

PLAIN TALK

the newsletter of the Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors

September 2008

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The Great Pine Lake Playground Build of 2008

Our city's brand-new playground is a true testament to community spirit. It stands as a real example of what can be created when a community comes together to make things happen *and* commits to play well with others.

In a nutshell: there was the initial planning by a core group of moms and dads; the fund-raising work over many, many months, including the wildly successful auction; the award of the Kaboom grant---meaning much more work at warp speed; the huge resident effort to build site #1; the realization by many residents, after seeing the site, that the current site would be a better location for the whole

community; the second huge resident effort to create site #2; and finally----the Great Playground Build of 2008.

There isn't enough space in PLAINTalk to thank by name the one hundred fifty-plus residents who worked together or to list the tasks, small and large, that brought it all to fruition. Instead of recounting all the frustrations, the work toward compromises, the rains, valiant efforts, and eleventh hour negotiations; let's go for a swing or a slide, strengthen those biceps with some chin-ups, or relax in the shade and watch our kids live it up.



Photo by Gwyneth Butera

Calendar



September

- 1st, Mon. 5 pm Potluck
6 pm Free Labor Day Concert at the Lake
- 2nd Tues. 7:30 pm ARB, Clubhouse
- 4th Thurs. 7:30 pm PLAIN, Clubhouse
- 6th Sat. 8:30-10:30 am Pancake
Breakfast, Beach House
- 8th Mon. 7:30 pm City Council, City Hall
- 9th Tues. 7:30 pm ARB Speaker Series,
Clubhouse
- 16th Tues. 7:30 pm ARB, Clubhouse
- 20th Sat. 5:30 International Dinner, Beach
House
- 21st Sun. 3:30-4:30 Pet Clinic, Clubhouse
- 28th Sun. 12:30-2 pm Opening Reception at
Municipal Gallery (see Box below)
- 30th Tues. 6:30 pm Tree Board, Beach
House
- 30th Tues. 7:30 pm City Council, City Hall
-
- 2nd Thur. 7:30 pm PLAIN, Clubhouse
- 4th Sat. 8:30-10:30 am Pancake
Breakfast, Beach House
- 4th Sat. 10 am-dark Lakefest
- 5th Sun. 11 am-6 pm LakeFest
- 7th Tues. 7:30 pm ARB, Clubhouse
- 13th Mon. 7:30 pm City Council, City Hall
- 14th Tues. 7:30 pm ARB, Speaker Series,
Clubhouse
- 16th Thurs. 7 pm PLEAS, Beach House
- 19 Sun. 3:30-4:30 Pet Clinic, Clubhouse
- 21st Tues. 7:30 pm ARB, Clubhouse
- 23rd Thurs. 7:30 pm Neighborhood Watch,
Beach House - Halloween prep
- 25th Sat. 4pm Halloween Party, Beach
House
- 28th Tues. 6:30 pm Tree Board, Beach
House
- 28th Tues. 6:30 pm Leadership Roundtable,
Clubhouse
- 28th Tues. 7:30 pm City Council, City Hall

PLAIN Hosts Annual International Dinner

Join your neighbors for a feast from around the world.
September 20th 5:30pm-7:30pm
Beach House.

Bring a dish with a tent card describing ingredients and country of origin. If you bring a dish to share or volunteer to bring supplies to share (plates, silverware, napkins, drinks) you eat free! If you don't bring something to contribute, price is \$5 per adult and \$2.50 for 5-12 year olds if you are a PLAIN member or \$6 per adult and \$3.50 for 5 - 12 year olds if you are not. Of course if you renew or join up for PLAIN at this event - dinner is free.

Please volunteer for this event! We need help with procuring beverages, cleanup and setup and everything in between. Contact Gwyneth via email at gwyneth@plainhelps.org

Pancake Breakfast

Due to the rising cost of food, we've decided to increase the price of the pancake breakfast for adults by \$1. But don't despair! If you go green and bring your own plate, flatware and mug you can save that \$1 and pay the old price (adults only). Join us at the beach house the first Saturday of each month from 8:30-10:30 for a wonderful breakfast with your wonderful neighbors.

All you can eat -- PLAIN members & seniors 60+ \$6, non-members \$7, kids 5-12 \$3. \$1 off for adults bringing their own dishes and utensils.

While breakfast is "all you can eat," please be considerate of those behind you in line. *"Take all you like, but eat all you take!"* Let's not waste any of the delicious food lovingly prepared by our dedicated, hard-working volunteers.

2007-08 PLAIN 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.

