PLAINTALK

the newsletter of the Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors

May 2007

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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.

Easter Egg Hunter Braves the Chilly Morning

It was a very cold and blustery morning on April 7th but the Pine Lake Volunteers were there in full force to make sure the PLAIN pancake breakfast and the Easter Egg Hunt went on. Braving the cold to hide eggs were Faye Ridling, myself and Greg Creech. Kim Fugate was our official goose pooper scooper. Thank you all for your help.

We knew a lot of the kids would be out of town but we had a hardy group of egg hunters come on by. We had a total of about 36 participants and they had a blast. Thanks to moms who combed the toddler beach area later to retrieve errant eggs.

A real big hand needs to go out to those volunteers who got there at 7:30 a.m. to hide eggs and clean the beach and grass, it was so windy, our eggs kept getting blown into the lake, but to see the smiles on our kids faces made it all worth while.

Breakfast was a hit - thank you PLAIN breakfast crew for always making that happen. Thanks to Phil Howland who manned the table at the door to give people opportunities to become PLAIN members. We had a great crowd, in fact so many people attended that we were out of food by 10:05 a.m. Thanks for your support Pine Lake.

Nicky Rosenbluth

Make tracks to the new Kingfisher Cafe!

Metro Atlanta's new twist on comfort food is now open for brunch, lunch, and dinner. Enjoy our fine beers, wines, and cocktails. Hours are as follows:

11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

THE KINGFISHER CAFE

4600 Rockbridge Road, Suite E, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
www.thekingfishercafe.com 404.298.8755

PLAIN
pine lake association of involved neighbors
po box 44 pine lake georgia 30072
404.521.4566

UPDATED PINE LAKE CALENDAR MAY/JUNE

MAY

5th – Pancake Breakfast 8:30-10:30 at the beach house
Pet Clinic 3:30-4:30 Clubhouse
14th – Council Meeting 7:30
16th – Improv Night at BeachHouse (see pg 5)
17th – Town Hall 7 pm Clubhouse
19th – Move Along! Sing Along! (see page 4)
26th - Memorial Day Festivities
"Official Opening of the Beach"
PLAIN Ice Cream Social
(see below)
29th - Council Meeting 7:30

JUNE

2nd - Pet Clinic
6th - PLAIN Mtg in the Clubhouse
11th - Council Meeting 7:30
19th - Neighborhood Watch
20th- Improv Night at BeachHouse
26th - Council Meeting 7:30
30th - Pet Clinic

MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVITIES

Noon - City of Pine Lake Parade starts at the Club house - decorate your bikes, wagons, strollers, etc. and join in the fun parading down the hill to the Beach.
12:30 - 2pm Mayor Zarus Cuts the Ribbon, officially opening the Beach for another Summer!
City of Pine Lake Sponsored Cook-out at the Beach House
2 - 2:45 - PLAIN Sponsored Ice Cream Social
3:00 - The Pine Lake Chorus will perform at the Gazebo or if bad weather, in the Beach House.

Throughout the day we'll also have the Tommy Conlon Honorary Environment Raffle, booths, crafts and plenty of fun surprises!

A Letter From Our PLAIN Vice President

To Kick-Off PLAIN's Spring Membership Drive

Dear Pine Lake Neighbors,

I am writing on behalf of our neighborhood organization PLAIN (PINE LAKE ASSOCIATION of INVOLVED NEIGHBORS). Most of us are familiar with PLAIN and know of the many varied and wonderful things it does. However, it seems some tend to take PLAIN for granted and expect it to 'just be there' without much help. PLAIN is so important to us as a caring, open community. It is in fact one of the very things that make us a community and give us that sense of neighborly feelings.

The events and projects that PLAIN is responsible for are numerous, some of which include:

PLAINTalk newsletter (the very one you're reading!)
Pancake Breakfast every month
Memorial Day Cook Out
Halloween Party
Caring and Sharing Baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas
Chili-Soup Cook-off
International Dinner
Breakfast with Santa…and so on.

These events are fun, entertaining, helpful and important. They also take funding.

Thank you to the 44 households that are current members of PLAIN. Yes, you read that correctly, out of approximately 350 households in our city, only 44 are current on their PLAIN membership! PLAIN has been eking along on support from only 44 households along with very generous gifts from the volunteers themselves. The membership is inexpensive, only $25.00 per household per year and your $25.00 when joined with everyone else really adds up. PLAIN has been struggling for a while but thanks to a small, dedicated crew, all that we expect of our neighborhood association has carried on.

