



*Serving Our Community
Est. 1978*

March 17, 2009

Dear Neighbor,

We invite you to join the **Chastain Park Civic Association (CPCA)**. We would love to have you on our team of neighbors making a difference in our community. We are a truly blessed community even in these challenging economic times. Through your NEW membership for \$95 you will be supporting:

- Memorable community events & programs
- Improved traffic management & safe pedestrian access to the park
- Optimal community input for park improvements and City of Atlanta and Sandy Springs issues
- Zoning that maintains our quality of life
- A CPCA founded and funded **Chastain Park Security Patrol**
- And much more...

The CPCA is the VOICE of our residents and provides strong leadership.

Your support is vital to our mission. Our recent successes in advocacy and security include roughly \$1,000,000 in new sidewalks, as well as transportation and planning victories. In addition, we are visibly focused on the fundamentals of public involvement and community building events.

Were you in town for the **1st Annual Chastain Park 4th of JULY Parade**, which your CPCA sponsored? Nearly 1,000 of your neighbors, of all ages, expressed their patriotic and community spirit in what will surely be a Chastain Park Community tradition—a memorable event made possible by our own Melissa Abad and her dedicated team.

Were you able to experience one of our CPCA 2008 live family concerts on Tuesday afternoons during the months of May through October by the playground called **CHASTAIN CHILL**? We averaged around 175 people each week, comprised mostly of young families with children but quite a few grandparents as well. The second season is just around the corner.

Did you attend our **1st Annual Chastain Park FALL Festival**? Did you enjoy the wide array of music and arts and crafts? How did you do in the old-fashioned sack race and other games? Thanks to Chris and Theresa Southerland's family for providing the hayride!

Are you interested in **VOLUNTEERING or SPONSORING** one of our great events? If so, send an email to
info@chastainpark.org.

Have you noticed the new security cameras the CPCA facilitated in the north part of the Park provided by our partner, **The Buckhead Alliance**? These cameras are part of the effective "Be Seen in Buckhead" program and connect directly to the **Atlanta Police Department**. Thank you to Robin Loudermilk and his team at the Alliance. Installation of this proactive and expanding security measure was requested by the CPCA after the shooting on Park Drive last year, along with the CPCA call for the closing of Park Drive at night. Thank you to our 2008 security team led by Todd Davis and Officer Barry Miller.

Next, neighbors Susan Pitt and Kirk Oppenlander have received enthusiastic community and park patron support for their exciting initiative to convert scenic and natural Park Drive into a pedestrian mall, with limited

access for emergency and maintenance vehicles and parking access for concert patrons. Of course, this inexpensive conversion of a park road would complete the northern loop of the original Chastain Park PATH, provide safe pedestrian access to new Park Drive recreational areas, and would be very inviting for joggers, walkers, baby strollers, rollerbladers, bicyclists, dog walkers, etc. **Can you picture Park Drive lined with benches and swings beneath the trees with no cars to dodge?**

Moreover, we continue to advocate persistently to the Atlanta Parks Department to have the \$800,000 - \$1,000,000 delayed **Tennis Center project** built ASAP with already designated funds due to real concerns with the City of Atlanta's overall financial difficulties. The majority of the project will be paid for with our tax dollars from dedicated park bonds and the balance will come from the Chastain Park Trust Funds. We have recommended that the center be pragmatically built now and according to the patron's minimum wishes for very nice bathrooms and a 10th playing court to enhance the user experience and playing time. Thanks go to John Williams for his tireless efforts on behalf of our community.

In addition, the CPCA and the Conservancy are encouraging the Parks Department to tap the Chastain Park Trust Funds to be utilized this year for maximum effect in funding as many projects as possible--including the expansion of the PATH to the Red Parking Lot, a new playground for older children, West Wieuca sidewalks by the ball fields, and more recreational fields, as well as supplemental funding for our Chastain Park Security Patrol, the security camera program and park maintenance. The Trust Funds were created through past negotiations between the CPCA, amphitheater operators and the City to mitigate several community concerns, as well as to be used to improve both the amphitheater and the park.

New initiatives and ideas being promoted at our CPCA meetings by neighbors include:

- Turning Park Drive into a limited-access pedestrian mall, except on concert nights
- A Gazebo (shelter) by the playground for small musical events and public gatherings
- A dog park (no specific location identified)
- Sponsors for our community events and festivals
- Corporate sponsorship for the Chastain Park Security Patrol
- Expanding the APD affiliated security camera program
- Joining The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods
- Joining the Sandy Springs Council of Neighborhoods
- Forming a Joint Transportation Committee for the park (CPCA & Conservancy)
- A joint initiative that asks PATH users to park in the Red and Blue Parking Lots
- A new CPCA newsletter coming soon!

