



A Message from District 5 Councilwoman Natalyn Mosby Archibong

On November 7, 2005 I was one of three council members who voted against the creation of the Beltline Tax Allocation District (TAD). Itemized below is a summary of the major reasons that I did not support the creation of the Beltline TAD in 2005. This vote reflects concerns and reservations about the TAD and NOT opposition to Atlanta's Beltline.

The City of Atlanta does not have a comprehensive traffic or transit plan. How do we know that this particular plan is the best way to capture our need to establish transportation-oriented development?

MARTA will not reach a decision regarding its Inner Core Transit Feasibility Study until June 2006. If MARTA does not select the Beltline Concept from several options as its locally preferred alternative, federal funds will be unlikely for the Beltline. Federal funding for this project, if granted, will require a 50% local match estimated to be \$500 million to \$605 million. Will the TAD generate sufficient funds to meet Atlanta's local match requirement AND fund land acquisition AND pay for Beltline construction? Funding for maintenance and operating costs have not been quantified nor have funding sources been identified. The proposed transit component, excluding bike trails and walking paths, is not scheduled to occur for ten or more years. Why the rush to approve the TAD now?

State law authorizes the creation of a TAD to redevelop areas that "have not been subject to growth and development through private enterprise and would not reasonably be anticipated to be developed without the approval of the redevelopment plan." Large segments of the proposed Beltline TAD do not fit this description. Many projects along the Beltline are already under development, have obtained preliminary sewer capacity reviews (a major step in the development process), or are already in the construction phase....without TAD financing.

The City of Atlanta will be required to provide full city services to residents of the Beltline TAD, but none of the taxes paid by a resident in the TAD will go into the City's general fund. By contrast the Atlanta Board of Education grants their support for TADs only after it is assured a share of the TAD proceeds to offset the expenses of delivery of school services within the TAD. Why doesn't the City of Atlanta reserve a percentage of TAD proceeds for this same purpose? Research conducted by Georgia State University projected that there will be a tax shortfall of \$267 million dollars as the result of the Beltline TAD. If this prediction is correct, taxpayers living outside of the TAD, including District 5 and Kirkwood, will face certain tax increases.

I have spent many hours conducting research regarding the myriad issues related to the creation of this TAD. I support efforts that encourage smart growth and the utilization of public transportation and I support the creation of an "emerald necklace" surrounding the inner core of the City of Atlanta. However, in light of the concerns articulated above, I could not support the re-direction of approximately \$547 million dollars in City taxes based largely upon the unsubstantiated fear that if we don't do it now, we never will. If this vision is worth supporting, it should be worth supporting in 2006 after thorough deliberation. In 2006, we would have the benefit of knowing which option Marta selected for its locally preferred alternative, we would have a better understanding of the ramifications of the widespread assessment errors discovered during a recent audit of the Fulton County Tax Assessor's Office, and we could complete a comprehensive transportation plan for the City.

Now that the Beltline TAD has been approved I will do everything within my power to make this TAD and especially the Beltline a success.

HOLIDAY FUN WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Frazer Center - 1815 S. Ponce de Leon or back entrance at end of Ridgewood Rd.

Lake Claire Neighbors is hosting a holiday meal at its **December 15** meeting at the Frazer Center and all are welcome. The neighborhood will provide the entree (lasagna) and neighbors are asked to bring a side dish, dessert or wine. We look forward to seeing you at this annual social event. Come and get to know your neighbors and avoid all that boring "official business" that occurs the rest of the year!

Get Connected

Newscast is your link to immediate neighborhood information. Did you know that Lake Claire Neighbors hosts an e-mail alert system that provides timely information to residents about issues and events impacting the neighborhood and our city? Well we do and this service is one of many LCNA sponsors for the betterment of the community.

