

# Clairmont Heights

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### Winter 2007

# NEWS

*The purpose of our Association is to preserve the residential character of the Neighborhood and to foster an increased sense of community among its residents.*

#### CHCA Board Members:

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#### New Daylight Saving Time Change Date

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##### **Mark your calendars for March 11<sup>th</sup>!**

Beginning in 2007, most of the United States, including Georgia, will begin Daylight Saving Time at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March and revert to Standard Time on the first Sunday in November. That means that DST is being extended four weeks beginning this year.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This Act changed the time change dates for Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. - Congress retains the right to resume the 2005 Daylight Saving Time schedule after the Department of Energy has studied its impact.

**This change will affect the clock and calendar functions in computer operating systems.** If you haven't already received an automatic update from Apple or Microsoft, go to their websites to make sure your system is updated and will reflect the change.

#### Sidewalk Update

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By Tim Bryson

Contrary to the announcement in the last newsletter, the county has announced that Clairmont Heights did not, in fact, qualify for sidewalk funding under the current bond issue. The county Department of Transportation determined that there were larger streets that needed attention before ours and that they ran out of money. In the 2007 annual budget, the DOT and CEO again determined there were streets with greater need and not enough money to fund ours as well.

Commissioners Jeff Rader and Kathie Gannon have indicated to the CHCA board that they are aware of the need for sidewalks in our neighborhood but that the County board has limited ability to change the CEO's budget. So they are working to redress that structural imbalance through requests for new staff support and through more pro-active participation in committees. In addition, there is a bill, SB 52, in the state house that proposes to redress this imbalance legislatively (for details, see <http://www.godekalb.com>). Finally, current county design standards for sidewalks narrow the street and provide a minimal planting strip, effectively placing both pedestrians and cyclists in greater danger. Commissioner Rader is proposing new standards.

#### PATH Status

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Movement on the Mason Mill PATH project is stopped due to an Eminent Domain lawsuit filed by the owner of one of the parcels between the bridge on Willivee and Mason Mill Park. The suit is scheduled to be heard in State Superior Court in late February. PATH also has yet to get an agreement with CSX as to how the route will cross the CSX rail line.



## Cliff and the CCTMA

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By Nancy Ciliax



**Cliff!** That's the name of Emory's shuttles and shuttles are the name of the game at the CCTMA (Clifton Corridor

Transportation Authority), as Emory moves closer to becoming a pedestrian campus per the University Master Plan. Park-n-Ride **Cliff** Shuttles from North Dekalb Mall, South Dekalb Mall and Northlake Mall are up and running. If these shuttles are fully utilized, potentially 700 less cars will be traveling to the Clifton Corridor.

**Cliff** can be used by anyone – not just Emory and CDC employees. Emory encourages its neighbors to hop on and ride to Decatur and surrounding areas for free, no ID required. Check the [www.ridecliff.org](http://www.ridecliff.org) website to know where the official shuttle stops are located. Emory foots the bill for the shuttle services and is currently budgeted to spend \$175,000 on shuttles for 2007.

Half of **Cliff** shuttles now operate on biodiesel fuel made from cooking oil recycled from the university's own kitchens, the CDC, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and local restaurants. The cooking-oil-to-fuel program was developed by a recent Emory graduate. The rest of the shuttles run on natural gas or electricity.

CHCA neighbors that work in the Clifton Corridor can walk to Clairmont Campus and catch a shuttle to work. I walk from my house on Densley Dr. to the shuttle in about 15 minutes, and then another 15 minutes gets me to work on campus. It can take me at least that long to drive to work during the morning rush hour. Walking along Desmond and Clairmont can be a little scary, but the CHCA is pushing Dekalb County to put in sidewalks every chance we get. CHCA has also asked the CCTMA if the **Cliff** shuttle from N. Dekalb Mall can stop at N. Decatur and N. Superior to pick up CHCA riders. We have been told there is a possibility that will happen.

According to Emory's master plan, traffic patterns along Haygood and N. Decatur Rd. are going to change. Emory is going to reroute Clifton Rd. to connect with Ridgewood and run behind the site for the new hospital. Haygood will be shut down to provide a larger "front lawn" for Druid Hills HS and to eliminate cut-through traffic in front of the school. It's not yet clear how that will affect traffic through our neighborhood, but your CHCA Board Members have their ears to the ground, attending all kinds of transportation and land-use meetings. Let us know if you'd like to get involved!

Check out these websites for more **Cliff** information:

[www.ridecliff.org](http://www.ridecliff.org),  
[www.epcs.Emory.edu/altrtransp/index.html](http://www.epcs.Emory.edu/altrtransp/index.html),  
<http://www.slashforward.com/CCTMA/>,  
<http://www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org>.

Questions: Email [info@clairmonthights.org](mailto:info@clairmonthights.org) and be sure to check out our website at [www.clairmonthights.org](http://www.clairmonthights.org).

## Dead and Dying Trees: Are they Useful?

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By Diane Buch

Dead and dying trees that haven't fallen down are called SNAGS. Snags are very important to many birds already living in our neighborhood. As a snag ages it starts to fall apart. The bark loosens and falls off. The wood softens. Eventually, snags fall to the ground and finish rotting. Each state of the snag's decay process is used by different wildlife. Birds and animals depend on snags for shelter, nests, perches and food.

