild Creek overlook and also coordinating neighborhood work days.

We held three LaVista Park resident social events: June - Bruster's Ice Cream at Toco Hill; July - Cheshire Bridge Taste and Tour social hour at Nakato Japanese Restaurant; and September - End of Summer Pool Party at Athletic Club Northeast. In addition, we are pleased to announce that the second annual "Night at Nicola's" fundraiser and social event is set for Nov. 7 at Nicola's Lebanese Restaurant. Save the date! See separate newsletter article for details.

continued next page

The Fall Festival Committee is again in full swing planning what will be a fall day of fun for the neighborhood. The group, under the leadership of Dave Lushbaugh, works hard to insure this signature event is always successful. Come enjoy this labor of love and gift to the residents of LaVista Park on Saturday, October 15, Noon to 3 p.m.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president this past year with such positive support from both neighbors and the LVPCA board alike. Please join us for our Annual Meeting on October 20, when we will elect the 2011-2012 LVPCA board members. I encourage you take advantage of the rewarding experience of serving on the LVPCA board. If you have any questions about opportunities to serve, I and any board member are happy to talk with you. I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming annual meeting and social events.

Rock Nelson
404-354-9807
president@lavistapark.org

News and Notes from the Patrol

Even though crime statistics in the LaVista Park neighborhood remain low, we have had two homes burglarized recently. Detectives from the DeKalb Police Dept., with help from the LaVista Park Patrol, arrested the suspect involved in one of the incidents. Home burglaries and car break ins are the two most frequent crimes we see throughout the metro area. We constantly find that victims leave valuables in their vehicles in plain view. Please secure anything of value in your trunk or in your home anytime you leave your vehicle. I would also like to remind everyone to please close your garage door even if you are home.

As we patrol we often see garage doors open with lawn equipment or other valuable items in plain view. It only takes a minute for someone to drive by, see the opportunity, and grab your property before anyone notices. Unfortunately the majority of people have the "it won't happen to me" attitude. If you reverse your thinking and realize it can happen to you, it may make you stop and think about how you can best secure your home and vehicle. Most crime prevention is common sense. Please take a moment to think about your daily routine and decide what you can do to prevent yourself from being a crime victim.

The LaVista Park Patrol will have officers at the Fall Festival. If anyone has a question or would like more crime tip information, please do not hesitate to stop and talk to

one of the patrol officers.

Sgt. Dan Brignone, DeKalb County Police Department
LaVista Park Patrol Supervisor

Board Member Spotlight

From time-to-time, we will highlight a LVPCA officer. This edition, we are featuring:

Rock Nelson, President



Rock and his partner Alcides have been a part of the LaVista Park community for five years and residents of Atlanta for nearly 24 years. Rock grew up in North Alabama and moved to Atlanta after completing college. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville and also earned an MBA degree from Georgia State

University. Rock loves cycling and you may spot him with his bike in tow, off to some weekend cycling event. He is employed as a manager at Verizon Wireless where he is responsible for business relationships supporting wireless automotive and machine to machine applications.

Rock is a member of All Saints Episcopal Church and serves on the board of the Lindbergh-LaVista Corridor Coalition. He has served on the LVPCA board for four years; the past two years as president. He loves living in LaVista Park and is very happy to call our neighborhood home.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Nominations for Officers – We need you!

We will elect officers for 2011 – 2012 at the October 20 Annual Meeting. If you are interested in serving, please contact Rock Nelson at 404-354-9807. Please visit our Web site and click on the by-laws section to view the duties of elected and appointed offices. If you wish to nominate someone for any of the elected positions, please submit his or her name, telephone number, and email address to Lisa Rhodes at secretary@lavistapark.org.



LLCC News

Hello everybody, my name is Jennifer Jones and I have stepped up to take on the position of Adopt-A-Highway coordinator. I want to thank Sarah Hailey for doing a great job as our prior coordinator. I feel very passionate about this position and I hope to get as many people involved as possible.

We will continue to do litter pick up once a month. Trash pick up days will be the second Saturday of each month. The next date will be November 12. We will not meet in December because everyone has holiday stuff going on.

We meet in the old Varsity Junior parking lot at 9 a.m. I will supply the safety vests, trash bags, and some yummy snacks to get us motivated. Please bring a reacher, if you have one, and gloves.

I can be reached at the following email address: tinladyj@aol.com or call 404-372-6191.

Athletic Club Northeast Hosts LVPCA and LLCC

The Athletic Club Northeast played gracious hosts on Saturday, September 10 to the residents of LaVista Park Civic Association (LVPCA) and the Lindbergh-LaVista Corridor Coalition (LLCC). The club provided hot dogs, hamburgers, and the fixings along with chips and beverages. Attendees brought a side or covered dish of their choice to share with all.

