

PLAIN TALK

the newsletter of the Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors

December 2008

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PINE LAKE CARING AND SHARING *A Neighbor Helping Neighbor Tradition*

One of the advantages of living in a small community is that we can rely on each other to help if times are tough. Pine Lake neighbors have a long tradition at this time of year of sharing with others if there's extra and asking for help if it's needed.

Christmas Baskets filled with donated food items and gift cards to local grocery stores are delivered to neighbors in need each year. The names of those who donate and those who receive are held in strict confidence. Even those who recommend someone for receiving a basket will not know if they received one or not.

Please call Faye Ridling at 404-294-6577 if you are in need of help or know someone who might be.

Please call Faye to donate gifts of food, money or gift cards. You may also drop off donations at 635 Ivy Rd, or call and she can pick them up.

Deadline is December 19th.



Calendar

December

- 1st Mon. PLEAS, BeachHouse
- 2nd Tues. 7:30pm ARB, ClubHouse
- 6th Sat. 8:30-10:30am Breakfast with Santa, BeachHouse
- 6th Sat. 6pm Cookie Exchange & Lighting of the Lake, BeachHouse
- 8th Mon. 7:30pm City Council, City Hall
- 12th Fri. 12:30pm DDA, Take2 International Bistro
- 13th Sat. 5:00 Progressive Dinner
- 14th Sun. 3:30-4:30 Pet Clinic, Clubhouse
- 15th Mon. 7:30pm PLL, ClubHouse
- 16th Tues. 7:30pm City Council, City Hall (rescheduled from Dec. 30)
- 16th Tues. 7:30pm ARB, ClubHouse
- 19th Fri. Deadline for Caring and Sharing
- 25th Thurs. Office Closed (Christmas)

January 2009

- 1st Thurs. Office Closed (New Years)
- 5th Mon. PLEAS, BeachHouse
- 3rd Sat. 8:30-10:30am Pancake Breakfast, BeachHouse
- 6th Tues. 7:30pm ARB, ClubHouse
- 8th Thurs. 7:30pm PLAIN, ClubHouse
- 11th Sun. 3:30-4:30 Pet Clinic, Clubhouse
- 12th Mon. 7:30pm City Council (Annual Organizational Meeting) & Public Hearing on Commercial Zoning
- 15th PLL, ClubHouse
- 19th Mon. Office Closed (MLK Holiday)
- 20th Tues. 7:30pm ARB, ClubHouse
- 22nd Thurs. 7pm Neighborhood Watch, BeachHouse
- 24th and 25th African Singing, ClubHouse (see pg.4)
- 27th Tues. 6:30pm TAB, BeachHouse
- 27th Tues. 7:30pm City Council, City Hall
- 30th Fri. 12:30 DDA, Take2 International Bistro

Guide to Calendar Acronyms:

ARB = Architectural Review Board

DDA = Downtown Development Authority

PLAIN = Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors

PLEAS = Pine Lake Environment, Access and Stewardship

TAB = Tree Authority Board

PLL = Pine Lake Local

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The jolly old elf makes a guest appearance at the Pancake Breakfast on Dec 6th. From 8:30-10:30, eat all you want for \$6 (\$5 if you bring your own plate), and your kids (or pets!) can visit Santa. A photographer will be on hand.

COOKIE EXCHANGE & LIGHTING OF THE LAKE

Bring 3 dozen home-baked goodies and take home an assortment of the best baking in the village!

The Cookie Exchange begins at 6pm. The Atlanta Musicians' Orchestra will entertain us as we sample the goodies.

At 7pm, we'll have a Pine Lake Holiday frolic of some kind, followed by the Lighting of the Lake outside.

Feeling like a Scrooge? You don't have to bring cookies, eat them, drink hot cider or sing carols to enjoy this holiday gathering.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER AND NEIGHBORHOOD CAROLING

This year we gather for soups and salads at 5:00 at Lisa and Toula's house on Lakeshore. We'll progress to other houses in the city for the main course and desserts, singing carols and spreading cheer along the way.

Watch for more details on the e-mail group and look for signs in the city.

NOT ON THE E-MAIL GROUP?