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

September Yard of the Month



The yard of the month for September is awarded to Deb Vaughn of 521 Clubhouse Dr. This charming yard has caught the attention of many as we enjoy walking past. It is quite evident that a lot of hard work has gone into this garden. There are three or four of the most beautiful large

lace cap hydrangeas on the front side of the yard as well as oak leaf hydrangeas more to the front. The abundant ferns look very happy in the dappled shade of beautiful large trees. A rain barrel fits into the scenery well, looking more like yard art than the functional, responsible receptacle that it is. Once in a while the glimpse of a brown and white kitty who walks along the many pathways is a special treat. Whirling guara is abundant in the spring and with autumn upon us it will be fun to see what other surprises await as we walk or drive by. Thank you, Deb, for your lovely contribution to the beauty of our city.

GREENTalk

One of the kid's activities on Playground Build Day was to pick up trash around the lake and neighborhood. The adults on the "kid team" and ROTC teens headed out, each with 3 or 4 children and 2 grocery bags one for recyclables and one for trash. I had my doubts about this activity. After all, it was 8:00 in the morning and I didn't feel quite awake, plus the neighborhood looked pretty clean to me. I didn't think we'd find much. To my surprise the children enthusiastically searched around the berm, up and down streets along the curb, around the lake and gazebo, and they found stuff like little pieces of paper and string, drink bottles and cans, odd items like ribbon and bubble wrap and more. I was amazed. Those kids just had an eye for finding litter and they were having a good time doing it. As we gathered back at the registration table with our finds, the pile of filled grocery bags was impressive and drew a cheer from all around. It was a good feeling, knowing we had put

all those bits and pieces into their rightful place.

My sister always carries a bag when she walks and collects any litter she may find along the way. I gained a new appreciation for this practice. I think I'll start doing this too. I wonder if developing an eye for finding litter might open opportunities for noticing other things as well.

My daughter, Aleta, just returned from California and unzipped her backpack to give out presents. She brought out piece after piece of beautiful abalone shell she had picked up on the beach. She described how excited she was to find each shell and that the friend who was with her just couldn't find any she couldn't see the iridescent pieces in the sand while Aleta picked up one after the other. It's funny, when she was describing finding the abalone, I kept remembering the excitement and delight the children had with each piece of trash they found.

by Ella Johannaber

What is PLOGGI?

PLOGGI, Pine Lake Organic Gardening and Gardeners' Initiative, is currently composed of a small group of folks in Pine Lake who are interested in community-supported agriculture. This means that we are currently growing organic vegetables on a small piece of city-owned property and are learning about propagating organic, non-genetically-engineered (non-GMO) seed for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of food. We would like to help Pine Lake to be a city interested in good health, sustainability, and "green" education.



We help each other to learn about growing organic food, and we provide healthy plants for community members to grow at home and healthy vegetables for individuals who are sick, needy, or just plain like to eat healthy. We have thus far given away plants and vegetables at city gatherings and hope to one day produce enough to sell on a small scale, perhaps at a future "Pine Lake Open-Air Organic Market", along with other organic farmers in our area!

We are currently working with the city to find space for creating raised garden plots for individuals and families who are interested in growing their own food. We would also like to educate our children about growing food, too!

If you'd like to become a supporting member of PLOGGI, or just learn more, email us at ploggimail@gmail.com.

Watch us Grow!

Notes from the Tree Board

A \$100 gift was given to the Tree Board by the Bosworth Family. It is to honor Mr. C.K. Braswell, Jr. of Conyers and the memory of his wife Peggy Lanford Braswell. We are grateful for this gift, which will serve the Pine Lake community through its tree board.

Holy Cow! The National Night Out Luau a Success!

Pine Lake celebrated our first National Night Out with a Luau including law enforcement personnel and agencies, beach music, swimming, and fun. National Night Out celebrates safety and security, particularly in the evening and helps neighbors and police connect in a social way. Pine Lake's Neighborhood Watch co-chairs, Faye Ridling and Greg Creech, planned the Luau with assistance from Pine Lake citizens for food. Chief Y'hudah-Green assisted in coordinating with the MARTA police, District Attorney's Office, and Dekalb County Fire and Resue. Mike Stuckey was a great DJ for us and Chic-Fil-A provided the cow. Our local Fire Station #24 on Redan Road brought Fire trucks for us to tour. Pine Lake residents turned out in terrific numbers and enjoyed a beautiful evening with our Police Department, fire fighters, MARTA, and other law enforcement personnel. Matt Pulsts



provided our bon fire, which all of the kids enjoyed for marshmallow roasting and all of the kids (young and not-so-young) swam into the evening in our clear and clean lake. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event and for all of the food and help you gave. Miss us this year? Look for a repeat performance next year with another Luau on the Beach next August. Thanks and stay safe.