Currently two hundred folks are signed up for the service but in a neighborhood of 1100 households we still have a way to go to reach the entire neighborhood. Registration is simple:

- 1) Log onto the neighborhood website **WWW.LAKECLAIRE.ORG**
- 2) Scroll down the left hand side of the page to "Newscast" E-MAIL ALERT
- 3) Click on **SIGN-UP PAGE**
- 4) Enter your email and pick a password.

You're signed up! It takes less than 2 minutes and then you are in the loop. Lake Claire does not share your e-mail address with any other entity. We hope you'll take advantage of this service. A linked neighborhood is an informed neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

At the November meeting of LCNA, the following officers were elected for 2006:

- President- Dan White
- VP-Zoning- Jim Curtin
- VP-Finance-Diane Moore
- VP-Environment-Kathy Evans
- VP-Safety-Dan Wright
- VP-Communications-Glen Frankel
- VP-Fundraising-Position Vacant
- NPU Rep-Nabil Hammam

Additionally, Hlee Vang has been appointed as the newsletter editor.



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Responsible Pet Ownership = Pet Identification

by Susan Feingold

Stanley is a beautiful ten-month-old schnauzer mix, grey with a white chest and recently groomed. Every time I pass by Stanley's cage at the Southern Hope Humane Society's Fulton Animal Services shelter, he looks at me with eyes that seem to say "Why am I here and where is my mom?" He is sharing his kennel with Max, a small six year old yellow lab mix and Freddie, a one year old purebred cocker spaniel. All three dogs look well cared for and all probably have wonderful owners somewhere who are worried about them. The problem is that these owners didn't realize that one of the most important things a responsible pet owner MUST do is to keep identification on their pets at all times so they can be reunited if the pet gets lost.

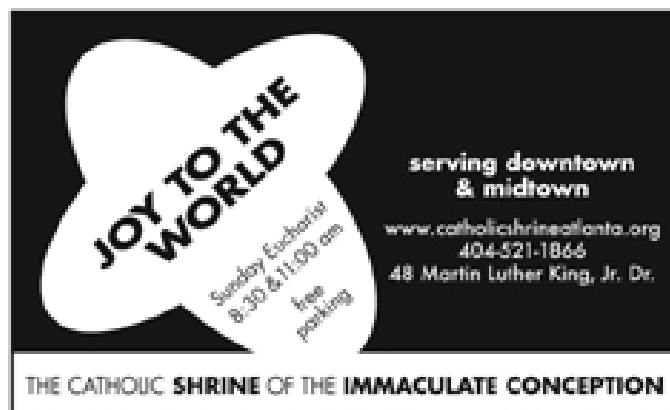
Here at Southern Hope's Fulton Animal Services shelter, we impound about 40 lost Fulton County animals every day. We also receive frantic calls from people who have lost their pets and who are desperately trying to find them. When asked if their pet had any identification, at least 90% of the time the answer that is given is "no." The reasons vary, but people often say that they had just taken their pet's collar off to give them a bath, that they keep a collar on but no ID tags, that the tags fell off and they never replaced them or that the sound of jingling tags keeps them up at night so they removed the collar. Amazingly, they even tell us that they only put on a collar and tags when they take them out for a walk. However, if you ask anyone that works at an animal shelter if their pet has ID, you will find that they're obsessive about keeping ID tags on their pets 24/7 and that all of their pets are also microchipped. That's because shelter workers know that without pet identification, the chances of ever finding a lost pet is less than 10% for a dog and less than 2% for a cat. With identification, 90% of dogs and cats are reunited with their owners.

Unfortunately, I witness many disturbing things at the animal shelter because there are so many irresponsible pet owners. But one of the most upsetting things that I have to deal with is the fact that we impound loving pet owners' pets and those pets risk euthanasia simply because we have no way of finding their owners. Please make sure your pet has an ID tag on at all times and microchip your pet as a backup. Your pet's life, and your peace of mind, may one day depend on it.