Contact Gwyneth Butera
gwyneth@plainhelps.org
or call 678 358-4206.

Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors 2007-08 OFFICERS & CHAIRS

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PLAIN PHONE NUMBER
404-521-4566

PLAIN WEBSITE
www.plainhelps.org

EMERGENCY NUMBER

If you need emergency assistance, please call 911. Pine Lake's Police Department is committed to serving YOU!

JOIN PLAIN

Join the Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors or renew your current membership. Just fill out the membership form on the back page of this newsletter and submit along with payment of \$25 per household to:
P.O. Box 44
Pine Lake, GA 30072-0044.0

PLAINTalk is the monthly publication of news and events for citizens of the City of Pine Lake and is produced and published by PLAIN members.

PLAIN welcomes submissions to PLAINTalk that invite participation in city events and projects, celebrate our uniqueness and diversity as a community, highlight the accomplishments and adventures of our citizens, and bring to light helpful information.



Work Continues at the Playground. *Volunteers work to create an artificial dune, beautifying the area and making it safer. Watch for upcoming opportunities to help!*

HERE'S SOME OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE LAST PLAIN MEETING: (THE COMPLETE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLAINGHELPS.ORG)

PLAIN Signs. New signs are needed to announce the PLAIN meetings. The group also discussed making a sign that says "PLAINTalk is in" to be posted when the newsletter is available at the distribution sites around the city.

Halloween Party. This year's Halloween Party, held on Saturday, October 25, was very well attended. One of the challenges continues to be the wide age range of children, so that different story levels are needed. This year's storytellers were Ellen Mintzmeyer and Shannon Turner.

Caring and Sharing. Faye Ridling is again coordinating this project. However, she has not received many donations yet. *(ed. note - see front page)*

December Holiday Activities. Volunteers are needed to assist with decorating the Beach House the week of December 1. The Progressive Holiday Dinner is on Dec. 13. We need people to serve as hosts/hostesses for this year's dinner. Contact Greg Creech.

Pine Lake Senior Citizens. It was suggested that we plan a special recognition at a Spring event for our seniors.

There will not be a December PLAIN meeting.

The next PLAIN meeting will be January 8th at 7:30 at the ClubHouse. Please Come!

Submitted by Linda Orgain, secretary

GREENTalk -----

What's a Hot Water Lobster?

A Hot Water Lobster is a super-simple, do-it-yourself-installation doo-hickey that saves TONS of water, and gives you instant hot water (works on tank water heaters only, not tankless). No more wasted water going down the drain while you wait for the water to get hot. And, it needs no electricity, no pump!

The initial cost is a bit high at \$179.95, but it will pay for itself over time in savings. According to the website, an average family uses 12,000 gallons annually waiting for the water to get hot. In addition to the savings, having instantly available hot water is such a nice convenience.

Check out the website:
www.hotwaterlobster.com to read how it works and lots of testimonials.

Thanks to Sharon Day for her contribution to this month's column. Have an environmentally friendly tip or product you want to share? Send to plaintalkeditor@plainhelps.org

PINELAKEFEST 2009 IN THE PLANNING STAGES -----

Following a very successful arts festival in early October, the organizers met to debrief, evaluate and make plans for next year! If you'd like to help with the 2009 PineLakeFest ("art, music, food and fun"), come to the New Volunteers meeting on Sunday, March 2 at the BeachHouse, 6pm. And if you're an artist (or know an artist)

who wants a booth next year, mark your calendars now for Saturday/Sunday, October 3-4, 2009.

Lalah Manley, artist booth coordinator, did a survey of this year's artists, and we heard some great feedback and ways to improve next year. Our favorite quote: "Pine Lake is a BEAUTIFUL community and EVERYONE there was SUPER SWEET!!!" Well, even if you don't think of yourself as 'super sweet,' there's a place for you at next year's PineLakeFest. Come to the kick-off planning meeting on March 2nd or call Kathie deNobriga at 404-299-9498.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT -----

Congratulations to Melanie Hammet!

