



The Grapevine

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JEFFERSON PARK NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

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Inside this Issue

President's Article	2
Signs and Toppers	2
Scalloped Potatoes.	4
12th Anniversary	5
Welcome Wagon	6

Next Meeting

The Jefferson Park Neighbor's Association meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, in the Fellowship Hall of the Jefferson Ave. Baptist Church. Park on the lower level off of Winburn Dr., and enter through the glass door. The next meeting is on March 17th. Meetings last 90 minutes on average.

La Próxima Junta

La Asociación de Vecinos de Jefferson Park tiene reuniones cada tercer martes del mes en el salón de Fellowship de la Iglesia Bautista de Jefferson Ave. La reunión próxima será el martes, el 17 de marzo. Favor de estacionarse en el nivel bajo de la iglesia por Winburn Dr. Se puede entrar por las puertas de vidrio. Las reuniones se duran aproximadamente 90 minutos.



Jefferson Park Website

Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors to check out the JPNA website.
www.jeffersonpark.org

You are not alone

Robby Jackson

One of the families in our church moved and their son began attending a new high school. He adjusted well, made friends, and was doing fine. A local church had a large city wide youth rally and this young man planned to attend the event. He told me later that he spent the first thirty minutes or so having this basic conversation with a number of his friends, "Hey man! I didn't know you went to church!" "Dude, I didn't know you did, either." I guess they just thought they knew everything about their friends.

We had several folks in our church who were members of what some call the "sandwich generation." They had finished (for the most part) raising their kids, but then had to begin taking care of their parents. So we began a support group for caregivers that met at the church. One of the first things that happened was that each of these caregivers discovered that they were not the only person having to deal with certain issues. And they were able to derive strength from one another as they continued caring for their aging parent.

John Donne wrote, "No man is an Island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main" to remind us that we really do not have to be out there all by ourselves. And we usually do not. Our tendency is to form affinity groups of some fashion. But those are often for when things are going well. Many of us find it difficult share with others things are going less than ideally in our lives. But that is when we should be reaching out to others, our friends, to help us through some of these tough times.

King Solomon of Israel wrote, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the one who falls and has no one to help him up!" He then adds that "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

There truly is strength in numbers. I do realize it may not be the easiest thing in the world to open up and share problems, failures or disappointments in our lives with others. And if you can't, well, you can't. At the same time, don't just sit alone somewhere thinking "woe is me!"

In a Sunday cartoon I have on my bulletin board, Jeremy, the teenage son, comes downstairs for breakfast one morning, all doom and gloom. His mother tries to cheer him up, but he won't have any of that. But mom is persistent, so to get her off his case, Jeremy goes overboard in the smiles and happiness department all through breakfast. He walks out the door headed for school, fully expecting to drop back into his typical teenage funk. But he stands outside the door and says, "Crud, I do feel better."

You've seen Canadian geese flying over the neighborhood from time to time. They take off and get in a Vee formation because of aerodynamics. The head bird creates a little turbulence which makes it easier for the trailing geese to fly. The ones in the back honk at the leader to give him (or her) encouragement. But that lead bird gig is difficult, so after a while, the lead bird falls to the back of the Vee to get some rest and another one takes the lead spot. There may be something in your life only you can handle. But even if that is the case, let us encourage you to do the things you need to do. We're here for you.

President's Article

Clay Davis

Hello, neighbors! After months of pleading for volunteers to head the effort, Tour of Homes preparations are finally underway! Shelly Davis has volunteered this week to chair the tour committee, and is now in the process of rounding up committee members, volunteers, homes, and sponsors and setting a date. If you or someone you know is interested in participating (ESPECIALLY homes and sponsors!), please get in touch with her at shelly.davis@gmail.com.

