

THE Inman Park Advocator



Atlanta's Small Town Downtown News • Newsletter of the Inman Park Neighborhood Association
advocator@inmanpark.org • inmanpark.org • 245 North Highland Avenue NE • Suite 230-401 • Atlanta 30307

March 2017
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President's Message

Defending My Life

By NEIL KINKOPF • PRESIDENT@INMANPARK.ORG

Last month the neighborhood considered the application of the Druid Hills Preschool to move into the site presently occupied by St. Joseph's Church. The level of participation was extraordinary, and I am pleased to report the deliberation was civil and responsible. Well, mostly. During the immediate neighbors meeting, one aggrieved resident accused me of being "unfair and uncool." I'm a big boy, so I can handle being called "unfair"; but "uncool"? That really cuts. Indeed, it has set me off on a journey of self-examination. Am I really uncool? I was contemplating this question while grabbing a cup of coffee at a neighborhood shop. (I omit the name because it would be unfair, if not uncool, to show favoritism to one neighborhood establishment over another. Let's just say I feel savvy when I shop at this market.) I paused to consider the cup in my hand; I have recently switched to decaf because regular coffee now keeps me up at night. Uh-oh. Not a good sign. As I stepped to the checkout counter, I noticed one of the grab-and-go items: beard oil. What the heck is beard oil for? Should I grow a beard? Is a gray beard cool or would the hipsters make fun of me? I left the shop feeling more confused than ever and fighting a strange urge to yell at some kid to get off my lawn (and I don't even have a front lawn). Finally, I turned for answers to the ultimate form of self-expression for men of a certain age, my car. As it happens, I drive a minivan. Circumstances can force such a choice on a responsible parent. In my case, however, I have an only child who is 14 and doesn't ride anywhere in a large carpool. I could drive a muscle car, but I like my minivan. It is comfortable, is capable of going as fast as the law allows and has lots of room for my golf clubs. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the prosecution rests.

continued on page 7

Road Fight Pop-up Comes to Inman Park



*Cristy Lenz, Sandi Parker and Cathy Bradshaw hosted the Pickets, Protests & Parkways History Pop-up in February.
Photo by Judy Clements*

continued on page 13

Happenings

Happenings this month

Page 5

Festival

Update

Pages 10-12

Preschool

Special Use Permit

Pages 14-15



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The *Advocator* is the official newsletter of the Inman Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. (IPNA). In addition to the reports by the IPNA board of directors, officers, committee chairs, and the agenda for the current month's meeting, the *Advocator* publishes letters to the editor, press releases, articles deemed of interest to the community and paid advertising. Publishing of display advertisement, articles, letters, or notices does not constitute an endorsement by IPNA, its Board of Directors and/or the *Advocator* and the *Advocator* staff. The content and opinions of a published article or letter represent the opinions of the author and not the opinion of IPNA, its Board of Directors and/or the *Advocator* and the *Advocator* staff unless it is expressly stated. IPNA reserves the right to edit all items submitted for publication and to reject any material or ads submitted for publication. Material submitted anonymously, including press releases, will not be published. By submitting materials and photos you acknowledge you have the right to do so and understand the *Advocator* is published online as well in print.

Content is due on the 20th of the month prior to publication and should be submitted to advocator@inmanpark.org.

It's a Night Out for Parents & Friends

By ALEX COFFMAN • EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER
ALEXWEBBCOFF@GMAIL.COM



"An Eagles Knight Out" Taste of the Town

Don't miss this event!

It's a night out for parents & friends to benefit


Inman Middle School & Grady High School

Come enjoy samplings from many of the restaurants you know and love and some you have yet to discover.

Food, drinks and music all at your local historic landmark The Trolley Barn in Inman Park

Event Details

- Date:** Sunday, March 26, 2017
- Time:** 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Ticket Price:** \$35
- Purchase Tickets:** <http://inmanmiddleschool.org/eagles-knight-out-taste-of-the-town/>
- Sponsor Tables:** See website for details.

We will have an outdoor patio and bar, weather-permitting. We will be auctioning off vacation weekends, beauty services, gift certificates to local shops and more. 



the next

Porch Party March 24 • 7:30 p.m.

At The Trolley Barn

All are welcome.
Please bring a dish to share
and your favorite beverage to enjoy.

• • •

Your porch wants to host a party!
Call Pat or Richard Westrick to get on the schedule
for 2017. 404.523.4801

2017 Inman Park Book Club

The Inman Park Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. to discuss the featured selection. Please bring a covered dish to share and contact Jan Keith (404-688-7330) with any questions.

**Mar
28**

Jaguar's Children
by John Vaillant
Frank Koch, 941 Austin

April

No Book Club this month. Enjoy Festival!

SAVE THE DATE

Amara is throwing a Neighbors' Social for Inman Park residents Monday, April 10th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.! The upscale, modern Indian restaurant with a twist opened this past November to rave reviews from the AJC and Creative Loafing. Light bites will be provided at no charge, with \$6 cocktails and \$4 beer specials. The restaurant is located at 870 Inman Village Pkwy NE, just across from Parish. See you there!