It was a beautiful, sunny day, perfect for sitting by the club's inviting pool. Each guest was greeted by the cordial and professional staff of the Athletic Club and given a lovely gift bag filled with club guest passes and a club t-shirt among many other items. Gift packages were also raffled off to those lucky enough to have their ticket stub numbers called.

Staff members proudly offered tours of their impressive facility for all who were interested. On this fine Saturday afternoon, the club was bustling with activity. Members could be seen competing in the sport of fencing. Down the hall was a classroom full of Pilates participants. In another classroom, poised students could be seen honing their Flamenco dancing skills.

All and all, it was a most relaxing and satisfying afternoon. We are most appreciative of the staff at the Athletic Club

Northeast and thank them for their hospitality. They have become a very welcome and supportive friend of our neighborhood. To learn more about the Athletic Club Northeast, kindly visit www.athleticclubnortheast.com.

Where Can I Park My Car?

Recently some residents inquired about residential parking regulations, especially in regard to parking on the street. DeKalb County ordinance requires that all detached residences provide four off-street parking spaces. When many of the homes in LaVista Park were built, this regulation was not in force, so they are "grandfathered" and are not required to provide four parking spaces. However, any re-development or new construction must conform to current ordinance requirements. All parking shall be only on a paved surface, not gravel or on the lawn, etc.

The ordinance further states that "parking shall not be permitted within the front yard, except within a driveway or in a carport or garage" and, in any residential district, not more than 35% of the total area between the street right-of-way and the front of the building shall be paved.

It seems that the intent of the ordinance is to have all permanent parking off-street in driveways, carports and garages. That said though, nowhere in the ordinance is parking prohibited on public streets, unless so designated.

We all know that for whatever reason, parking on our residential streets is a fact of life and cannot be prohibited. When parking on the street, please be sure to park close to the curb and be mindful of the passageway on some of our narrower streets.

Bonnie Jackson
registrar@lavistapark.org

Missing or Damaged LaVista Park Patrol Signs

If you are a current LaVista Park Civic Association member and you do not have a patrol yard sign or your sign is damaged, please e-mail Wendy Yang, vp1@lavistapark.org or 404-254-2994 to have your sign replaced.

Due to the current cost of patrol signs, we now have to charge \$15 for sign replacements.

Healthy Trees Project – Conclusion

Like any good project staffed by just a few volunteers, it can get waylaid by life. But this one has come to a satisfying end. Very different from what was envisioned at the outset, but solid, useful information.

We had hoped to get a substantial group discount by consolidating our requests, scheduling “work weeks” and choosing a preferred vendor for the work. It turns out the logistics of arranging this with either the LaVista Park residents or the vendors themselves is daunting. The tree business is very fluid; circumstances will always be unique depending on the size of the tree, location, severity of disease, their current workload, etc. and there is absolutely no way to guarantee we are actually receiving a discount.

So the focus of the project changed to evaluating tree companies via neighbor recommendations and their response to our sample set of trees we let out to bid.

We want to reassure you that in no way are we forcing use of our choice on you. This is rather a way to ease the burden of sifting through an overwhelming selection of companies and give you a sense of confidence that you are working with someone reliable and reasonably priced.

We evaluated nearly 30 companies, threw out the highs and those who chose to respond only to what they wanted and not our representative sample set of 5 yards, and these were the ones who made the final cut. That’s not to say the others might not be just fine, or based on how badly they need work, might not underbid these companies. But we found these to be consistent, do good work per the reviews of neighbors and they responded professionally.

<u>Comprehensive</u>			
<u>Company</u>	<u>Primary Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	
TreeCrews.com	William Lombardo	770-479-9611	www.treecrews.com
Boutte Tree	Tierson Boutte	404-799-5472	www.bouttetree.com
Tree Cowboy	Wayne Shannon	404-423-8733	www.treecowboy.com
Gunnison	Matt Cathell	404-351-8929	www.gunnisontree.com
<u>Basic service</u>			
<u>Company</u>	<u>Primary Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	
DeKalb Tree Service	Lamar Hutchinson	404-294-4877	www.dekalbtreeservice.com
Steve's Tree Service	Steve Cargle	770-474-5565	
911 Tree Service	Lee Hayes	404-304-5466	
Atlanta Tree Arbors	Brian Hager	770-256-4599	www.atlanta-tree-removal.com

The comprehensive group can provide everything including a crane if needed to accomplish the job. The basic group gave us excellent pricing for trees that are a simple removal.

In addition, we have one pure arborist who can evaluate and treat trees for preservation apart from having a vested interest in taking it down, Gerry Korzi at gerry.korzi@arborlogicllc.com 770-402-6049. He has done a lot of pro bono work for our neighborhood and we trust his judgment.

