

PLAIN TALK

the newsletter of the Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors

April 2008

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PLEAS Spring into Action! Time to Spring Clean in Pine Lake

Enjoy these Pine Lake Spring Cleaning Activities in April.

- City Wide Yard Sale Saturday, April 12 All Day
- Pine Lake Environmental and Stewardship (PLEAS) planning and general meeting April 17, Thursday, 7:00PM, Beach House
- PLEAS Lake and Park Spring Fling Clean up 10:00 3:00 April 19 and 20. Rain Dates for Spring Fling Park and Lake Clean up, April 26 & 27
- Mayor's Trash Amnesty Days Monday Wednesday April 21 23

(Sorry, No Paints, Appliances, or Spouses. Contact City Hall for details.)

- Remember your volunteer hours for the Wetlands Planting and PLEAS Clean up activities count toward \$18.04 per hour in matching our grants!
- Get Outside, Get Exercise, and Get Planted! Enjoy your neighbors and spring in Pine Lake by volunteering!

See details about these events in this month's PLAINTalk and stay tuned to the Pine Lake Announce e-mails.

Easter Egg Hunt



The annual Easter Egg Hunt was once again a success! Photo by Gwyneth Butera.

Calendar

April

- 1st, Tues. ARB, 7:30 ClubHouse
3rd, Thurs. PLAIN, 7:30pm ClubHouse
5th, Sat. Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-10:30am BeachHouse
5th, Sat. Wetlands Planting, 10am-3pm
6th, Sun. Wetlands Planting, 10am-3pm
8th, Tues. ARB: Cutting the Edge Speaker, 7:30 ClubHouse
12th, Sat. City-Wide Yard Sale, all day
14th, Mon. City Council, 7:30pm City Hall
15th, Tues. ARB, 7:30 ClubHouse
17th Thurs. PLEAS, 7pm BeachHouse
19-20th, Sat-Sun Spring Fling Clean Up - rain date April 26-27
21st-23rd, Mon-Wed Mayor's Trash Amnesty Days (no appliances, paints, etc)
21st, Mon. DDA, 7pm ClubHouse
29th, Tues. Tree Board, 6:30pm ClubHouse
29th, Tues. Leadership Roundtable, 6:30pm ClubHouse
29th, Tues. City Council, 7:30pm City Hall

May



- 3rd Sat. Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-10:30am BeachHouse
6th Tues. ARB, 7:30 ClubHouse
7th, Wed. PLAIN, 7:30pm ClubHouse
12th Mon. City Council, 7:30pm City Hall
13th Tues. ARB: Cutting the Edge Speaker, 7:30 ClubHouse
19th Mon. DDA, 7pm ClubHouse
20th Tues. ARB, 7:30 ClubHouse
22nd Thurs. Neighborhood Watch, 7:30pm BeachHouse
24th Sat. Opening of the Beach, City Cookout and Potluck, noon-2pm,
Ice Cream Social, 2pm BeachHouse
27th Tues. Tree Board, 6:30pm ClubHouse
27th Tues. City Council, 7:30pm City Hall

New Announcements E-mail List

In order to disseminate timely information about neighborhood watch, upcoming events and activities, a new "announcements only" email list has been started. There are already 150 people on this new list! If you are not yet a member of the announcements list, we hope that you will join. Once you are a member, you may email announcements directly to the whole list; we only ask that you follow the list guidelines to help us keep the email volume manageable. To join, please send an email to gwyneth@plainhelps.org stating that you would like to join the announcements list.

Ingredients for a Successful Downtown

On Tuesday, April 8th (7:30 PM Clubhouse) our urban planning consultant, Alycen Whiddon, will share her expertise in describing the features and components of what makes a downtown area bustle with life. Imagine the day when our Rockbridge Road "new Mainstreet" is a vibrant, lively spot for meeting with neighbors, strolling under leafy shade trees or sipping coffee on a sunny afternoon. Come hear all about what it takes to make all that happen!