Other Happenings to Note

“Nobody Loves You” at the Horizon Theatre

March 17 – April 30 • Horizon Theatre • horizontheatre.com

The game of love is on! Tune into “Nobody Loves You,” the show in which cluelessly self-obsessed contestants compete for love and adoring fans. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, snags a spot on this reality dating show in trying to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and attempts to expose its “authenticity.” That is until he unexpectedly falls into an onset love connection with Jenny, an enticingly prickly producer. Ticketed.

Bacon Fest 2017! Annual Fundraiser for Dad’s Garage

March 25 • 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. • Dad’s Garage, 569 Ezzard St. • baconfestatl.com

Atlanta’s outrageously savory annual event, BaconFest, is set to return in 2017 to our home at 569 Ezzard Street, just off of Edgewood Avenue in the Old Fourth Ward. We urge bacon-lovers to keep that date open and their attention locked on Dad’s as the innovative, comedic crew will be revealing juicy details in the coming weeks about the 2017 meaty extravaganza. Ticketed.

Atlanta Film Festival

March 24 – April 2 • Times and venues vary • atlantafilmfestival.com

Now celebrating a 41-year history, the Atlanta Film Festival (ATLFF) is the area’s preeminent celebration of cinema. One of only two dozen Academy Award qualifying events in the country, the Atlanta Film Festival showcases over 150 films annually to more than 27,000 attendees across a ten-day event each spring. Ticketed.

Oakland Cemetery Spring Plant Sale

April 8 • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. • Oakland Cemetery • oaklandcemetery.com

Come down to Oakland Cemetery’s Beaumont Allen Greenhouse and pick from a wide range of blooms, heirloom specimens, and unique plants during the Spring Plant Sale. All proceeds from the Spring Plant Sale benefit Historic Oakland Foundation’s gardens team. Cash, check, and credit card accepted.


Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt

April 15 • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Callanwolde Fine Arts Center • callanwolde.org

Eggstravaganza features candy eggs to find (including three golden “prize” eggs), and a chance to meet the Easter Bunny. There are also baked goods for sale, a “cake walk”, face painting, carnival games, and spring-themed arts and crafts for kids. Bring your basket and your camera for a fun family day. Buy tickets online.

REI’s How to Ride a Bike - Kids Ages 4-11

April 23 • 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. • Brown Middle School, 765 Peoples St. SW
beltline.org/event/how-to-ride-a-bike-for-kids-44/

Is your child struggling to learn how to ride their bike? Through step by step, engaging activities REI’s Instructors will help them with their cycling. Our kid-friendly instructors will provide a combination of personalized and group instruction to help overcome fears, teach important skills such as balance, braking, starting, steering, and stopping and help them understand how to maneuver their bikes around obstacles. If you are able, please remove training wheels prior to the class. Registration required. 

SAVE THE DATE
Inman Park Festival April 28 - 30

IPNA Calendar

Mar
15

IPNA Meeting
The Trolley Barn
7:30 p.m.

Mar
18

Neighbors’ Stroll
Poplar Circle
8:30 a.m.
See page 9 for details.

Mar
23

NPU-N Meeting
L5P Community Center
7:00 p.m.

Mar
24

Porch Party
The Trolley Barn
See page 4 for details.

Mar
28

Book Club
See page 4 for details.

Mar
29

Aging Well Series
10:00 a.m.
See page 9 for details.

Apr
10

Neighbors’ Social Amara
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
See page 4 for details.

Apr
19

IPNA Meeting
The Trolley Barn
7:30 p.m.

Apr
27

NPU-N Meeting
L5P Community Center
7:00 p.m.

May
1

Opening Day
Inman Park Pool

IPNA and NPU-N Update



IPNA meeting attendance reaches 250 in February 2017

Neighborhood Meeting Highlights: What you missed...

This space will be used to identify highlights from the IPNA and NPU-N meetings and point you to the full recorded minutes for more details!

IPNA February 15, 2017 meeting at The Trolley Barn:

- Over 250 neighbors and community members attended.
- Renew Atlanta is collecting and organizing all resident feedback for the Dekalb Avenue Complete Streets Project. The next public meeting is on March 30, 6 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church.
- Chuck Clarke (VP, Zoning) presented an application for a Special Use Permit for a Day Care Center at 502 Seminole for Druid Hills Preschool. 110 neighbors voted to support the immediate neighbors (who opposed the Special Use Permit), while 82 neighbors voted to support the Special Use Permit.

For the full meeting minutes go to inmanpark.org. 



NPU-N meeting attendance reaches 150 in February 2017

NPU-N February 23, 2017 meeting at the Little 5 Points Center for Arts and Community:

- Over 150 neighbors and community members attended.
- Druid Hills Preschool presented their application for a Special Use Permit for a Day Care Center. After much discussion, the IPNA NPU-N representative made a motion to oppose the application due to ingress and egress and access to emergency service. The motion was passed unanimously by the NPU-N Board. That recommendation will be submitted with the application to the Zoning Review Board meeting on March 16, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Of note, IPNA's annual vote to reaffirm approval of the NPU-N bylaws will take place on May 17, 7:30 p.m. at the monthly IPNA meeting. The bylaws are unchanged from last year.