PLAINTalk Online

In two months, we will be moving to a "mostly paperless" PLAINTalk. This was a difficult decision for PLAIN to make, but have done so for a number of reasons. Printing costs take a large part of our budget, we lack volunteers to adequately deliver to every residence in Pine Lake, and we are always looking for ways to reduce our environmental footprint. Every month, a PDF file of the newsletter will be posted on the PLAIN website (www.plainhelps.org) and an email sent to the Pine Lake Announcements list. (Contact gwyneth@butera.org for information on being added to the list.)

We realize that not everyone has access to a computer and want to be sure that we still reach everyone in our city. We will make copies of PLAINTalk available at the clubhouse, beach house and city hall, and put up a sign at the entrances that the new issue is available. For those

who would still prefer to have a copy delivered to their door, call Gwyneth at 678.358.4206 to remain on the delivery list.

Not on email? Check infrequently? We are setting up a "buddy system" for getting announcements out in between issues of PLAINTalk. If you need a buddy or would like to be a buddy to someone else, please contact gwyneth@plainhelps.org or call Gwyneth at 678.358.4206.

Singing with Elise

Pine Lake's Elise Witt will be teaching 2 Monday night sessions of singing classes in Little 5 Points starting Sept 8. The 6:45 class will focus on songs and vocal technique, with a good warm up and a bevy of cool songs from rounds and partner songs in English to Balkan and African part songs. The 8:15 class

Young Artists of Pine Lake to be Featured in Upcoming Art Exhibit

Calling all young artists of Pine Lake, up to 15 years old! Art leaps from refrigerator doors, into public space for all to enjoy. The next exhibit at the Municipal Gallery (also known as City Hall and Court) will feature the unique creations of Pine Lake children and youth. Opening reception will be Sunday, September 28 from 12:30-2pm. This exhibit will remain on view through the end of the year.

Artwork will be accepted between Monday September 15, 9am Monday September 22 at 4pm, at the City offices. (If you cannot drop off work during business hours, call Kathie deNobriga to arrange for after-hours drop-off: 404-299-9498).

Guidelines:

- o No more than two pieces of art per young artist
- o Artwork must be ready to hang (matted or framed, with hooks or wires)
- o All work must be accompanied by a signed release (available at drop-off)
- o Young artists must be 15 years old, or younger.

will focus on vocal improvisation, exploring the rainbow of colors of which our voices are capable. Please join Elise for one or both sessions (discount for taking 2) and spread the word to your singing friends and colleagues. Find out more at: <http://www.elisewitt.com> or call Elise at (404) 297-8398.

Pine Lake Yoga

We're so lucky that Ella shares her talent and passion with Pine Lake residents by offering a weekly yoga class in the Pine Lake Clubhouse. "It's the one thing that I do for myself and I really love the energy" said Cathy, a long-time student of Ella's. "It makes my week." This same sentiment is felt by all who attend. I often come in to class feeling stressed after a long day and I always leave relaxed and at peace.

Regardless of your age or level of experience Ella has a way of making you feel that the class is tailored just for you. "I had very little experience with yoga when I began Ella's class. I love the way she gears the poses for my little bit older body," said Toulou, a newcomer to the class.

The practice of yoga in combination with the natural setting of Pine Lake invites balance, connectivity and serenity. I hope

you'll come out and join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm and benefit from Ella's wonderful gift.

For more information please contact Ella directly at (404) 277-5747

by Jessica Long

Pine Lake Local: Strength in Numbers!

Calling all business owners, service providers, artists! Pine Lake is packed with creative and resourceful folks and it's time to pool our resources. If you are self-employed and looking for ways to grow or strengthen your business, join us as we form a brand new business alliance: Pine Lake Local.

Referrals are one of the best ways to find work, and who better to send business to than your neighbor? In addition to networking, this fledgling group will be an excellent resource, providing speakers with

advice on topics like accounting, taxes, proposals, and others. A website is also under construction that will promote Pine Lake's entrepreneurs, free-lancers, and independent business owners.

Be at the Clubhouse on October 16 at 7:30 to start getting to know the realtors, musicians, accountants, photographers, renovators, artists and other trades people next door. Let us know you are coming, or ask for more information, at PineLakeLocal@gmail.com.

Book Review: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows was a near-perfect read. The novel is written in letters, most of either to or from Juliet, a writer who gained a following using humor to cover World War II in her newspaper column. In 1946, when the novel begins, Juliet is casting about for a book idea when she receives a letter by chance--a man named Dawsey, who lives on Guernsey (an island in the English Channel), happened to buy a book formerly owned by Juliet, and he is writing to find out if there are other books by the same author (Charles Lamb). He mentions that Guernsey had been cut off from the rest of the world during the German occupation and alludes to the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, of which he was a part. Intrigued, Juliet writes back, asking

for an explanation of the Society and more information on the Occupation. He replies that the group was formed as a spontaneous defense for breaking curfew, and they decided they'd better keep meeting or risk being found out. Throughout the five years of occupation, this unlikely society, many of whom had never read anything but farming publications, take turns reading a book to present to the group.