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LOCAL DOINGS'

School News

Mary Lin Elementary School has been actively involved in providing support for evacuees from the Gulf Coast region following Hurricane Katerina. Even before the adults decided on a response, the student council sold pickles to raise over \$700 for the people displaced by the hurricane. A PTA-sponsored, long-term "sister school" project is being developed to help a Gulf community school, already in need, to rebound. Through the national PTA's database, "school adoptions" are being arranged through the state departments of education.

Grady High School captured two National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Awards at the fall national high school journalism convention in Chicago on November 12. Grady News Network won the school's first Broadcast Pacemaker Award while The Southerner won its third straight Newspaper Pacemaker Award. Grady was the only school in the nation to earn Pacemaker Awards in both the broadcast and newspaper categories. The school has won the newspaper award five times in the past nine years. The Pacemaker Award is considered the Pulitzer Prize of scholastic journalism.

The Horizon Theatre Company presents *The Santaland Diaries* by David Sedaris and directed by Clint Thornton. Adapted from David Sedaris' best-selling book, *Holidays on Ice*, this special holiday tale is a modern classic made famous when it originally aired on National Public Radio. The production opens November 25 and runs through January 1. Performances are Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 5:00 p.m. This show is recommended for ages 16 and up. Horizon Theatre Company is located at the corner of Euclid and Austin Avenues in Little Five Points. Tickets are \$25 - \$27. For more information go to www.horizontheatre.com.

The Little Five Points Rockstar Orchestra, John P. Miller conductor, will present two performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Tim Rice at The Five Spot, 1123 Euclid Avenue, Atlanta, GA. 30307, on Thursday, December 8th and Thursday, December 22nd, both shows start at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, available at the Five Spot. The performance will feature guests and cast from local rock bands. The performance promises to "rock," with a full cast of rock singers and a real rock band.

Season's Greetings



*May you and your family
have a peaceful and happy
holiday season*

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Pet of the Month

Southern Hope Humane Society Featured Pet



Meet Jenny (ID#362219) a 4 year old yellow Labrador retriever available for adoption at Southern Hope's Fulton County Animal Services shelter. Pretty Jenny has an excellent disposition and gets along well with people and other dogs. She was picked up lost from

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KEEP AN EYE ON THE CRIME AND THE TIME

Late October and November Crime Stats For Lake Claire and Immediate Areas.

ARMED ROBBERY

-Wed. 10/26 9:15pm – 9:23 pm 600 Clifton and DeKalb – Pedestrian robbery. Victim was approached by B/M who pointed gun at victim and demanded money. Two people were exiting a nearby vehicle and suspect stuck gun in victim's ribs and put his hand around neck, and told victim to play along. When told victim had no money, only a cell phone, suspect grabbed phone and ran. Suspect: B/M, 20-25, 5'11.

-Sun. 11/13 12:05am – 12:15am –1400 DeKalb – Marta Station. Victims got off MARTA train when they were approached by two juveniles who had also just gotten off the train, and who pointed a gun at them and demanded money. One suspect punched the victim in the face several times. Suspects took cell phone and ran. Suspect: #1 B/M, 16, 5'2" to 5'3", 125 to 130 lbs., #2 B/M, 16-17, 5'9" to 5'10", 190 to 200 lbs.

BURGLARY

-Thurs. 10/27 5:00pm – 10/29 7:30pm - 300 Nelms – Laptop taken from home; no sign of forced entry.

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home and her owners never came to the shelter to look for her.

Won't you consider making her a part of your family? The adoption fee of \$85 includes the spay/neuter, micro-chip, rabies shot, heartworm test, distemper/parvo shot, leash, collar and one month of health insurance.

For more information, pictures of other pets for adoption or directions to Southern Hope's Fulton shelter, please visit www.fultonanimalservices.com.

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from p.6

-Tues. 11/1 10:00pm – 10:20pm – 1900 Howard Cir. – Purse stolen from home when victim took dog for a walk and left patio door unlocked.

-Fri. 11/4 6:00pm- 11/5 3:45pm - 2000 DeKalb – DVD player, Cannon 35MM camera, camcorder and jewelry stolen from home after suspect forced entry through dog door in rear door.