### SNAG FACTS:

- Over 500 species of birds benefit from snags for food, nesting and shelter.
- Only 30 bird species are capable of making their own nest cavities in trees.
- Tree cavities and loose bark are used by many birds and animals to store their food supplies.
- Standing dead trees provide birds and mammals with shelter to raise their young.
- 22 kinds of songbirds, 19 birds of prey, 9 kinds of woodpeckers, and 5 kinds of wood ducks are dependent on the existence of snags

**Primary Cavity Nesters:** Birds and animals in this group can construct or make their own holes in snags. Examples include woodpeckers and nuthatches. Some primary cavity nesters excavate more than one hole annually. Many of these cavities are then used by other wildlife.

**Secondary Cavity Nesters:** Birds and animals in this group utilize old abandoned holes which were excavated by the primary cavity nesters. Secondary cavity nester includes bluebirds, swallows, small owls, kestrels and several flycatchers. They are dependent on the primary cavity nesters to provide them with suitable nesting holes from year to year.

Everything in nature has its place and part to play in the ever changing cycle of life and death. Snags and the wildlife that utilize them each play one or more roles in the "life cycle". It is during the PROCESS of dying that the wildlife species can get so much benefit from them. If a



SNAG is not endangering you or your home, before cutting it down, cutting it up and grinding into sawdust, please consider leaving it in place. **Help out the wildlife that many of us enjoy and cherish in this neighborhood!**

(Much of the information in this article came from the USDA Forest Service website: [www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/wildlife/animalinn/goodtree.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/wildlife/animalinn/goodtree.htm).) It is a great website to learn about and share info about all types of wildlife, not just birds. There are activities for children and lesson plans for teachers.

### **Decatur Spring Electronics Recycling Day - Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

#### **NEW ITEMS BEING ACCEPTED!!!**

It is time once again for Decatur's Spring Electronics Recycling Day. Over the past few years, the "Electronics Recycling Day" event in Decatur has been hugely successful. **In 2006 alone, 30 tons of electronics equipment that would otherwise have gone to the landfill has been recycled.** Let's continue this record of success and environmental responsibility in 2007.

The Spring event will be held in the Decatur High School parking lot (at the corner of N. McDonough and W. Howard) Saturday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Electronics dropped off that day will be sorted and broken down into their raw materials and sent to recyclers for reuse. The event is sponsored by the City of Decatur, Decatur High School, and area businesses.

In addition to the standard mix of electronics that have been taken at past events, these items have been added: batteries of any type, bubble wrap, and clean Styrofoam packaging materials, including peanuts. Also, any mercury thermometers and thermostats will be taken and disposed of properly.

**Items being Accepted on Recycling Day:** adding machines, answering machines, cables, cable converter boxes, calculators, component parts, copiers, fax machines, GPS receivers, desktop computers, digital cameras, digital projectors, DVD players, hubs, joystick game controllers, keyboards, label makers, laptop computers, mainframes, mice, mini-towers, monitors, pagers, PDA's, printers, portable CD players, portable game players, radios, remote controls, routers, scanners, servers, speakers, stereo equipment, telephones, typewriters, UPS units, VCR's, workstations, and Zip-drives.

**Don't Forget to Recycle These:** Mercury Thermometers and thermostats, batteries of any type, bubble-wrap, and clean Styrofoam packaging materials are being accepted.

### **Manure Day at Little Creek Farm**

2075 Lawrenceville Highway, Decatur, Ga. 30033  
Special Guest Appearance by  
**Walter Reeves**

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm

**Bag your own \$5.00**

**Pickup truck load \$25.00**

For more information contact: [wendybowen@comcast.net](mailto:wendybowen@comcast.net)

### **Traffic Calming Update**

By Tim Bryson

Individual residents have stepped forward to organize their neighbors to petition the county for traffic calming devices. People leading traffic calming initiatives in Clairmont Heights are: **John Maynard** for N. Superior Ave. between Desmond Dr. and N. Decatur Rd. ([jmaynard@tourou.edu](mailto:jmaynard@tourou.edu)), **Anne Keller** for Willivee Rd. between Desmond Dr. and N. Decatur Rd. ([akeller11@bellsouth.net](mailto:akeller11@bellsouth.net)), **Melinda Yantch** for Heritage Hills and N. Superior Ave. from Desmond Dr. to Heritage Hills ([tymy@bellsouth.net](mailto:tymy@bellsouth.net)), and **Emily Janke** for Desmond Dr. from Clairmont Rd. to Willivee Rd. ([emily.janke@gmail.com](mailto:emily.janke@gmail.com)).

**Here is the process:** If there is consensus among residents on an individual street, their proposal will go to the Board of Commissioners who approve the request along with the submitted plan. Then official petition forms are issued. 65% of the homeowners in the "affected area" have to sign the petition within 90 days in order for the county to give the go ahead for the installation of whatever "devices" were designated in the plan.

Homeowners on N. Superior (between Desmond and N. Decatur) are in the final step of the process. Volunteers on N. Superior are trying to obtain the 65% signatures needed for approval. Copies of the plan are available by contacting John Maynard (see above).

Homeowners on Willivee Rd. (between Desmond and N. Decatur) are in the process of reviewing and tweaking the county's proposed plan. Copies are available from Anne Keller for Willivee Rd. ([akeller11@bellsouth.net](mailto:akeller11@bellsouth.net))