For the full meeting minutes contact Rick Bizot, NPU-N Representative for IPNA, at npn.n@inmanpark.org. 



President's Message *continued*

Is there anything to be said in my defense? Well, the only thing I can think of is that I live in the coolest neighborhood in Atlanta. Not only is my neighborhood so cool that you can buy beard oil at the checkout counter, but my neighbors do the coolest things. They chain themselves to trees and picket and protest to stop unnecessary thoroughfares. Well, the prosecutor might say, "That was 30 years ago and I'll bet the tree-huggers and protesters were wearing bell-bottoms when they did it." Maybe, but our neighbors still do cool and amazing things. Neighbors new and old, led by Cristy Lenz and Sandi Parker with help from Cathy Bradshaw, put together an incredible pop-up exhibit on the road fight staged at a hip space above King of Pops and next to the BeltLine. How cool is that?

And, of course, we put on the best festival anywhere. Remember, it is an all-volunteer effort. If you haven't done so yet, please be sure to sign up and do your part.


But wait. There's more. The very issue that sent me on this "defending your life" journey is Exhibit A for what a great neighborhood this is. The application for a special use permit for Druid Hills Preschool was a really difficult issue with real benefits and real burdens for the neighborhood. The issue sparked a tremendous outpouring of interest on both sides and over 250 people turned out for the IPNA meeting. (The only meeting ever to garner a bigger audience was my inaugural; I don't care what the National Park Service says.) The Preschool did a fine job of presenting its plans and the benefits of relocating to 502 Seminole. The immediate neighbors made an equally fine presentation of their concerns. The ensuing deliberation was spirited and passionate but thoroughly civil and appropriate. It was the sort of public deliberation that enables community because it left everyone with a sense that they had been heard. Though they might disagree with their neighbors, the disagreement was based on merits and not personal. When the vote was over (it went 110-82 in favor of the immediate neighbors and against the application), we could all return to being neighbors. I couldn't help but think of the old Coke commercial: "I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony/I'd like to buy the world a Coke and keep it company." Of course, that would be corny and uncool. Happily, one of our Inman Park neighbors, David Mallis, stepped up and announced that in order to promote harmony, he would buy all the neighbors a beer at Hampton and Hudson. Wow. I am cool by association.

There was one bit of ugliness at the neighborhood meeting which the prosecution would like to raise on rebuttal. The meeting chair was so rigid and unfeeling in enforcing time limits that he first ruthlessly cut off a pregnant mom in the middle of her presentation and then heartlessly cut off a mom with babe in arms mid-sentence. Can anyone guess who that meeting chair was? Not cool. On the other hand, this single-minded focus on adhering to time limits just might recommend me to host the Oscars; I have a feeling the job may be coming open. Wouldn't that be cool. **M**



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Neighbors' Stroll Event

BY KATHY BUSKO • WALKABLE INMAN PARK COORDINATOR
LIFELONG@INMANPARK.ORG


Neighbors' Stroll:
A Social Gathering Celebrating Walkable Inman Park

When: Saturday, March 18, 8:30 a.m.

Where: Poplar Circle (Hurt and Euclid)

Join with your neighbors to enjoy healthy living and promote walkable sidewalks during a 30-minute trek through Inman Park. You might discover aspects of the neighborhood that you never noticed before!



Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of age. Bring those adorable children in strollers. Show off your cute canines. Chat with your friends. Meet new neighbors. Most importantly, WALK. Then enjoy complimentary coffee and carbs back at the starting point. 

Aging Well March Event

BY NANCY MORRISON • AGING WELL COORDINATOR
LIFELONG@INMANPARK.ORG

Miraculous Mental Health:
Tools for Thriving in a Changing World

When: Wednesday, March 29, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Inman Park Church – enter through middle door

Presenters: Liv Estrup, MA and Jackie Lawrence, LCSW

Join us for this important session that examines contemporary challenges to mental health and addresses the importance of maintaining psychological balance throughout life. Learn about practical tools for dealing with the most common mental health challenges. Each Aging Well event offers attendees opportunities for questions and discussion.

The Lifelong Inman Park Committee sponsors both Walkable Inman Park and the Aging Well Series. 



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Festival Focus

Road Closures during Festival 2017 April 28 - April 30

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Saturday and Sunday, **Strictly enforced**]
-  = Closed to ALL traffic
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
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2568 Canton Road, Marietta
helpanimals@ourpalsplace.org



Butterfly Ball Tickets Go on Sale this Month

BY THEA QUILLIAN • BUTTERFLY BALL CHAIR


TMQDESIGNCONCEPTS@GMAIL.COM

On Friday, April 28th from 8:00 p.m. to midnight, Butterfly Ball will kick-off our 46th Festival under the big tent on Euclid Avenue! Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to boogie.

