

DUNWOODY NORTH CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Gathering Information for the Dunwoody North Community

Summary:

The majority of calls received by the DNCA in the last year have been regarding zoning, Brook Run, Peachtree Dekalb Airport and neighborhood attractiveness. Your board met recently to discuss these issues and do some strategic planning. The DNCA is reorganizing to better service the community.

Reorganization:



The DNCA will be organized around three major topics which all impact our quality of life and our property values, 1) The people (i.e. Neighbor to Neighbor camaraderie and commitment), 2) The property (i.e. Visual attractiveness of the neighborhood), 3) The politics (i.e. Northeastern Dunwoody as part of the bigger picture that affects our Neighborhood.

We will also refocus the newsletter to reflect this approach. The newsletter will have a "President's Message" section, a "We the People" section, a "Manor Matters" and a "Maloof and the Gold Dome" section.

The "We the People" section will consist of "Announcements", "Neighbor to Neighbor", School Notes, Dunwoody North Driving Club Notes, and a "Neighborhood Watch Report" to address "the people" part of the strategic plan.

The "Manor Matters" section addresses the property part of the strategic plan. It will include the Dunwoody North Home and Garden Club Notes and reports on how to make our neighborhood more attractive.

The "Maloof and The Gold Dome" section will include "About Politics" which will focus on issues like zoning, Brook Run and PDK. It will include an "Information Digest" section and will address "the politics" part of the strategic plan. This month in "Information Digest" we focus on Community Council.

JUNE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2000

7:00pm – SOCIAL- Meet the Candidates for Sheriff and Judge

7:30pm - GENERAL MEETING Update on Brook Run and PDK, Vote on changing how often the newsletter is sent out from four letters sent to the entire community to one annual membership report with renewal envelope enclosed sent to the entire community in the fall. A second letter sent as a status report in the spring to members only and as many letters as needed at other times to inform the community of pressing issues.

8:00pm – Program:

Peggy Bailey of Morris, Manning & Martin will speak to us about estate planning, who needs a will and why, living wills, powers of attorney for financial matters and healthcare in addition to tips on how to keep your hard earned money instead of giving it to Uncle Sam.

Lisa Zier of Salomon Smith Barney will speak about SCHOLAR'S CHOICE, a college-funding program

Location: Dunwoody North Driving Club, Clubhouse, 4522 Kingsgate Dr.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Strong Membership:

As the Dunwoody North Civic Association (DNCA) enters the new millennium, it needs strong membership to be prepared for several explosive issues facing us. We will be the best source of information regarding your neighborhood available to you by researching and gathering information on our own as well as from existing media sources.

Importance of Membership:

The Brook Run issue is beginning to smolder again. PDK is quickly losing its neighborhood airport reputation. While we Americans and we DNCA neighbors are so blissfully happy, major decisions affecting our lives are being implemented with no scrutiny from us. We have a Civic Association. Any one of us facing great odds against some bigger entity whom is impacting our quality of life has a group to stand behind us and support us. But we have to be willing to count ourselves with the group. In politics the biggest groups get the most attention from their representatives.

"How many members belong to the Association (DNCA) is very important, now more than ever. My experience in dealing with the county is that numbers translate into respect."

Gerri Penn, Past President and present VP of Membership, DNCA



Recently DNCA has:

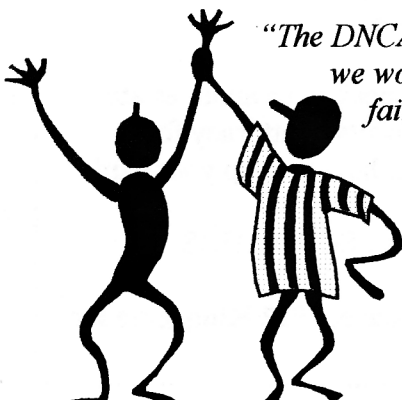
- * Worked with many Chesnut Elementary parents to correct crosswalk issues at the school,
- * Supported a group of neighbors in negotiations with St. Barnabas Church regarding church renovations and impact on the neighborhood,
- * Worked with DHA and Elaine Boyer to create an imitation pine top on the AT&T Wireless Tower at Fire Station 18 (behind Ptree Middle),
- * Represented the neighborhood and supported individual neighbors in negotiations with Jolly Development and Chris Weathers regarding Madison (both sides) and Chesnut Landing.



The Price of Freedom:

Thomas Jefferson said, *"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance"*. If you define freedom as the ability to control your world and not react to how others control it, then now is the time for vigilance.

The issues facing the neighborhood are fully impacted by you in whether you join the DNCA. You might also consider joining the Dunwoody Homeowners Association (DHA) if you can. Hopefully, you see the value of membership. A DNCA membership is \$20.00. It pays the cost of getting information to you on issues regarding your quality of life and property within the Dunwoody North Communities. You can join DNCA by mailing a check made out to the Dunwoody North Civic Association to Skip Dolt, Treasurer, DNCA, 4501 Binghamton Ct., Atlanta, GA 30360.