Not only are new members needed, PLAIN needs volunteers. There are many ways to help. Write an article for PLAINTalk. Cook for the Pancake Breakfast. Maybe put up a sign. Remember the sturdy beautiful sign that was on Rockbridge advertising for the annual yard sale (another PLAIN sponsored event)? That was done by a volunteer and BOY was it appreciated. Come to a meeting (1st Wed of the month 7pm Clubhouse) and learn of other ways you can help. Let your voice be heard or just listen to other voices. We have a great time and would have a better time if you were there!

Membership forms are on the back of this newsletter, so please, if you're not a member or have let your membership lapse, join today!

We thank you and appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

Candy Howland

PLAIN Vice President

Pine Lake Cultural Affairs Committee Presents:

Sing-Along! Move-Along!
A Family Concert
with Julie Austin in Pine Lake
Saturday May 19
11:00 a.m. until noon
at the Club House

More information and music can be found on her web site. www.JulieAustin.com.

Admission: $5 adults and $3 for children. Advance tickets are available at Charis Books and More, in Little 5 Points www.charisbooksandmore.com.

For more information call (404) 297-5950.

A Reminder About Water Restrictions From the *Journal Constitution*:

"The State of Georgia tightened watering restrictions on April 18 to save the supply of drinking water through the spring and summer. Outdoor watering is prohibited between 10am and midnight.
Home and business owners MAY water on this schedule:
Odd numbered addresses on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Even and un-numbered addresses on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

No watering by anyone on Fridays."

Pine Lake TAD Gets the Go Ahead From the State

Georgia House Bill 702 has passed the House and Senate. This bill grants the City of Pine Lake permission to hold an election to approve redevelopment authority. According to Mayor Greg Zarus, "The city wishes to use this authority to develop a tax allocation district (TAD) within the DDA (Downtown Development Authority - www.pldda.org). The effect will be to freeze the commercial tax income received by city, county, and school and create a savings account with the appreciated tax income, through which we can re-invest that tax back into the district.

So if the new sidewalks (which are starting in May) cause all the properties in the district to be worth $1,000,000 more next year; the total taxes from that $1,000,000 (about $48,000) will be reinvested into the business district for anything from a municipal building, to new traffic signaling, to more sidewalks and crosswalks, and a little to dredge the lake for storm water purposes. It will take several years before there is any true appreciable value collected, but maybe it will be enough to do something big in 5 years.

The terms must be negotiated with DeKalb County and the school district. The package can then be presented to the residents of Pine Lake for their information and discussion before the election in November.

Tad confused? . . . More information will be forthcoming, and the TAD will be discussed at the next Town Hall meeting on May 17 at the Clubhouse.

Elisabeth Shields

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Dr. Nicole Aponte
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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD CREATED; RESTRICTION ON NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN PINE LAKE

On April 9, City Council voted to establish an Architectural Review Board (ARB) and to implement a 30-day moratorium on new building in Pine Lake so that the ARB could have time to write guidelines. However, Mayor Greg Zarus found that the language in the moratorium ordinance would have prevented home repairs that require building permits. He vetoed the moratorium and instead issued an executive order that requires the ARB to review permits for certain new building. Only one building permit will be reviewed every 30 days until further notice. The Executive Order covers building that will create more than 600 square feet and for decks or gazebos in front yards.

While Pine Lake has had an Architectural Review Committee for several years, the Committee only had advisory authority. The Board has more authority: the City cannot grant a residential building permit for new construction without the Board's advice and consent. The Board will review permits for new construction for new homes or "permits for additions that are either greater than 600 square feet or alter the street elevation of the property greater than 25% of the visible elevation area."

Interim members of the Board are Council Members Melanie Hammet and Elisabeth Shields with citizen members Erika Brown, Jonathan Coe, Sharon Day, Sandy Larsen and Chris Rosenbluth.

The purpose of the ARB is to assure that residential and commercial development will protect the environment and the eclectic nature of our built environment. Public meetings will be held on April 17th, May 1, May 15th, May 29. There is a lot of information that needs to be collected in an organized way – the ARB and City Council hope everyone will share their point of view, but we need volunteers if we are to reach people by paper and online as well as in meetings. There's lots of work to do!