City Wide Yard Sale

If you would like to participate in the city-wide yard sale April 12th, see Edie at the City Office to fill out your waiver form. You will be asked for a five dollar donation that will be put toward advertising for the sale.

If all participants could put helium balloons in their yard to signify participation, we're sure to have a great and successful sale!

2007-08 PLAIN OFFICERS & CHAIRS

President

Gwyneth Butera
gwyneth@butera.org

Vice President

Candy Howland
404-294-5682

Secretary

Linda Orgain

Treasurer

Mary Stuckey 404-297-0941

Newsletter Editor

Ella Johannaber
404-298-6676
plaintalkeditor@plainhelps.org

Newsletter Design

Kris Casariego

Newsletter Circulation

Pam Heiges 404.-831.-0410

Neighborhood Watch

Faye Ridling 404-294-6577
Greg Creech 404-299-1706

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.

Guide to 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

Yard of the Month



Yard of the month has been a fun feature during the spring and summer for several years now. We are pleased to announce this month's winner for YOM, Richard Cecil. This announcement officially heralds that spring has sprung in beautiful Pine Lake, Georgia, USA!

As many of you know, Richard is one of our many talented artists whose special medium is sculpture. He is gifted and has

paintings on display at our very own Kingfisher, for example. His true calling and love however, is sculpture and he has sculpture in his home as well as out in his garden. Richard's garden attests to the fact that he is a true artist. He has made a paradise out of his yard with plants, water features and the placement of ferns and trees. His yard is a chiaroscuro, using light and dark to play with your eyes, the result a magical dappling effect as light ripples on water and

shade dances through tree branches. Even on the hottest summer day, the effect of Richard's garden setting is cooling, calming and pleasant. Please drive or walk by Richard's home on Ridge Drive and give do yourself a favor! It will be an instant mini-vacation!

by Candy Howland

Neighborhood Walking Tour with Alycen Whiddon 10:30 AM (right after pancake breakfast) Saturday, April 5th.

Join your neighbors, bring a friend, for a fun and informative jaunt to see and discuss styles and types of houses, led by our ever-talented and entertaining Ms. Alycen Whiddon. As you know, Ms. Whiddon is a licensed landscape architect, as well as a professional urban planner with over 25 year's of experience in these fields. She'll guide our group as she describes all the features and qualities of our homes and streetscapes that are distinctively "Pine

Lake", while also asking for our feedback along the way. This tour will be much more than just a delightful couple of hours around the city--it will be a key element of Ms. Whiddon's planning process as she hones in on the essence of what we want to preserve in our visual environment, what we want to prevent, and what we want to promote and encourage.

Delta Passengers Read About Pine Lake's Ann McAllister

In the recent issue of Delta Sky, Sophia Dumbling's article "Just Causes: Volountouring" features Ann McAllister on an Earthwatch trip to La Manzanilla, Mexico.

Here's an excerpt:

In La Manzanilla, I meet Ann McAllister, a psychologist from Atlanta who's on her 11th Earthwatch expedition. "Plain old touring and travel just doesn't appeal to me," she tells me. "I have to feel like I'm giving something back, even if it's minuscule."

This project is easy stuff for McAllister, who has also tracked orangutans with Richard Leaky protégé Birute Galdikas in Borneo, bobbed in a Zodiac among humpback whales in Hawaii, hiked eight miles daily over rugged terrain to count herbivores in South Africa, and been dive-bombed by gulls in Maine while conducting research on their nesting grounds. "All the volunteers compared guano hits," she recalls with a laugh. Her accommodations have included an open-air tent in a campsite protected from wildlife by an electric fence, and a shared room in a Scottish castle. (At La Manzanilla, we stay in tents in a beach campground.) . . .

To read the article in its entirety, go to: http://www.delta-sky.com/2008_03/justcauses/



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Phone: 770/469-6111

Dr. Jeff Brown
Dr. Nicole Aponte

GREENTalk - Stop The Dreaded Catalogs And Junk Mail

If you are like me, you hate all that junk mail and most of those catalogs you get. Being one of those tree huggers, I always think about the environmental cost of producing all that paper and transporting the junk to our mailboxes. Then it just goes into the landfill to molder for years unless it is lucky enough to be recycled.