Also, I need your big ideas. The JPNA is here to serve the citizens of Jefferson Park and advance the interests of the neighborhood as a whole. Beyond the events, socials, and fundraisers that are a normal and integral part of our activities, we need other ideas on how to make this neighborhood a better place to live--whether it's beautification, city-wide interests relevant to our neighborhood, or other problems that need addressing, I'd like to hear from you. And understand that I don't mean just send me complaints, but proposals and solutions that we can all work toward. Hop to it!

STREET SIGNS AND TOPPERS

Sheila Merritt

Have you noticed that an increasing number of street intersection signs and/or 'Jefferson Park' sign toppers are missing? Me too! In the coming weeks, I will be canvassing the neighborhood taking inventory of the street signs and sign toppers that are missing so that we can begin the process of replacing them. It would be great if you, my fellow neighbors, can lend a hand in this effort.

If you notice that your street or any other street in Jefferson Park has a missing sign at an intersection that identifies the street name, or if the 'Jefferson Park' custom street topper that designates all the streets in our neighborhood is missing from atop any of those signs – please let me know and I will add it to the list! This will also serve as a 'checks and balance' for me in case I happen to miss one as I am driving around.

Please drop me a quick email with the information. I can be reached at: smerritt@QandAEntertainment.com, Or you can leave a message on my home voicemail: 404.305.0689. Together, we will continue to keep our neighborhood in the best shape possible for all us to enjoy. Thanks!

The Grapevine

www.jeffersonpark.org

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The Jefferson Park Neighbors Association (JPNA) is a certified 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of social activities and community awareness.

Jefferson Park is defined as the neighborhood of over 1,100 rental and privately-owned residences bordered by the Atlanta City Line to the north, Cleveland Avenue to the south, Sylvan Road to the east, and Main Street to the west. We are not a political or religious organization. Donations made to the JPNA are tax-deductible and should be directed to the Treasurer.

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The Grapevine welcomes unsolicited, politically neutral manuscripts, though we cannot guarantee their publication. All submissions are due the last day of the month before publication, to be sent to the editor's email address.

LOVE GOD

God's Not Done Yet!

He's waiting around to be gracious to you.
He's gathering strength to show you mercy.
God takes the time to do everything right—
everything.

Those who wait around for him are the
lucky ones.

Isaiah 30:18 from "The Message"

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Confetti Scalloped Potatoes.

This is a delicious dish that can be made as spicy or as mild as you like. Chop extra veggies during the week to use in this dish - the beauty of this dish is in its simplicity. You can add just about any extra ingredients (crumbled bacon, pancetta, asparagus, etc), depending on your mood, and it will still be delicious!

- 5-7 small white potatoes, peeled and sliced thinly
- 1 stick of butter
- 2 cups whipping cream
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 1/2 c red onion (this is approximate...I cut enough to fit into the palm of my hand)
- 1 -2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 c green peppers (if you would like to try a spicier version, I subsitted red and green chiles)
- 1/4 c green onions
- 1/4 c parsley
- 1 1/2 cups cheese of your choice.

Melt butter in sauce pan on medium heat. Add onion and garlic to pan for roughly 5 minutes.

Next, add potatoes into pan. Add in milk (i like to warm my slightly before adding). Raise temp to medium high and stir occasionally, while waiting for milk to boil. After mixture comes to a boil, reduce heat and add gently stir in remaining ingredient, except for the cheese.

Cook mixture over medium low heat for 15-20 minutes, until potatoes are tender. During this time, add salt and pepper to taste. Throw in some dried spices as well for good measure!

Once potatoes are tender, pour into a slightly greased glass baking dish. Mix Cheese in and top evenly. Bake at 350* for 30-45 minutes. Casserole should be slightly browned on top and bubble when finished.

ENJOY!