Bogey and the Viceroy will be here to entertain us this year. We will have two bars (drink tokens can be purchased at check-in) and wonderful food catered by **Bold American Catering**, desserts to follow by local Inman Park eateries. Non-alcoholic drinks are complimentary.

This is an Inman Park Neighborhood Association (IPNA) members-only event. Membership is free to all residents of Inman Park so make sure your membership is active by going to inmanpark.org. **Registered IPNA members will receive an email invitation with instructions on when and how to purchase tickets** by late March. The tickets will go on sale in early April. You must be registered as an IPNA member to receive the email with the link to the tickets sales.

Tickets are sold for \$50 each on a first-come, first-serve basis. You can purchase two tickets per individual or a maximum four per household.

So, get dressed up and ready to celebrate our 46th Festival! 

Joel Hurt Award Nominations Due March 31
The Joel Awards recognize neighbors who have gone above and beyond to make Inman Park a special place to live, work and play. To nominate an individual or group, send the name of your nominee(s) and why they deserve recognition to Karin Mebius at karinmebius@gmail.com by March 31. 

Tour of Homes Tickets Are Now on Sale!

BY PAT WESTRICK • TOUR OF HOMES COMMITTEE MEMBER

PATWESTRICK@GMAIL.COM

Don't miss this year's wonderful Tour of Homes during Festival weekend! As always, there are three pricing tiers:

\$12 INMAN PARK NEIGHBOR ADVANCE SALES

If you live in Inman Park, you have the opportunity to buy your own tour tickets for \$12 as a thank you from the Festival Committee to the hundreds of neighborhood volunteers who make Festival possible. This price is only available cash or check only at the March & April IPNA meetings (March 15 and April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at The Trolley Barn) or from three neighbors' residences around the 'hood:


- Jan & Windell Keith at 889 Edgewood Avenue (404-688-7330)
- Pat & Richard Westrick at 835 Ashland Avenue (404-388-6466)
- Carol & Ben Mitchell at 1107 Austin Avenue (404-659-2579)

\$15 GENERAL PUBLIC ADVANCE SALES

Available online at inmanpark.org using PayPal. They can also be purchased with cash or a check at these four neighborhood businesses:

- Little 5 Points Pharmacy, 484 Moreland Avenue
- Nandina Home & Design, 245 N. Highland Avenue
- Inman Dry Goods Boutique, 743 Edgewood Avenue
- The Collective, 723 Lake Avenue

\$20 FULL PRICE DURING FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Available at the main IPNA sales booth at the intersection of Elizabeth and Euclid from noon on Friday through Sunday afternoon. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. 

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Veteran or Newbie?

No Matter, Festival Wants You!

BY JANE BRADSHAW • FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
JCB5858@YAHOO.COM

Do you have years (even decades) of volunteer experience or will 2017 be your first year? Either way, Inman Park Festival & Tour of Homes needs you! Tour of Homes sitter, ticket or merchandise sales, water, beer, music assistant... There's a place for everyone!

If you want to make someone's day, volunteer to sit at their house for a mere two hours!

Do you know how to get from MARTA to the main tent? Then volunteer for sales where you sell tickets and help give directions!

Are your arms strong and ready for showing off? Then we need you to haul coolers full of water!

Would you like to be a part of the live music action? Then carry gear for our musicians, listen to them play. You would make a great music assistant!

If you've never volunteered and aren't sure where you'd fit best, contact volunteer chair Jane Bradshaw (jcb5858@yahoo.com) for advice! Here's the link:
<http://signup.com/go/LQ1qm7>

Please participate. Most shifts are only two hours. You can give back and still have plenty of time to play. **M**

Why Parade Yourself on April 29?

BY KAREN HEIM • PARADE ORGANIZER
IPFESTIVALPARADE@GMAIL.COM

The answer is to show your neighbors and the rest of the world just how clever and creative you are, to bring your best self onto the Parade "runway," to show everyone your je ne sais quoi! C'mon, you celebrity look-a-likes, you reality showboats, you Cabbage Patch kids, you clowns, sheriffs and beer generals...bring your freshness to the Parade...you know you want to...go ahead...do it...promenade your "bad" selves and enter the Parade. THERE ARE CASH PRIZES! The Parade is Saturday, April 29. Applications are due by April 15. See the application and more details at inmanparkfestival.org/events/parade. **M**



Inman Park Precision Attaché Corps Is Looking for Some Good Women and Men

BY JOHN FLOYD • PRECISION ATTACHE CORPS • 404-581-0576

Every year a very special group of Inman Park residents march in the Festival Parade just behind Kelly's Seed and Feed Marching Abominables. They are called the Inman Park Precision Attaché Corps. Although they are FAR from "Precision," they DO carry attachés (otherwise known as briefcases) or umbrellas. They wear either a suit or at least a coat and tie (with a bit more flexibility in corporate attire allowed for the women who participate). They meet at 1:45 p.m. on Festival Saturday at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Spruce Street. For the 15 minutes between gathering and the start of the Parade they practice their simple, but time-honored routines, mostly involving opening, closing and spinning those umbrellas, opening the attachés, "talking" on cell phones and generally following the "orders" of the group's leader. Then comes the Parade which involves following Kelly's Seed and Feed Marching Abominables while not falling too far behind and not running into the band (harder than it sounds!). At the end of the Parade free beer and celebration awaits!