Well, I have found 2 solutions to this problem.

The first solution I found was a company called GreenDimes.com. For a fee of \$20.00 they will stop all the junk mail and catalogs you want for every member of your household. They will also use the various iterations of your names--with and without initials, etc. so that they really stop the catalogs coming. And they plant trees when anybody joins and when they are successful in removing your name from mailing lists. They also continue to monitor that your name stays removed from the lists.

I joined in October 2007 and have seen a big reduction in the junk. GreenDimes says they have stopped 3,349,527 pounds of junk mail and planted 1,020,930 trees since September, 2006.

Another solution is FREE, and I have just joined. It is in its BETA version so I can't vouch for it:

CatalogChoice.org I think it is being sponsored by various environmental organizations. It looks quite user friendly, and you can't beat the price.

However, CatalogChoice.org doesn't deal with junk mail so GreenDimes.com may be the better choice right now, if you are serious about stopping most of your junk mail. And it doesn't plant trees!

Now you can liberate yourself from dreaded junk mail and catalogs.

by Ann McAllister

Welcome New PLAIN Members!

JR & Helen Adams
Liz Beneski & Eric Hansen
Kathleen Wannemuehler
Debbie Lillard & Jen Bertosi
Rebecca Mashburn
Jonny Hibbert
Filiz Durmaz
Ashley & Drew Ermenc

Studio 5321 Salon

1014-B Main Street
Stone Mountain Village



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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:

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9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday



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Decatur, Ga. 30032

404-292-6786

Dr. Marty Finkelstein was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis 33 years ago and was told nothing could be done other than medicine and surgery. His life changed when a holistic chiropractor explained how this illness not only could improve but also heal. Within 12 months the ulcerative colitis no longer existed. Dr. Marty changed direction from going to medical school to going to chiropractic school. It was because of that process of healing and understanding about health that he has continued to help and serve others to greater wellness and healing.

NOTES FROM CITY HALL

PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF PINE LAKE

www.pinelakega.com

RECENT COUNCIL ACTION

FEBRUARY 26 AND MARCH 10, 2008

- * Heard from ARB about approval of Tommy Conlon's renovation at 603 Iris.
- * Continued to discuss a proposal from the City's Peace Committee about installation of a 'peace pole' and a labyrinth. There were some county easement considerations regarding the location of the labyrinth and concerns about size, scope and maintenance.
- * Received a list of the proposed properties to be included in the annexation project. Council will review for future action.

COMING UP at Council Meetings. On April 14, Council will review and adopt the 2008 Park and Beach Rules. You may contact Greg Creech at 404-299-1706, or any other city councilmember or the city administration, with any questions or concerns of the proposed rules.

WETLANDS: A WORK IN PROGRESS

The work in the Eastern Greenspace is well under-way, despite a flooding with the recent rains. The planting on April 5-6 has been postponed. Please watch for signs posted by the Eastern Greenspace (on Spruce by the lake) as we re-schedule. We're building a 'constructed wetlands' which will improve the water quality from the Snapfinger Creek watershed, and help keep the lake at full pool. Part of the work will be planting hundreds of native plants appropriate to the wetlands area. Citizen participation in the planting and other efforts will continue to be very important -- the city can claim \$18 an hour for every volunteer hour, helping to meet our required match (very important for continued grant funding).

CLEAN UP, PINE LAKE!