Elisabeth Shields, Council Post 1
plcouncil1@bellsouth.net

404-296-9094 (before 9:30 pm, please)

Pine Lake Players will meet monthly for an open improvisation night -- -mark your calendars for THIRD WEDNESDAYS (from 7-9pm). No experience necessary, just a desire to exercise your creative muscle on a regular basis with other people willing to be have fun with each other. NEXT GATHERINGS: May 16, June 20, July 18 and August 15 at the BeachHouse.
Other projects in development are a musical review in the fall and a murder mystery/dinner theatre in December. Call Kathie deNobriga at 404-299-9498 or kdenobriga@mindspring.com if interested in any of these, or if you want to know more.

JAMIE'S COLOR SALON

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CONTACT 404-299-5861

We provide Buckhead style without Buckhead prices.

PLANT SWAP REPORT

It was fun. We sat, had Cowboy Coffee, and swapped plants. April 14, 2007 was cool and cloudy. We brought chairs from inside the Beach House and sat on the front porch from 3-5pm talking about city news, plants and other topics of interest including the Garden Club. It was thought another plant swap would be fun, perhaps later in the summer and most definitely in the fall when plants around here are best suited for planting. Other possibilities discussed included such events as a tour of local gardens and swapping working in each other's yards with lunch or a snack provided for the participants.

Among some of the plants brought were, hardy begonia, angel wing begonia, horse tail (equiness), "Mother of Millions' (succulent), native hibiscus (Rose of Sharon), hoya (succulent), spider plant, various ferns, and seed packets containing Hyacinth Vine, brought by Bitsi Pitts, winner of the April Yard of the Month award. Bitsi had color photos of the lovely Hyacinth Vine taken last year when the prolific purple flowers were covering a portion of her roof and a trellis on her front porch. A newcomer, Megan, came bringing bags of large, healthy variegated hosta.

If any of this sounds appealing to you, please let us know. Jeph Goldberg (jephgo@mindspring.com) is compiling a list of interested people and will email with updates.

Candy Howland

NOTES FROM CITY HALL

PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF PINE LAKE **www.pinelakega.com** **April 2007**

CITY HALL HOURS
Mon. – Fri. • 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
(404) 292-4250 • FAX: (404) 292-4859
COURT CLERK
MON. & FRI. • 10 AM – 5 PM
TUES., WED. & THURS. • 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
POLICE
(404) 296-6613 • FAX: (404) 292-7531
(CALL **911** IN AN EMERGENCY)

May 17 Town Hall

THE NEXT TOWN HALL WILL BE THURSDAY NIGHT, MAY 17 AT 7PM, AT THE CLUBHOUSE. HEAR ABOUT THE NEWLY-FORMED ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD, GIVE YOUR INPUT TO COMMUNITY DESIGN STANDARDS, AND DISCUSS OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST AND CONCERN TO PINE LAKE RESIDENTS. ALL ARE WELCOME, RENTERS AS WELL AS HOME-OWNERS. ALTHOUGH COUNCIL WILL PREPARE AN AGENDA AND MODERATE THE MEETING, THERE IS ALWAYS TIME FOR YOU TO ADD YOUR CONCERNS. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

MINI-MINUTES

Highlights from March 27 and April 9, 2007 Council Meetings:

- Approved a 'bridge loan' to cover sidewalk construction costs. *(We have been awarded a grant for the full cost of the sidewalks, but since the grant is on a reimbursement basis, we must secure funds up front. Interest expense will be considered a reimbursable grant expense.)*
- Approved various administrative matters relating to the employee retirement plan.
- Celebrated the purchase of a new tractor for use by Public Works.
- Received a report on ordinance violations from the Police Department.
- Received recommendations from Environment, Access and Stewardship committee (PLEAS) for lake and park rules for 2007.
- Heard the second reading of an ordinance requiring interior timed lighting or exterior motion sensor lighting for houses not inhabited for 30 days or more.
- Heard the second reading of a resolution establishing an internal audit/finance committee.
- Established an Architectural Review Board (ARB) to develop standards for new construction or renovations of more than 600 square feet.
- Approved a 30-day moratorium on new building permits, to allow time for the ARB to develop standards. *NOTE: this resolution was vetoed by the Mayor, who offered an alternate plan of action: see article elsewhere in PLAINTalk.*

Business coming up in the near future: Park and Lake Rules for 2007, tree ordinance, recommendations from the Architectural Review Board, limitations on fence height and position, mandatory lighting for empty houses.