Melanie Hammet, Pine Lake resident and City councilwoman, has been named one of six Artists-in-Residence for 2009 through the Escape to Create program sponsored by the Seaside Institute and the town of Seaside, Florida.

Melanie was awarded the prestigious residence as a result of a nationwide competition for visual artists, musicians, writers, scholars, and other creative people. Her winning proposed project will explore the role of art and the artist in community service and governance.

Melanie will spend January in residence in Seaside, Florida composing and performing music, as well as participating in educational and community outreach.

Is there someone you'd like to see in the spotlight? Send to plaintalkeditor@plainhelps.org

Save the date!! AFRICAN SINGING WORKSHOPS Look for more info in Jan. issue. with FRED ONOVWEROSUOKE (Pan African) and ABLAWA REINE (Benin Republic)

SAT. JAN. 24 -- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. African Singing for Everyone

No prior experience or music reading proficiency required to thoroughly enjoy this exciting day of singing.

SUN. JAN. 25 -- 1:30 - 4:40 p.m. African Singing for Choral Directors & Music Teachers

You will come away with a cache of 4-5 songs that you can use with your choirs and choruses.

Presented by City Arts of Pine Lake at the Pine Lake Clubhouse

IS PINE LAKE PREPARED FOR A DISASTER OR EMERGENCY?----- **Residents Encouraged to Participate in County Training**

Would you know what to do if a tornado hits Pine Lake? What if an ice storm made the streets impassable? Learn what to do before, during, and after an emergency occurs with the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not always be able to meet the demand for these services. The possibility for communication failures, high numbers of victims, and road blockages could delay access to emergency services people have come to expect at a moment's notice via 911. Citizens will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

Under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives

while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

DeKalb County Fire Rescue is offering the next CERT class, consisting of 9 weekly trainings, starting on January 6th. Afterwards, you will participate in a disaster exercise to practice everything you've learned. There is no cost for the certification. However, there is a background check required in the application (available at the Pine Lake Police Department).

The main contact person at DeKalb County Fire Rescue in charge of the Emergency Preparedness Unit is Captain Beth Burgess. You can reach her at her office number, 678-406-7822, or Email: ceburgess@co.dekalb.ga.us. She will be able to answer any of your questions and get an application packet out to you.

You can also Contact Matt Pulsts here in Pine Lake who has been through the class. Matt has application forms to give you and can answer any questions from a personal perspective as well. Call him at 404 966-3808, or e-mail him at intownhandyman@comcast.net.

By Matt Pulsts

Please Spread the Word Excellent Pine Lake Location Available

Know someone who needs 1,500 square feet of business space, at \$1 per square foot? E-mail inquires and questions to Liz Beneski at liz.beneski@att.net

NOTES FROM CITY HALL

PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF PINE LAKE

www.pinelakega.com

December 2008

RECENT COUNCIL ACTIONS

October 28 and November 10, 2008

- Heard the first reading of the administrative procedures and ordinances that accompany the new Residential codes: Special Permits, Variances, Amendments and Enforcement.
- Discussed the issuance of a Municipal Bond for the City.
- Directed the City Administrator to dismantle the dog pen.

VARIANCE – What is it, and who qualifies? The city administration, Mayor and Council continue to educate themselves about new policies and ordinances which guide our smart growth. Recently, they have realized that the collective understanding of what constitutes a valid reason for issuing a variance has been erroneous. Variances should *only* be issued when the size, shape or topography of a property presents an extraordinary condition that is unusual or peculiar to that piece of property *and* when the strict application of the ordinance would create a hardship. This does not include energetic dogs, a desire for greater privacy or other individual needs. We realize that this is a departure from “the way we used to do it,” but Council hopes that citizens will understand that these rules preserve our collective rights and protects the city at large.

CITY APPROACHES BENCHMARK DECISION

With a newly-revitalized Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting every three weeks, the City of Pine Lake is poised to take a big step towards our long-term economic stability, by issuing a municipal bond. Cities issue municipal bonds in order to create a pool of working capital that will facilitate economic development and other very specific projects. This bold new step requires that the Council, Mayor and Administrator learn about state-mandated oversight and processes, and develop business plans and policies for investing and using the bond monies during the 15-year life of the bond. Council hopes to approve the bond before the end of the year.