April's a great time for spring-cleaning, and here's how the City can help. On Saturday, April 12th, the City will sponsor a City-Wide Yard Sale, all day. If you want to participate, just register by calling City Hall --- the application process and fee will be

waived (only for that day!) The City needs help in advertising the sale. The following weekend (April 19-20) is the Spring Fling Clean-up, sponsored by PLEAS. Come prepared to pick up trash etc, and we'll get the city looking spotless. This coincides with Keep DeKalb Beautiful (KDB)'s Great American Cleanup initiative. We'll be just one of the many community groups who participate by cleaning up dirty streets and waterways as well as by greening up parks, MARTA bus stops and other public spaces in DeKalb County. And finally, the annual Mayor's Trash Amnesty Days,

City Hall Hours

Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Ph: (404) 292-4250
Fax: (404)292-4859

Court Clerk

Mon. & Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues., Wed. & Thurs.
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Police

Ph: (404) 296-6613

on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday ONLY, April 21-23. We will not take appliances, paint, hazardous materials, construction debris, but everything else is fair game --- just leave it on the street and Public Works will whisk it away at no charge. So, start cleaning out that basement, that attic, and the scary closet or cabinet.

LOCAL HERO, PHIL HOWLAND

City Administrator Phil Howland had his 15 minutes of well-deserved fame because of his alert attention to 'all things Pine Lake.' Noticing a tree crashed into a house on Spring Street, Phil checked it out and found a survivor, and promptly called 911 for rescue personnel. Nancy Napier is

recovering now after serious injuries, and contributions are being accepted at the Police Department. Phil plans to ask the city arborist to make an inspection of hazardous trees in the City, to prevent a recurrence.

CITY HALL MUNICIPAL GALLERY

Thanks to the volunteer work of over 20 people, under the organization of Bitsy Pitts and Melanie Hammett, City Hall has now been newly-painted. With the help of Brent Talker and Linda Dianna Ahlgren, the very first City Exhibition is now on view, whenever the building is open (call to make special arrangement). The Gallery opened with a reception on Sunday afternoon, March 30 and included a ceremony honoring Sharon Sanders and the Pine Lake Cultural Affairs Committee, which organized and cultivated arts events in the city for a decade. This first exhibit features Pine Lake artists Dennis Rotch, Martha Renfroe Garner, Dede Spitz, Cecile Broz, Brent Walker, Linda Dianna Ahlgren, Karen Stykes, Jonathan Fetta and Kristen Organ. If you are interested in having your work appear at the Gallery in the future, please contact Kathie deNobriga at 404-299-9498.

Pine Lake Sponsors Children's Theatre Arts Camp

June 16-27th

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 3:30

At the Beach House

Register your 5 year-old through teen (some paid Junior Counselor positions still open) by e-mailing Ella Johannaber: ellalaura@gmail.com or call 404 298-6676.

Save the Date! Friday, June 27th the camp culminates in a performance for the community!

Classified Ads

Classified ads are free to PLAIN members. Members may place two free ads per month. For all other classified ads the fee is \$5 per month. To submit, contact Candy Howland at 404-294-5682 or e-mail her at phowl56954@aol.com

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

Handy Man Services - Rake leaves, clean out garage, small paint jobs, clean gutters. Reasonable rates, friendly and reliable. Call Asha 404 219-2610

For Sale, 5 cemetery lots close to Pine Lake. Valued at \$1,500 each, will sacrifice for \$650 each. Call Martha at 404-299-8954.

For Sale: Five shelf, open curio stand, \$20 obo. Stereo turn table, tape deck, amplifier, two speakers with built in glass top/front cabinet, \$50 obo. Various stereo equipment, call for prices. Cat carrier, \$15

obo. Large beige/brown ottoman, \$25 obo. Holly carburetor, double barrel, \$100 obo. White Ceiling Fan \$15 obo. Paul and Sheila Jasionowski 404-292-1580

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

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

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

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

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

We would like for the ads in PLAINTalk to cover the cost of printing. Please consider advertising with us! Rates:
 Business card size - - - \$25. per month
 1/4 page size - - - \$35. per month
 1/2 page size - - - \$50. per month
 (15% discount if paid yearly)
 Contact: plaintalkeditor@plainhelps.org

----- Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors Membership Form -----

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 _____



PO Box 44
 Pine Lake, GA
 30072-044

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

_____ \$25.00 yearly household PLAIN dues enclosed.

Signature _____ Join Date _____ New _____ Renew _____