The Society's members begin to correspond with Juliet, widening her circle and drawing her into their lives. The letters not only detail the history of the Guernsey occupation; they reveal what reading means to the human spirit and how chance encounters can change a life. This slender volume (only 274 pages) is brilliantly and sensitively written, with anecdotes that expose what

happens to people under extreme conditions; the Guernsey citizens and German forces alike are illustrated with acts of inhuman cruelty and desperation, but also with instances of courage, empathy, and humanity.

This novel was absolutely beautiful, heartbreaking and uplifting, not to mention with a wicked sense of humor. Juliet is a likable protagonist and I adored the Guernsey folk. If Juliet's relationship with Mark was sometimes a bit clunky (why couldn't she tell he was a wanker?), I quickly forgave the intrusion because the novel as a whole was such an enjoyable experience. Highly recommended for individuals or book clubs.

by Allison Campbell

Read more book reviews by Allison Campbell at <http://hollybooknotes.blogspot.com>

NOTES FROM CITY HALL

PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF PINE LAKE

www.pinelakega.com

Recent Council Action

July 29 and August 11 2008

Council heard the first reading of Residential section which covers new construction and renovations/additions (including fences and decks). **Second reading and approval scheduled for September 8.**

Council and Mayor have begun to study the "Uptown" zoning provisions, which cover the business and commercial district. The review of this Zoning, which supplements/replaces our current Mixed Use Ordinance, will continue with a special meeting on August 26, from 5:30-7:30pm, followed by the regular Council Meeting.

Approved an ordinance adding a \$12 fuel surcharge to each violation, in order to defray rising costs of gas.

Received news of a \$10,500 grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission, to support another year of work by the city arborist. (See longer story, below, about what that work will include.)

Approved a variance to add a half-story to a current one-story house at 4609 Park. Discussed the year-to-date budget, and identified several cost over-runs, primarily in insurance and gas. The Council will re-examine the budget in early September, after the City receives the first of two installments of residential taxes, as we will be able to make more accurate projections at that time.

Heard a report on efforts to trap dogs that may be responsible for killing at least 10 cats in the last two months. Police are working with DeKalb County Animal Control. Residents are encouraged to call 9-1-1 if they see dogs off leash, especially at night.

Endorsed a plan to re-locate the proposed playground site to the west end of the beach, to keep more of the beach open.

New Zoning

While the Residential codes are moving towards approval, Council is continuing its line-by-line examination of the Uptown (business) code. A working session on Tuesday, August 26 will complete that work, and the new code will be introduced on Monday, September 8. Copies of the new ordinances are available to the public.

August Town Hall

Over 30 people attended the August 2 Town Hall meeting, to hear about the Tree Study and to discuss the location of the Playground (see story below). More details about the tree report are below, but attendees learned a little-known fact: if as little as 10% of a tree crosses a property line, then that tree is *co-owned* by the two property owners. Barneycastle also dispelled the "myth of the tap root," by discussing tree physiology.

Most of the Town Hall was spent discussing the location of the Playground and the citizen concerns about the site. Various factors, such as wheel-chair access, location of the electrical guy-wire, visual impact and "fall zones" for safety were discussed, and residents spent considerable time looking at the site, to get an understanding of the actual size of the playground equipment, as opposed to the much larger site that has been prepared to accommodate preparation and installation. A possible compromise was suggested, but Ka-Boom, the playground builders, did not approve the change. In the meantime, members of the Playground Committee and other citizens have been working to develop another compromise that was been endorsed by council.

Tree Report

City arborist Chris Barneycastle presented the official "Tree Canopy Assessment." Working with aerial photographs from 1995 and 2007, Barneycastle plotted 3,400 points in the city, identifying each point as either trees, impervious surfaces, grass/open fields or water. The study showed that tree canopy decreased very slightly in 12 years (from 66.5% to 66.2%), while the grass/open field declined by 42%, much of that due to re-forestation. Impervious surfaces increased from 18.4% to 22.3%.

Next steps are to create a "Street Tree Inventory" of all trees within 3' of the curb, to determine health, potential hazards, space and species. Based on the Street Tree Inventory, Barneycastle will then create a management plan to maintain the health of these trees, by recommending pruning, removal, fertilizing or cabling. The final step is to conduct a comprehensive tree inventory, which will give us more information about the general health of the trees in Pine Lake.

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
Fax: (404)292-7531

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**

For Sale, 5 cemetery lots at Melwood Cemetery. Valued at \$1,500 each, will sacrifice for \$650 each. **Call Martha at 404-299-8754.**

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

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**

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**

Yoga at the Clubhouse - Wednesdays 7:15 - 8:30. For information call Ella at 404-277-5747 or write ellalaura@gmail.com.

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 _____