CITY HALL HOURS

M – F 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: (404) 292-4250

Fax: (404) 292-4859

Court Clerk

M & F 10 am – 5 p.m.

T, W & Th 7:30 am – 4:30 pm

Police

Phone: (404) 296-6613

Fax: (404) 292-7531

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING 12/16

AGENDA ITEMS COMING UP:

- Continued study of the ‘Uptown’ (business) code.
- Discuss a standard process to approve use of public space.
- Review draft of 2007 audit in late-November.
- Work on the 2009 budget.

LEAVES IN THE STREET WILL COST YOU!

Residents must BAG their leaves --- no ifs, ands, or buts about it! Do NOT rake them to the curb and leave them loose. Our storm drains get clogged with leaves, leading to flooding, so our Storm Water rules prohibit leaves being piled on the street. Public Works will vacuum the leaves that fall in the street, but YOU and ONLY YOU are responsible for the leaves that fall in your yard. Let ‘em lay and compost, use ‘em for your own mulch, or rake them up and bag them --- it’s the law. Fines will be assessed for people who rake their leaves and leave them at the curb. Public Works will make every attempt to recycle leaf bags.

DOGS ON THE RUN

Residents have occasionally used the dog pen next to City Hall as a temporary restraining area for strays while searching for homes. This practice has become unmanageable, and effective immediately the pen cannot be used for this purpose. Over the past month, in response to a proposal brought to Council, the city instituted a trial period, but we encountered too many problems. Council is in support of citizens acting privately to care of our wayward four-legged friends, but reminds everyone that it is not the city’s job to do this, or to provide resources for others to do it.

DRINK MORE BEER, GET GAS

6¢ for cheap beer, 13¢ for a premium -- every time you drink a brew at Take2, the City earns an average of a dime. Gas up at the Shell Station – every gallon of gas bought there sends a steady little trickle of funds into the city. Want to avoid increased millage rates? Shop locally, and drink up!

Notes from the Tree Board

More Great Opportunities to Green Pine Lake!

For Private Property:

To help create a greener, healthier Pine Lake, the following saplings will be available for homeowners at the Beach House on **Saturday, January 31** and **February 7** from 10:00- noon. All we ask is that you 1) plant the tree(s) and 2) water them during the dry times. The saplings cost us \$1.00 each. Donations would be appreciated to continue the work of the tree board.

We have ordered:

50 Red Cedar
50 Dogwood

50 White Oak
50 Green Ash

Public Space Planting Opportunities Ahead:

We invite your participation in our winter planting of trees in public spaces. We will plant 100 live stakes (silky dogwood and black willow) in the eastern wetlands.

Suzanne Zarus has designed a tree planting plan along Rockbridge Road. Please participate! Look for announcements of the dates for these plantings in the neighborhood.

We thank you in advance for helping to make these efforts a success.

~Your Pine Lake Tree Board

Join Your Neighborhood Association Today!



Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors Membership Form

Post Office Box 44 ♦ Pine Lake, Georgia ♦ 30072—0044

Name _____ Occupation _____
 Address _____ P.O. Box _____
 Day Phone Number _____ Night Phone Number _____
 Best time to call Day _____ Evening _____
 Email Address _____
 How would you prefer to be notified of PLAIN events? _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Household Members Names (continue on back if needed)
 _____ Adult Teenager Child Age _____
 _____ Adult Teenager Child Age _____
 _____ Adult Teenager Child Age _____
 _____ Adult Teenager Child Age _____

Are you interested in volunteering for family events, seniors, environment, etc.?

\$25.00 yearly household PLAIN dues enclosed.

Signature _____ Join Date _____ New _____ Renew _____

CLASSIFIED ADS are free to **PLAIN** members. Members may place 2 free ads per month. For all other classified ads the fee is \$5. per month. Submit ads of 50 words or less to the editor at plaintalkeditor@plainhelps.org or call 404 298-6676 and leave a message for Ella.