If all of this hilarity sounds intriguing, either call John Floyd (404-581-0576, home phone, leave a message) or Joseph Drolet (404-223-5458, home phone, leave a message) OR show up, properly equipped at Edgewood and Spruce at 1:45 p.m. on April 29. Be ready to march, spin and generally represent Inman Park in the Festival Parade! **M**

Road Fight Pop-up Comes to Inman Park *continued*



Panelists Joseph Drolet, Danny Feig-Sandoval, Anna Siminton, Ryan Gravel and Cathy Bradshaw after their discussion on activism. Photo by Betsy McPherson



Sandy Hoke views the history pop up. Photo by Betsy McPherson

Inman Park Security Patrol Activity

February 2017

Directed Patrol:	566
Drop Ins:	44
Suspicious Person:	7
Parking Complaint:	3
Alarm:	2
Information for Officer:	1
Open Door:	1 (Resident was home)
Vehicle Accident:	1
Noise Complaint:	1
Member Contact:	1

Ponce de Leon Library Upcoming Events

BY FRIENDS OF PONCE LIBRARY • 404-885-7820

Wednesday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Lawyer in the Library: Eviction & How to Fight Back

Hear a presentation by an attorney from the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers' Foundation.

Wednesday, April 26 at 4:30 p.m.

Kids Get Money Smart!

Ages 6 - 12 can learn some financial wisdom at this event!

Wednesday, May 3 at 6 p.m.

Identity Theft Solutions

Learn preventative measures you can take to reduce the chance of identity theft.

For information about ongoing free programs such as Storytime, Kids' Math Club, Yoga, Meditation, and Book Club, go to <http://afpls.org/ponce-branch6>.

Education News

BY ALEX COFFMAN • EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER
ALEXWEBBCOFF@GMAIL.COM

Atlanta Public Schools announced last month that Dr. Betsy Bockman will be the Principal for Grady High School. Dr. Bockman has been serving as Interim Principal for Grady this school year. Betsy, an Inman Parker and native of Atlanta, attended Atlanta Public Schools herself. She holds her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies and Urban Education from Emory University. Principal Bockman earned both her Educational Specialist degree and master's degree from the University of Georgia. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from Georgia Southern College. A permanent principal search for Inman Middle School is underway.

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Druid Hills Preschool Discussion

A Vision for Inman Park and Druid Hills Preschool

BY MARGARET WATERBURY • DIRECTOR, DRUID HILLS PRESCHOOL • COMMUNICATIONS@DRUIDHILLSPRESCHOOL.ORG

Druid Hills Preschool has resided at the corner of Ponce and Briarcliff for 35 years and served countless Inman Park families. Long-tenured teachers, a play-based philosophy, and an active parent base have grown the preschool into a cornerstone of our community. We recently found ourselves at a crossroads and looking for a new forever home. We have a vision of creating a pedestrian centered half-day preschool where we could continue to serve the next generation of children. We found that at St. Joseph’s Church at 502 Seminole in Inman Park.

The number of households around this property with a child under age 5 is staggering. This location is at the nexus of Inman Park, Candler Park, L5P, and Poncey-Highland - all neighborhoods with growing populations of young families. A well-established preschool is a vital asset to these communities. And as fast as we are building intown housing to attract young families, building the community services those residents need is good city planning.

St. Joseph’s is accessible via the inter-connected paths that surround it. The BeltLine and the PATH are great measures our city has taken to shift Atlanta away from its car-centric identity. We should utilize this infrastructure to give access to high-quality community services as well as wonderful restaurants. That is what will begin to transform us into a truly walkable city. The families we serve are ready for this change. These are the same families who walk and bike to Mary Lin every day, and they have made commitments to do the same at this location. A parent survey done this month shows that 49% of our returning families would plan to walk or bike to 502 Seminole on a regular basis.

The preservation of the green space for the education of children is another reason we would like to see our preschool in this location. The land behind the church is called “Miller Field,” and its history is described as “a hidden green spot that has echoed with the laughter of children for more than 80 years.” This space has a legacy of serving children and we have made a commitment that it should continue to do so, as part of our mission, and in partnership with the community.










Finally, this property is zoned R-5, which carries an intent “to provide for development of the required recreational, religious and educational facilities as basic elements of a balanced community.” We feel our program fits this intent nicely. We believe a preschool belongs in a neighborhood, serving the families that live around it. It is common to find a preschool in a church building.