"The DNCA is well respected among county commissioners and the CEO. They know that we won't respond in a knee-jerk fashion. We will be understanding but will demand fairness."

Barbara Dodds, VP of Zoning, DNCA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Importance of Membership Continued

We work very closely with the DHA on the broader issues affecting you. DHA has more name recognition with State politicians. We always form a stronger group with DHA. Yes, DHA has concerns outside DNCA and vice-versa. The DHA membership is \$35.00. Mail payment to 5455 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338. With membership in both organizations, you are buying a lot of clout for \$55.00. **Please join DNCA for \$20.00 if you can't join both. We must be strong for these upcoming issues.**

DNCA is a collection of your neighbors who act as your information gatherers so you can be aware of issues impacting your life without wasting time going to meetings that may not really impact you. The Dunwoody North Communities are @1100 homes bounded by North Peachtree on the west and include both sides of Tilly Mill between North Peachtree and Peachtree Industrial to the east. However, anyone can receive our newsletter by becoming a member. Newsletters are automatically sent to our political representatives. We are always in need of additional volunteers to go to various county meetings and to bring back information

Groups your DNCA membership supports:

Dunwoody Homeowner's Association: DHA likewise supports you in issues within Dunwoody North and greater Dunwoody. You pay dues as an individual.

Dekalb County Civic Coalition: supports you in issues within Dekalb. DNCA pays dues as an association.

Federation of Georgia Homeowners: supports you as a homeowner in county and statewide issues. DNCA pays dues as an association.

Meetings concerning you that we monitor as DNCA:

Board of Commissioners: monthly meeting on all county issues,

Community Council: meets every month to hear building proposals,

Planning Commission: monthly meeting on zoning issues,

DHA: meets monthly

PDK Watch: intermittent meetings

Brook Run meetings: intermittent meetings,

Neighborhood Watch: uses newsletter to disseminate information,

Sheriff's Advisory Board Public Forums, and others

WE THE PEOPLE:

We would like personal announcements. Let us all know about you and your family. In addition to this DNCA will sponsor social evenings at DNDC. We would like to receive letters and email yodels@mindspring.com from you for our "Announcements" and "Neighbor to Neighbor" sections.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations: Mark and Susan Tschihart on the birth of their twin son and daughter.

Welcome: Craig and Theresa Day who are new to our neighborhood. We also want to welcome anyone else who has moved in recently to our community. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Gerri Penn at 770-457-2474.

Thanks: Dunwoody North Driving Club for their generosity in allowing the Civic Association to use their clubhouse. Thanks also to all those who made donations to the sign fund. Special thanks to those neighbors who allowed the signs to be erected on their property including Post Apartments and North DeKalb Christian Church.

WE THE PEOPLE: continued

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Crime experts and sociologists in general agree that our quality of life is being negatively impacted by our self-centered attitudes of anonymity. They agree that these attitudes are relatively new in American society. We have gone from communal farms and barn raisings to road rage in two hundred years. Road rage stems from feeling anonymous according to psychologists. Criminals have picked up on this societal change. They know they can back into a drive and probably nobody will stop to check on them. Feeling anonymous correlates to feeling alone and disconnected from your neighbors. You don't care about your neighbors if you don't feel they care about you.

This is the section we hope you will use in the future to address issues to your neighbors. This is a place for opinions so we can all get to know each other better. This is a place where you can thank your neighbors for all the hard work they have done on their house. You can tell the DNCA to back off PDK that you like the sound of jets at midnight. You can address another neighbor's letter published in a previous issue. Your letters don't have to be signed but will not be accepted unless written in a conciliatory tone. We hope this will be a place that can act as a vent and a first step towards communication.

SCHOOL NOTES

We will have information from Chesnut, Peachtree Middle and Dunwoody High in this section. If you would like to act as liaison for Peachtree Middle or DHS and gather this information for us, call me at 770-455-8547.

DUNWOODY NORTH DRIVING CLUB

An Invitation to Our Neighbors

The Dunwoody North Driving Club, located at 4522 Kingsgate Drive in the Dunwoody North Subdivision off Brookhurst Drive has openings for you and your family. Our club offers a variety of activities that center around the 50-meter swimming pool, clubhouse, the lighted tennis courts and the children's playground. Now is a great time to become a member. Joins us today and enjoy all the fun that is awaiting you this summer!

Pool Opened May 20th

Beginning Monday, June 5th the pool was open fulltime. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 1100 - 9:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 - 9:00 p.m. Swim Team began May 22nd. Dynamo Swim Center will be offering swimming lessons, from the very basic to the most advanced at the pool starting on June 12th.