We hope that you find this information useful; it will save you time and effort, and help us keep our wonderful tree-filled neighborhood in good health.



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or

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Friends of LaVista Park June 1, 2011 thru May 31, 2012

Show your membership card and save!

LEVEL	FRIEND	ADDRESS/PHONE	INCENTIVE
PLATINUM	Athletic Club Northeast	1515 Sheridan Rd 404.325.2700	Gift pack & free trial visit. 10% off any single club service. Discounted enrollment.
	SpaceMax Storage	1248 Zonolite Rd 404.888.9688	5% off monthly rates.
	Sunny's Cleaners	2280 Cheshire Bridge Rd 404.248.1957	10% off dry cleaning every day.
GOLD	Good Electric Corporation	770.452.4663	10% off total cost of service.
	K&M Automotive	2190 Briarcliff Rd 404.633.1677	10% off all products and services.
	Rich Vision	2484 Briarcliff Rd Ste 39 Loehmann's Plaza 404.325.3400	\$50 off pair of eyeglasses. \$25 off year's supply of contact lenses.
	Whole Foods Market	2111 Briarcliff Rd 404.634.7800	Incentive TBA at later date.

November LaVista Park Social Event and Fund Raiser “Night at Nicola’s”- Food, Fun and Entertainment

**Monday, November 7
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

Nicola’s Lebanese Restaurant, 1602 LaVista Road 404-325-2524

Adult Meal Ticket Price: \$20 per person, which includes tax and tip.

Kid’s Meal, children age 10 & under \$5

Half of all proceeds go to LVPCA.

Choose from:

- Nicola’s Delight-Beef
 - Schadia’s Delight-Chicken
 - Aya’s Delight-Vegetarian
 - Kid’s Meal - Fries and Chicken Tenders
- Baklava dessert included with each meal.

Alcoholic beverages \$4.



Belly Dancing entertainment.

Proceeds will be applied to our 2011 budget. Help us reach our fundraising goal of \$1000

All Meal Tickets to be sold in advance by LVPCA. To Order tickets:

- Tickets may be purchased online at our Web site at www.lavistapark.org.
- Make checks payable to LaVista Park Civic Association with a notation “November LVPCA social event”
- Send checks to LaVista Park Civic Association, P.O. Box 244190, Atlanta, GA 30324-2404
- Include an e-mail address or phone number so we can confirm receipt of your payment and tickets ordered.

All tickets will be available for pick-up at the entrance of Nicola’s Restaurant the night of the event.

Ticket sales are final and non-refundable for non-attendance.

Tickets will also be on sale at the Fall Festival, October 15 and at the October 20 LVPCA annual meeting.

Deadline for receipt of all ticket orders is **Tuesday, November 1.**

Ticket price includes:

Soft Drink, Water or Ice Tea

Dinner Selections

Nicola’s Delight: Hommos, Grape Leaves, Fattoush, Tabbouleh, Kibbee, Kafta, and Baba Ghanoush.

Schadia’s Delight: Hommos, Chicken Tenders, Spinach Pie, Fattoush, and Baba Chanoush.

Aya’s Delight: Hommos, Baba Ghanoush, Fattoush, Tabbouleh, Artichokes, Spinach Pie, and Vegetarian Grape Leaves.

Child’s Plate: Chicken Fingers and Fries.

For menu item descriptions and more details regarding Nicola’s Restaurant please visit: www.nicolas-restaurant.com.

Any questions, please contact Rock Nelson 404.354.9807 or Dan Strother 404.849.6626.

2011 LaVista Park Civic Association Officers

President

Rock Nelson 404.728.0889 president@lavistapark.org

Executive Vice President

Adam Abramson 703.867.0614 execvp@lavistapark.org

Secretary

Lisa Rhodes 404.633.7855 secretary@lavistapark.org

Registrar

Bonnie Jackson 404.634.6332 registrar@lavistapark.org

Treasurer

Steve Richards 404.633.3558 treasurer@lavistapark.org

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Wendy Yang 404.254.2994 vp1@lavistapark.org

Vice President Section 2

Rebecca Apel 612.817.0312 vp2@lavistapark.org

Vice President Section 3

Nicola Printer 404.982.1392 vp3@lavistapark.org

Vice President Section 4

Dan Strother 404.321.1043 vp4@lavistapark.org

Neighborhood Watch & Patrol Coordinator

David Allred 404.321.3059 watch@lavistapark.org

Zoning Coordinators

Sue Hartman 404.248.1133 zoning@lavistapark.org

Natural Environment Committee

Ken Duke 404.633.5017 park@lavistapark.org

Technology Committee

Steve Patrick 404.358.2888 technology@lavistapark.org

Fall Festival Committee

Dave Lushbaugh 404.636.7606 festival@lavistapark.org

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