We understand our school would present a change for some residents. We intend to be a good neighbor and work together on solutions. We went door-to-door to introduce ourselves to immediate neighbors and ran an online survey to gather input for use when developing our plans. To address the major concern of immediate residents—increased traffic—we worked with a professional traffic engineer to

generate a plan that has the least impact on the surrounding streets and mitigates queuing and parking in front of residences. We believe this plan, together with our operational hours falling outside peak traffic times and incentives for walking/biking, is responsible and respectful. Our traffic plan was formed in conjunction with and based on the recommendations of the Inman Park traffic and transportation representative and a Little 5 CID representative. It has also been reviewed by the City of Atlanta Office of Mobility and Planning. In the week between the IPNA and NPU-N meetings, we made updates including re-working the parking lot to allow for 20 additional spaces. This allows for staggered drop-offs and pick-ups in two shifts, rather than four, and limits the amount of time there are cars in the area. We also created incentive programs for walking, biking and carpooling. Before the ZRB meeting on March 16, we are working with IPNA to schedule another meeting with immediate neighbors to more thoroughly share these updates and generate healthy dialogue.

We believe the vision we have for our preschool is one that any community would greatly benefit from, and we have hopes that community is Inman Park. **M**



-  Candler Park
-  Lake Claire
-  Inman Park
-  Decatur
-  Druid Hills
-  Virginia Highland
-  Morningside
-  Poncey Highland
-  Old Fourth Ward

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Running Circles Around Safety

BY STEPHANIE J. MILLET • 478 SEMINOLE AVE NE • STEPHANIEMILLET@COMCAST.NET

Ok, I admit it. I've thought about the vote at the last IPNA meeting regarding the special use permit for Druid Hills Preschool (DHP) more than I should. The neighborhood overall voted to support the Immediate Neighbors in opposition to the DHP Special Permit. However, that is secondary to the fact that way too many of our friends and neighbors chose a school, or their memories of a school, over their own friends and neighbors' legitimate concerns. Every vote for the school was a vote for traffic for us, a vote that said we were overreacting or exaggerating. Every vote asked us to graciously sit in 100+ car traffic every time we want to use Mansfield to enter into our neighborhood, and to cross one, maybe two, lines of carpool traffic and simultaneously lose access to our own homes, any time we need to leave, or come back, during a two-hour period in the middle of our day, every day.

I know many people in this neighborhood have sent their children to DHP, have sat on the board of DHP and have volunteered for DHP. I know that the school has a great reputation and that children thrive there, but none of that should matter. Being a wonderful place for children doesn't excuse DHP from reasonable safety concerns. Just because DHP thinks the Church at 502 Seminole is the perfect space for a school doesn't mean it's perfect for THIS large a school.

The problem isn't that DHP hasn't tried to address traffic concerns. It's that DHP just keeps amending traffic plans to address one problem while creating three others. DHP expects us to rely on future plans with no certainty. The first two plans didn't have enough parking spots, so the next plan created 23 more parking spaces behind one set of neighbors and proposed routing traffic down a road behind and between another set of neighbors. DHP's traffic plan suggests overflow parents can just park in the "ample" spots on our streets. They are ignoring the fact that they would be taking spaces from the people that actually live on these streets, and from our guests, our clients and our contractors. I don't know how many people on our three streets would be additionally impacted by this latest incarnation. Many don't have enough off street parking for their residences or their guests' cars. Adding to the situation is the number of renters, students and the many of us who work from home. But perhaps this hasn't raised red flags for DHP because of the 119 parking spots at its current location. DHP has never had to compete for residential parking.

The latest plan is so new it doesn't recognize that squeezing 45 to 75 parked cars on our three roads is not exactly emergency-vehicle-friendly either. We don't live on a Briarcliff, a Virginia or even an Elizabeth. Those roads are wide and fire engines fit without knocking into parked cars. We just heard at the NPU-N Meeting that emergency vehicles are wider than ever and already have trouble coming down Candler Street in Candler Park. We live in Little 5 Points. Our streets are not any wider than Candler Street.

We have been presented with three traffic plans from the school, each one trying so hard to thread a needle with yarn. But that camel is never going to squeeze through. It doesn't matter whether the plan offers 32 parking spots, 55 parking spots, street parking, drop offs staggered in two, three or four shifts, traffic directed down Mansfield or up Rugby or even doing a circle around. It doesn't matter. What matters is trying to add an extra 100+ cars on three roads twice a day. Wherever they end up. However they get here. Whichever way they leave.

Traffic plans affect lives and shouldn't be based on best-case scenarios and future initiatives. Or on good intentions. Traffic plans should be based on contingencies. Based on what ifs. But the only what ifs the school is planning for are the good ones. I'm sorry, but for my child and my family, I need to plan for the worst. And no matter which way the school tries to route its cars, we only have two ways in and one way out. 3-5 life-saving minutes. The school can't plan for that. No matter how hard it tries. **M**

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Intersections Improvements in 2017

BY JANICE DARLING • TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR • TRANSPORTATION@INMANPARK.ORG

In February, the Renew Atlanta team and Jay Tribby met with me, Neil Kinkopf, Sara Maffey-Duncan and Danny Feig-Sandoval to continue moving our transportation projects forward. Wonderful news — we got Renew money to fund our priority projects and we even got a bit of impact fee money as well. It's never enough money to do everything, but we will be seeing some significant improvements this year.