Next Council meetings are May 14 and 29, and June 11 and 26 (second Monday and last Tuesday of each month.
Please join us at Council meetings. Each meeting has three opportunities for Public Comment --- where you can address Council on any city-related matter, whether or not it's on the agenda. We will continue to have a lot of discussion and decisions on development issues (zoning, building permits, annexation, variances for new buildings) coming up, and appreciate your input and perspectives.

UNIQUE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Do you want to make a difference in your community, and feel like you're doing important, useful work? Do you like to volunteer your time to worthy causes, but hate to fight traffic and parking to drive into town? Do you have ideas, hopes and good energy for the future of our little city? Then consider running for council or mayor! Three terms will end at the end of 2007, and we will have a chance to elect new leadership in November. Mayor Greg Zarus and Councilpersons Elisabeth Shields and Deborah Dunbar finish their current terms in December. (Shields has declared her intention NOT to run again; no decision yet from Zarus and Dunbar.) If you'd like to talk about the responsibilities and rewards of serving the city, talk to any of the current Councilmembers. In order to have your name on the ballot, you must file a Notice of Candidacy the week of August 27; if you have any questions about the filing process, call Edie at City Hall.

RECYCLE CELL PHONES

Don't throw that old cell phone in the trash! Bring it to the Beach House during Pancake Breakfasts (first Saturdays) or to the Police Department any time. The City's SALT (Senior and Law Together) re-programs the phones to dial 911 and distributes them to seniors free of charge. For further info, contact Ellen Webb at (404) 292-6203.

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC & OFFICIAL BEACH OPENING: MAY 26

Join your neighbors for a Pine Lake tradition and kick off the Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 26. The annual parade will leave from the Clubhouse at noon, wend its way down the hill to the beach, where Mayor Zarus will cut the ribbon and officially open the Lake for swimming*. Then the City will offer a free cookout (dogs, burgers and veggie burgers) at 12:30pm. Volunteers welcome to help set-up or cook: call Kathie deNobriga at 404-299-9498 if you'd like to help. (*pending clean water report from DeKalb Department of Public Health, of course!)

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. Contact Candy Howland to submit an ad. Call 404-294-5682 or e-mail her at phowl56954@aol.com

Do you enjoy reading and talking about interesting books? The Pine Lake Book Club is seeking new members. We're a small group that meets on 3rd Sundays at 5:30, and alternate reading fiction and non-fiction. For more information, **call Kathie at 404-299-9498**

Therapeutic Massage For Relaxation and/or Pain Relief by Susan Ahl, nationally certified massage and energy therapist and integrative kinesiologist. Chakra balancing and 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

Martial Arts Classes Taekwondo & Hapkido At Pine Lake Baptist Church on Rockbridge Rd. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 5:45-6:45pm Ages 8 - Adult $40.00 a month. Taught by Pastor Charles Kimball. **Call 404-292-2100. for details.**

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

We believe in our handyman so much that we're placing this ad for him. The Mighty Midget, Jim Watkins, turns anything he does into a work of art. Stop by 4593 Lakeshore- we'd love to show you what he has done for us. Call Jim at 404 285-1833 or 404 392-4182. He is a perfectionist and pays attention to every little detail. You'll thank us for the recommendation.
Lisa Lee and Toula Giavaras

Yoga Classes in the Clubhouse. Wednesdays 5:45-7PM Come stretch, relax and renew. First class free for Pine Lakers. Come try a class! Individual sessions are also available.
Contact Ella at 404 277-5747

Calling all Back-to-work Moms My Mothers & More chapter is trying to set up a panel discussion made up of local moms who had a baby, stayed home for a while, then went back to the work force. It's very informal, and would be a two-hour meeting on some upcoming Tuesday night. If you're in this category and wouldn't mind sharing your experiences with other moms, contact Sheila at sheilaelwin@yahoo.com or 404-295-4136.

For Sale – 32" Toshiba television and Oak Entertainment Center. **Call Nancy Langdon 404-297-0602**

Need Some Help Around the House? Inside or outside, I can help. I can also care for your dogs and cats while you are away. Flexible schedule. References available. $10. per hour. **Call Rebecca at 404-372-7669**
Floyd's Heating And Air. Free Estimates for Pine Lakers. Commercial and Residential. Certified and Licensed. Call **404-314-7704 or visit www.floydsheatingandair.com**

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
_____ _____**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.?_____

Signature_____ **Join Date**_____ _____ **New** ____ **Renew**