-Thurs. 11/3 12:45pm – 1:05pm – 1800 McLendon – Weed-eater stolen from shed after door pried open. Suspect: B/M 30-40, 5'9" – 6", 150-165 lbs.

-Sat. 11/19 2:50am – 3:00am - 300 Elmira – Suspect arrested after breaking front window and attempting to force front door open. Suspect arrested: Gabriel Igietseme, B/M, 19.

AUTO THEFTS

-Fri. 10/28 11:30am - 11:40am – 500 Clifton – 1999 **-Wed. 11/9 4:20am – 1500 DeKalb** – 1974 Plymouth Duster recovered after being stolen in DeKalb County.

-Fri. 11/18 4:40pm – 5:30pm – 200 Southerland – 1993 Ford Van stolen from construction site after it was left parked with engine running and keys in ignition.

LARCENY

-Sat. 10/28 12:35am – 400 Terrace – Items stolen from 1996 GMC Jimmy, which had unlocked trunk door.

-Mon. 11/14 7:00pm – 7:35pm – 1700 McLendon

– Sewer camera and a pipe horn taken from unlocked plumbing vehicle while working at the location.

-Mon. 11/14 8:30pm – 9:00am – 500 Hardendorf – Coins stolen and steering column in 1991 Buick LeSabre parked in driveway. Rear passenger's vent window was broken.

-Tues. 10/22 12:00pm – 3:00pm – 1200 McLendon – Some orange road bicycle stolen out of garage.

-Thurs. 10/27 3:00pm – 11/1 4:45pm - 300 Southerland – Toolbox containing tools worth several hundred dollars stolen from construction site after lock and security chain were cut off.

-Thurs. 11/17 12:00pm – 1300 Hooper – Outgoing mail stolen from mailbox by black male and female driving a older model gray 4-door sedan.

-Thurs. 11/17 4:00pm – 8:10am – 400 Candler – Silver 10-speed bike, with a baby seat on the rear, stolen from porch.

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: PHIL COLSON, WOODTURNER

by Hlee Vang

Lake Claire resident Phil Colson isn't afraid to admit he's in touch with his feminine side. Considering the kind of work of he does – a wood turner who creates “wooden jewels” such as bowls, spurtles (a Scottish stirring stick) to gems like a kitchen sink and delicate vessels — Colson needs to be. As a woodturner, the majority of people who buy and are interested in his work are women. “Women have a better sense of proportion than men,” Colson said. To the feminine eye and mind, an art object's form, flow, shape and curve matter. Even how the object feels held in one's hand could determine whether it suits the feminine sense. For such reasons, and because he himself appreciates the feminine taste in the art and craft he creates, Colson said his work is now evolving more to the feminine side.

Not surprisingly, it was also a feminine figure in his life who introduced him to the tool that started him on the path of woodturning. Colson began turning nearly five years ago when his wife, Nella Rigell, surprised him with a mini lathe, a machine that turns a piece of wood in a circular



motion so a turner can use his tools to carve the wood into desired shapes. Since then, he said woodturning has become such a passion of his that he calls it “a disease” and “an addiction.” He turns whenever he has the chance, usually about 15 to 20 hours a week, and often more during the warmer months when he can be inside his turning shop at his home on Palifox without the colder temperatures being a hindrance. “If you start turning wood and it grabs you - you have to turn,” Colson said. “I love to solve problems and every piece of wood is unique and every piece of wood (for turning) is a problem that needs to be solved.” For him, the lathe is like the potter's wheel and the wood is like a piece of clay. It's during the turning process that he finds what shape is inside the wood. Woodturning has become so much a part of

his being that he said it's even changed the way he sees his world. “If you're driving down the street and there's a pretty girl walking and beech tree, I'll be looking at the beech tree,” Colson jokes. The love for his “habit” today turns out wood pieces that sell for no less than \$100. He also teaches woodturning, holds seminars and enjoys sharing his art and craft with others.

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