1. Elizabeth and North Highland

We will be seeing reconstructed ramps and repainted crosswalks to better align with where people cross. We continue to bring up the issue with the stairs at Beetlecat. We would love a volunteer to figure out what we can do to get that fixed to be compliant. Is this your issue? Let us know!!

2. North Highland at Inman Village and Inman Quarter

We have approval and funding to do something at these intersections. Our current plan is for flashing beacons, raised crosswalks and bulb-outs. We are also looking at ways to slow traffic coming down the hill. The city will be doing traffic counts and monitoring

speeds to confirm designs. We expect to see this project done this year!!

3. Lake and Krog

We have requested that the diagonal crosswalk be removed at this intersection, now that the all-way stop and street painting is complete. We have funding now to install a new sidewalk and granite curbs between Krog and the BeltLine. The BeltLine will be installing a raised crosswalk along with some other improvements in 2018.

4. Edgewood and Euclid

Renew Atlanta has done a great job bringing forward creative ideas for this intersection. We are still not satisfied with the design and are working together to look at options that work within our budget constraints while making this a safer place for pedestrians and for drivers.

In addition to the big projects funded through Renew, we also have ongoing improvements.


5. Elizabeth and Lake

The cross bar has been relocated to the wrong spot due to some

miscommunication in Public Works. They will be out to move the cross bar closer to the crosswalk. They will also remove the sign hanging above the crosswalk that says “do not cross here.” Unfortunately, it looks like we will NOT be getting a crosswalk on the west side of Elizabeth across Lake. A crosswalk and ADA curb would allow flooding into the businesses on the Inman Quarter side.


6. North Highland between Elizabeth and Freedom Parkway

I am happy to announce that Emily Hylton has taken on the task of slowing down traffic and getting cars to stop at crosswalks (that shouldn't be too difficult!!). She brings lots of creative ideas and passion and I know we will all be glad to have her on board.

We continue to look for passionate volunteers to take on specific transportation projects. If you have something you believe could be improved or needs to be fixed to make our streets safer and more walkable, please let me know. We can figure out how to pull you in. 

Take the Survey on Leaf Blowers

BY JIM ABBOT • INMAN PARK TREE WATCH • ABBOT.JIM@GMAIL.COM

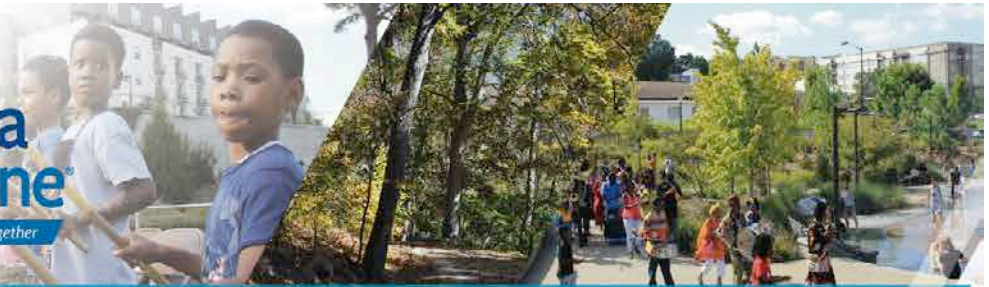
As a follow-up to “The Autumn of Our Discontent” (April 2016), Inman Park Tree Watch invites you to participate in an online survey of attitudes concerning leaf blowers. With more than 1,000 new trees since 2000 and more being added each year, Inman Park has a growing (literally!) but welcome problem: what should we do in the fall with all of our dead leaves? The results of this survey will help Tree Watch set priorities for its advocacy and education efforts. Your responses will be anonymous and greatly appreciated. Go to <https://kwiksurveys.com/s/Kco5HEsU> to participate. Thank you! 