American Electric Contractors
Free Estimates, Commercial and Residential certified and licensed.
Byron Brussard 770.328.0340

"Before you know who you want to become, you have to know who you are." Career counseling and Resume Writing Service- **Jessica Long, 404-292-3005**

House cleaning: moving out, moving in. Detailed cleaning 7 days a week. Call for appointment **Brian 678-637-7356**
mrclnservices@yahoo.com

Travel Services. Pine Lake now has a Referring Travel Agent. Please consider me and my travel site for all your travel, golf, and cruise needs. Check out my website for my deals and steals each week.
www.mysupertravels.com, Or call Gail 404-668-0630

For sale. Two blue upholstered chairs, in very good condition. \$25. for both.
Call Paula Clancy 772 418-0235

For Sale: Five shelf, open curio stand, \$20 obo. beige/brown ottoman, \$25 obo. Holly carburetor, double barrel, \$100 obo. Igloo Cooler/Refrigerator, comes with adapter cord for car and home. Quasar VHS Player, \$20. obo. **Call Paul 404 292-1580**

For Sale. Stereo turn table, tape deck, amplifier, two speakers with built in glass top/front cabinet on wheels, \$50 obo. Misc. Stereo equipment, call for prices. **Call Paul 404 292-1580**

Looking for help with the never ending honey-do list? Your neighbor Matt can help. Reliable, Responsible and high quality.
www.yourintownhandyman.com or 404-966-3808

Reflexology Sessions available in Pine Lake. Eva Sotus, certified reflexologist and licensed aesthetician offers 90-minute sessions. Reflexology uses acupressure and massage of the feet and hands to reduce stress, encourage lymphatic drainage (detox) and circulation. Feels wonderful. **Call 678-357-8658**

Yoga Classes in the Clubhouse.
Every Wednesday 7:15 – 8:30 PM. Come stretch, relax and renew. First class free for Pine Lakers. Come try a class! Individual sessions are also available at very reasonable rates.
Contact Ella at 404 277-5747

Oneness Blessing is now offered in Pine Lake. OB is a non-denominational benediction. It is the transfer of Divine Energy, which brings about feelings of joy, inner calmness and connection to the Oneness in everything. Group meets the second Sunday of the month and private sessions available, call Gail at 404-668-0630.

One hour therapeutic massage by LMT with 14yrs. experience. **INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL! \$29!** Other modalities: reflexology, ear candling, essential oils/raindrop. Relax, unwind...in your own neighborhood! **Paula Clancy 772-418-0235**

Amway Global Independent Business Owner Nutrilite-plant based vitamin, mineral and dietary supplements, grown on certified organic farms. SA8 & LOC - environmentally friendly home cleaners. Call for Free Samples.
Ellen Mintzmyer 404 292-1811
633 Iris Road
elm1369@hotmail.com
<http://emintzmyer.qhealthzone.com>
<http://emintzmyer.ordermygift.com>

Therapeutic Massage For Relaxation and/or Pain Relief by Susan Ahl, nationally certified massage and energy therapist and integrative kinesiologist. Chakra balancing, kinesiology also available for integrative healing of the emotional body. Two locations: Toco Hills Shopping Center or Pine Lake. Discounts for Pine Lakers
Call 404-386-9141 for appointment

ASTROLOGICAL CHARTS, both natal (all about you) and monthly forecasts (what the month brings for you) available by Susan Ahl. Full professional natal charts and detailed multi-page reports provided. Also compatibility charts/reports available for those interested in their current or prospective relationship. Discounts for Pine Lakers. **404-386-9141.**

Need Some Help Around the House? Inside or outside, I can help. Also will care for your dogs and cats while you are away. Flexible schedule. References available. \$10. per hour. **Call Rebecca at 404-372-7669**

Advertising Position Available. PLAINTalk is seeking a volunteer to handle advertising. Tasks include: soliciting ads from individuals and local businesses, collecting fees from advertisers, sending copy-ready ads to editor. With advertising in PLAINTalk we could pay for printing and have money left over for fun stuff – Parties! donations to other PL committees! treats at PLAIN meetings! No experience necessary. Easy hours, great benefits, and instant prestige in Pine Lake! **Call Ella at 404 277-5747** for this fantastic opportunity.