The pool is one of the best reasons for joining the club. DNDC features an Olympic size pool staffed with Red Cross certified lifeguards, high and low diving boards, pool-side snack bar, picnic tables under the arbor, a Baby pool, swim team for ages 5-18, swim lessons and fun-filled pool side parties. This year before the pool opened, our pool house underwent a major transformation with the addition of a new gable roof for added shade, and the restrooms will be completely updated. Last year, the entries pool surface was resurfaced with Colorquartz, and is by far, the best pool in Dunwoody!

IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO JOIN FOR FIRST TIME MEMBERS

If you have just moved into the neighborhood or you've been meaning to join but that first big payment of the bond and dues has caused you to delay we have news for you. The club is now making it easier to join by introducing payment plans that let you spread out the payments over the summer. Call Leslie O'Callaghan at (770) 455-6290 for an application.

TENNIS ANYONE?

We have four lighted tennis courts. There are ALTA and USTA teams for men, women, mixed doubles and junior divisions. There is always a minimum of two courts available for non-league play. Our summer ALTA teams are A, B and C levels. For more info call Susan Sundberg, Tennis Coordinator at ((770) 936-0903.

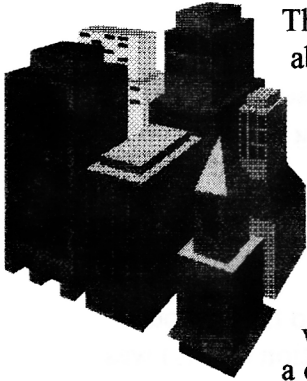
WE THE PEOPLE continued:

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

Thank goodness it has been over a year since we have had to issue an alert regarding a break-in. **We have had solicitors in the area that say they are referred by your neighbors when often they are not so beware.** Remember to report any situations you feel might be criminal to the police. Neighbors watch out for each other. Tuesday August 1st is National Night Out. Turn on your outside lights for this event if you don't normally. Lighted homes and streets deter crime. **"Lights on mean lights out for crime"**

MANOR MATTERS

DNCA applauds the efforts of the Dunwoody North Home and Garden Club in their goal to reward neighbors that go above and beyond in keeping their homes attractive. We will be addressing ways to extend this approach in the future.



The county has very lenient codes for your house and property. The county codes are the absolute minimum of legal and moral responsibilities we all have to each other as neighbors. Even with that said, sometimes all of us get into situations beyond our control that prevent us from appearing to be good neighbors. The Association has always stayed out of these situations.

We have implemented a "Courtesy Letter" campaign out of necessity in the last couple of months. We have decided that the DNCA can't stay out of this and fulfill our purpose. Rather, we need to take a positive approach. Neighbors can call us to report a neighbor who appears to be unconcerned about the attractiveness of their property. DNCA will send a courtesy letter to them asking if we might be of help and alerting them to neighborhood concerns. If the letter doesn't help then the neighbor has no alternative but to report issues to the county. Our code enforcement officer is Office Nichols (404-371-2776). If you will call us (770-455-8547) when you report to him, we can follow-up with him on issues periodically.

Dunwoody North Home and Garden Club

The Dunwoody North Home and Garden Club, a member of the Georgia Federation of Garden Clubs, participated in the 7th Annual Dream Gardens Tour of Dunwoody. For more information visit the DNC website at www.dunwoodynature.org or call 770 394-3322.

Yards of the month honors are restricted to residents of Dunwoody North Subdivision. The Dunwoody North Home and Garden Club announces: The **PRESIDENTIAL APPRECIATION AWARD**

Presidential Appreciation Awards will be limited to one home per subdivision and will be published in this column in the next DNCA newsletter. No signs will be placed at these homes. If you do not live in Dunwoody North sub-division and would like to nominate a neighbor or yourself for a Presidential Appreciation Award, please submit name and address to Barbara Dodds, President, 2573 Amberly Dr., Atlanta, GA 30360, 770-455-0650. This is a trial program for May through September 2000.

PRESIDENTIAL APPRECIATION AWARD TO:

Jim and Robyn Kelley 2508 Briers North Dr. Your yellow Victorian home is an inspiration and joy for all the residents of the combined Dunwoody North Communities.

YARD OF THE MONTH

APRIL:

Ed and Kara Searcy

2407 Stonington Rd.

Donald and Sally Soderberg

4607 Sudbury Rd.

MAY:

David and Victoria Forest

2396 Ledgewood Dr.

Stephen and Elizabeth Piper

2610 Amberly Dr.

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MALOOF and THE GOLD DOME

We will continue to invite your local politicians and representative non-politicians to our meetings for you to get to know. In addition we will follow their voting records and opinions on issues affecting us and report this to you. This is the section that will report on the status of our schools and the school board.