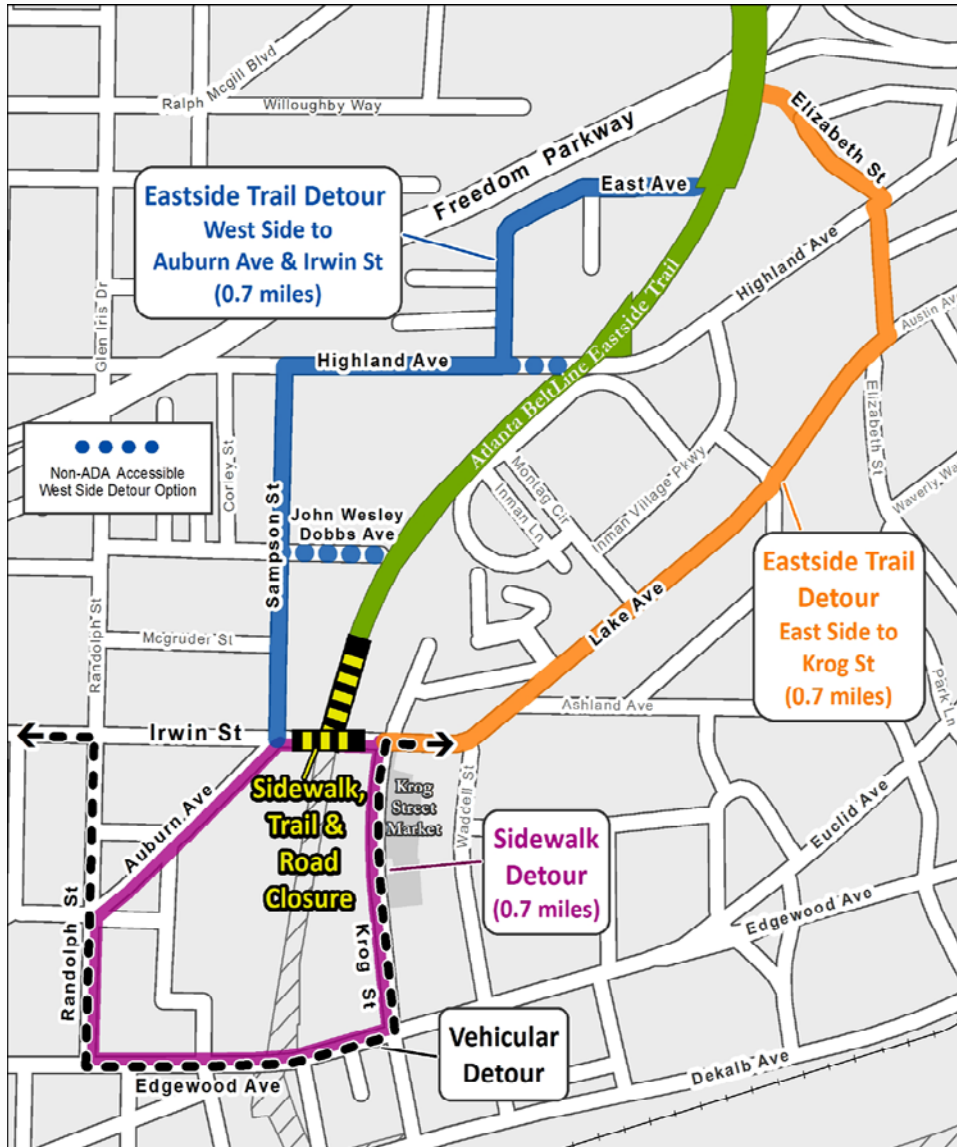


Atlanta BeltLine

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EASTSIDE TRAIL EXTENSION – IRWIN STREET DETOURS



Irwin Street Closure Detour Map

Detour Details:

Due to construction, Irwin Street will be closed from **March 20th through April 17th** where it crosses the southern end of the paved Eastside Trail.

The closure will be 24-hours a day during this time period.

Detour signage for vehicles and pedestrians will be in place for the duration of the closure.

All businesses along the Eastside Trail will remain open during this time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

nsoldat@atlbeltline.org // 404-477-3552

Agenda

March 15, 2017

IPNA Meeting • 7:30 p.m. • Babysitting Available
The Trolley Barn • 963 Edgewood Ave. NE

- I. Welcome & Introduction of Newcomers
- II. Police Officers' Report
- III. Minutes of Last Meeting
- IV. Announcements
- V. Elected Officials' Reports
- VI. IPNA Officers' Reports
 - A. President
 - B. Planning
 - C. Zoning
 - D. Historic Preservation
 - E. Public Safety
 - F. Communications
 - G. Treasurer
 - H. Secretary
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Adjourn

Check inmanpark.org the day of the meeting for any agenda updates.



Good to Know

Inman Park Neighborhood Association (IPNA) membership:

Available to those who live within, own property within or operate a business within the boundaries of Inman Park. Membership is free with online registration at inmanpark.org. Membership allows you to vote (see bylaws online for details), gives you access to the directory and makes you eligible for special neighborhood events. In addition to being a member of IPNA, you may register for the Inman Park Security Patrol (IPSP) which staffs off-duty Atlanta Police officers to patrol our neighborhood. There are four levels of commitment starting at \$50 per year.

IPNA meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at The Trolley Barn.

IPSP membership is based upon a rolling annual membership term. Your renewal date is one year from your membership date and again every year after that.

Websites

InmanPark.org
InmanParkFestival.org
Facebook.com/InmanPark

Report All Crimes: Call 911

IP Security Patrol: 404-414-7802
L5P Mini-Precinct: 404-658-6782

L5P Business Association

www.little5points.com

Want to be a part of next month's *Advocator*?

If you have news to share with your neighbors in the April issue of the *Advocator*, please send your submissions to advocator@inmanpark.org on or before March 20.



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