--
Jennifer Vilines
Jefferson Park Neighbors Association Secretary

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Benefit Marks 12th Anniversary

The East Point Possums organization is proud to announce that their 12th anniversary show will be held on Saturday, June 20th, 2009 from 8-11p. The location for this year's event will once again be in downtown East Point, GA. East Point Possum spokesperson and co-founder, John Jeffrey said of the location, "Even though we often move event sites from year to year, it is important for us to keep it in downtown East Point. Returning again this year is away to show our support for the downtown businesses that are so supportive of the yearly benefit." He added, "The fans really love the outdoor setting and we know this location gives us much needed space for the anticipated attendance. With Atlanta Pride as our beneficiary this year, we expect a record turnout!"

The full event lineup will be announced in Mid-May, but is already shaping up to be an impressive cast! The program will feature show organizers, The East Point Possums, as well as guests from Drag-O-Rama; perennial favorites, Ginny Tonic – a founding member of the Armorettes, and Alexandria Martin, along with the indomitable Armorette, Wild Cherry Sucrette; the East Point Villagers, and several other crowd favorites from year's past as well

as some newcomers – and as always with this entertaining event, a few surprises will be in store! Possums Matriarch and co-founder, Rick Westbrook said of the event, "We are so excited when this event comes around each year. We have people from all over the region come out for the show – it really is a great showcase for the inclusive community we have in East Point." He also noted, "This year, we are especially excited to have Atlanta Pride involved, and also with this year being the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, it seems appropriate to commemorate the week of the occasion with our little ole show. The new fall date for the Pride Festival allows this fundraiser an opportunity to offer entertaining programming during June, when folks are looking for something fun to do for Pride." "We couldn't be more pleased or proud to be involved," he added with a wink.

East Point Possums co-founder, Chesley Thurman stated, "This is truly a community event. The show is designed so that every penny of the proceeds goes to benefit Atlanta Pride. Both Atlanta Pride and the East Point Possums volunteers will work to get everything donated - from the stage to signage and everything in between. Sponsors offset other costs, performers donate their time, and all the tips are pooled and given directly to Atlanta Pride." Thurman continued, "We really hope that we have more people than ever. Atlanta Pride

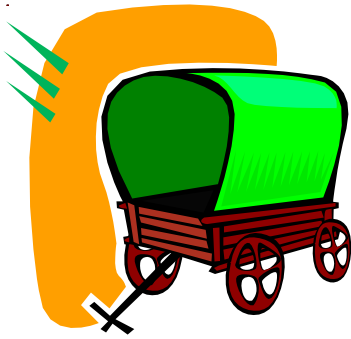
is a great cause that everyone is familiar with, and it is an easy way to be supportive – just bring a bunch of dollar bills and have a good time with your friends!" Atlanta Pride Events Manager, J. Sheffield said, "The Atlanta Pride Committee has been familiar with the East Point Possums show for many years, and in fact, many on the Committee have been long-time individual supporters. So we were thrilled when the Possums approached us about selecting Atlanta Pride as the 2009 beneficiary." Sheffield added, "This is the kind of community event that is the cornerstone of Atlanta Pride. We serve the community, but in order for us to do that effectively, we need the community to support us, and this partnership does so in such a fun and entertaining way. We hope everyone comes out for this great event!"

There is plenty of free parking in the downtown East Point area, and the event takes place only 2 blocks from the East Point MARTA station. You can get on the south line, and get off at the East Point station and take a short walk to the event site. Some seating will be provided, but lawn chairs are recommended. Drink tickets for the bar will be sold on site.

For more information about the Atlanta Pride Committee, please visit: www.atlantapride.org

For more information about The East Point Possums, please visit: www.eastpointpossums.com

Join Us! Welcome Wagon



A wonderful way to get involved – join the Welcome Wagon! The Welcome Wagon is a small group of Jefferson Park residents the welcomes new neighbors to the neighborhood once a month. Joining the Welcome Wagon is an easy way to make new friends and get to know your community. In the past a few “regulars” have spent one evening a month chatting with the new neighbors, bringing coupons, flyers and general information about the community. While we will still plan to meet each new neighbor, I will also be providing additional information electronically.

Contact Info: Jennifer Vilines jennifer@raclark.com or 303-406-8082 for additional information.



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