ABOUT POLITICS

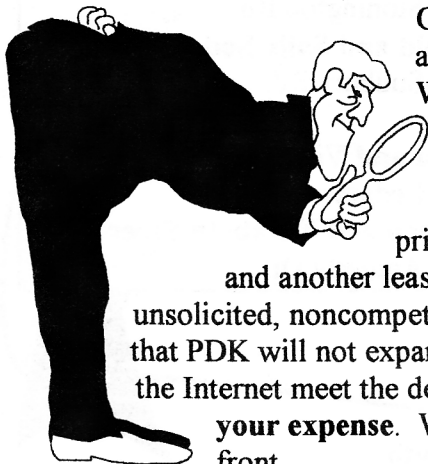
Brook Run

Things seem to be stirring at Brook Run as the weather brightens and people begin to think about outdoor activities. I have heard from several of you that Dunwoody Homeowner's Association (DHA) was building a park at Brook Run (BR). DHA is not building a park at Brook Run.

Several DHA members (not the Board, although they might support such a plan) are pushing for a small playground park at BR in the interim until the county decides what to do. DNCA suggested this to Becky Kelly last year and would probably support that. We will be involved in any plans that go forward. I have heard from Becky Kelly (a year ago) and Elaine Boyer more recently that the (DNCA) will be kept informed. DNCA is critical to the success of anything at BR, as we are the largest organized group closest to BR.

Nick Nicodemus, the DHA Chairperson for Brook Run, is a DNCA neighbor. In addition, DHA has just offered me a position on their board, which should facilitate communication on many issues even further. Nick has worked with the Sheriff's Department and Public Works in utilizing trustees to clean up some of the trash in BR and haul off much of the refuse. They will continue this until finished or plans are forthcoming from the county. If you see him, thank Nick for organizing this.

Peachtree-Dekalb Airport (PDK)



Contrary to the critics' exclamations, we are not proposing PDK go away. It is our airport. It is a neighborhood airport for private pilots and some business planes.

We want it to stay that way. For the most part, those already using the airport don't fly at night when we are trying to sleep. But soon you will be able to get jet service to New York from PDK. We don't know what hours they will fly.

Some things to ponder are why did one man obtain land leases at PDK as a principle in several different companies? How was the lease to build a new hanger and another lease for a hotel at PDK acquired from Dekalb County by the same man on an unsolicited, noncompetitive basis? Why does the county and the CEO continue to tell the neighborhoods that PDK will not expand when it obviously is expanding? Does selling individual seats on a plane over the Internet meet the definition of commercial flights? **You have one man making money off PDK at your expense.** We are working to get all the groups monitoring PDK together to form a united front.

INFORMATION DIGEST:

Zoning Community Council

Have you ever wondered how land gets re-zoned? Do you wonder if anyone has the surrounding homeowner's interest at heart? If something new was proposed next to our neighborhood would anyone know?

Dekalb County asks homeowners to participate in this process. A group of volunteer neighborhood homeowners meets once a month to listen to proposed zoning or land use changes in their area. These members do not have special qualifications, except that they are homeowners who care about what is happening around their neighborhood. Areas are broken up by County Districts. Dunwoody North has four representatives in the Community Council. This is good representation for our neighborhood and a great benefit to us as homeowners.

Here's how the process works, in brief. Developers or builders propose zoning or land use changes to the county. An agenda is mailed to all Community Council members. Members meet and listen to the proposal and any comments from the public and neighbors. Most members are committed to making sure that the neighbors know and approve of the new proposal, that the proposal includes conditions the neighborhood wants or needs (i.e. sidewalks, tree buffers, parking for visitors etc.). It is interesting and sometimes volatile. The Community Council votes to recommend approval, denial or deferment. The vote can, and usually does have conditions.

The next step is the Planning Commission. This is also a public meeting. The different administrative departments meet with the developer/builder and discuss their requirements.

The final step is the Board of Commissioners meeting. This, too, is a public meeting. The Commissioners listen to the proposal and opposing or agreeing views. They review the Community Council's recommendation as well as the Planning Commission's recommendation. The Commissioners vote on the rezoning.

The May, 2000 Community Council meeting did not review any zoning changes that immediately affected our neighborhood. The closest proposal was off Winter's Chapel Road, near some of the new neighborhoods recently built there. A plan for 52 townhomes was recommended for approval with conditions.

We will try to include updates from Community Council meetings in future newsletters. If you are interested in attending a future meeting please contact Carol Throm at (770) 451-2209.

We would love to have your advertisement here! The next newsletter will be going out in September. Camera ready advertisements will be accepted until September 1, 2000. Prices are as follows ¼ page \$40; ½ page \$75; full page \$120. This newsletter goes out to over 1,100 homes in our neighborhood, it's a bargain to advertise! Contact David Fowler for further details.