CPCA extends **special thanks** to Councilmember Clair Muller, Sandy Springs Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery, Parks Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen, Atlanta Police and Fire Departments, Sandy Springs Police and Fire Departments, the Parks Department and NYO for saving the Chastain Gym from closing and \$200,000 in Gym improvements; the Parks Department and Conservancy for park green-space improvements; and the Parks Department and Chastain Park Athletic Club for \$1,000,000 in swimming pool improvements. In addition, we thank all the park organizations, schools, houses of worship and businesses in Chastain Park for their individual contributions to our community! Hope we did not miss anyone.

Thank you to Supporters: American Legion, Buckhead Alliance, Buckhead Coalition, Harry Norman (Robin Conklin), Holy Spirit Prep*, Horse Radish Grill, Northside Tool Rental, Schenk School*, Sutton Middle School*, Tophat Soccer*, W.T. Jackson Elementary*, and Willy's Mexicana

You may not realize that Chastain Park's decentralized operational model of many separate organizations working independently and caring for different parts of our neighborhood park is unique and is a great collaborative example of how less control promotes great innovation, focus of mission and therefore success. Thank you to the city for giving the park partners the opportunity to care for our park and serve the greater community. (An asterisk (*) signifies an organization that is represented on the CPCA board.)

Thank you to Park Partners: American Golf, Arts Center, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Chastain Horse Park*, Chastain Park Athletic Club*, Chastain Park Conservancy, CPCA Security Patrol, Galloway School*, Live Nation, NYO*, PATH Foundation, Tennis Center and Atlanta Parks Dept.

Just as importantly, we are lucky to have dedicated neighbors, who volunteer their time to serve in an elected capacity on the CPCA board representing ALL the neighborhoods within the Chastain Park community, as well as our interests in the Park. You may not know it, but CPCA board members collectively commit **over**

1,000 hours of service each year in representing us at government meetings, community events and doing pro bono work that utilizes their professional expertise all for the betterment of our Chastain Park Community.

Advocacy Group: Kirk Oppenlander (VP), Brink Dickerson, Debra Fowler, Penelope Malone, Chris Southerland, Mark Reece, Jo Elliott and Susan Pitt **Public Involvement Group:** Caroline King (VP), Melissa Abad, Sherri Adair, Frank Toye, Kevin Skedsvold, Patti Ross, Carlos Moreno, Kelley Day, Mack Leath, Theresa Southerland, Bill Kasper and Mark Elliott **Security Group:** Todd Davis (VP), Ron Carpinella, Marsha Holcombe, Ryan Lieberman, John Williams, April Springfield, Wendy Wood Leebern **Other Officers:** Allison Adair (secretary), Jubal Gatwood (treasurer), and Jim King (pres.)

Please **JOIN** the Chastain Park Civic Association today by filling out the enclosed form and mailing it in the self-addressed envelope with your check for **\$95** made payable to **CPCA**. Also, please encourage your neighbors to join and be sure we have your current email address so we can share the latest news and security alerts/information. Please email us at *info@chastainpark.org* if you have any questions. There is more progress and community building in the works!

The CPCA is your forum for community action. The CPCA is run 100% by your neighbors who volunteer their time. The CPCA has no paid employees. The base fee for membership is \$95.00. Please forward suggestions and we invite you to attend a meeting or event. Check the web site (www.ChastainPark.org) for dates and times. Thank you again for your support.

On behalf of your neighborhood board members,

Jim King
Chastain Park Civic Association, president

PS: After you join, if you are going out of town, we encourage you to contact the security patrol voice mail (404-812-9272) so they know to check on your home while you are away. Also, by mid-year, you will receive two membership and security stickers for your cars and mailbox.

Last, please remit the information requested below with your check in the enclosed envelope.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ () _____
Last Name First Name Phone

Name _____ () _____
Last Name First Name Phone

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address (1) _____

Email Address (2) _____

Association Membership Dues (Includes Chastain Park Security Patrol)	\$ 95.00
Additional Donation for Extra SECURITY PATROL & COMMUNITY EVENTS	\$ _____.00
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____.00

Please send check payable to: **CHASTAIN PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION**
P.O. Box 420473
Atlanta, Georgia 30342

_____ Member signature _____ Date