

PLAIN TALK

the newsletter of the Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors

April 2010

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Pine Lake Celebrates Arbor Day

Susan Ramsey



On Saturday March 6, the Pine Lake tree board hosted its annual Arbor Day celebration. The celebration, which was held along the recently completed Eastern Wetlands trail, included a brief overview of recent tree board activities, a tree planting demonstration, wintertime tree identification tips and hands-on lessons on privet and ivy removal.

The tree board is pleased to announce that Pine Lake's designation as a "Tree City" by the National Arbor Day Foundation has been renewed for 2010, and that Chris Barneycastle will continue to serve as our part-time city arborist, thanks to a renewed grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program. Chris has been an invaluable asset to the city and its trees and enthusiastically led the

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2010 CALENDAR OF CITY EVENTS



April

- 1 Thurs, 7:30pm PLAIN, Club House
- 1 Thurs, DEADLINE FOR CENSUS
- 2 Fri, Good Friday (First Friday Concert rescheduled, see the 9th)
- 3 Sat, 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt, Beach House
- 3 Sat, 8:30am PLAIN Pancake Breakfast, Beach House
- 4 Sun, Easter
- 4 Sun, 3:30pm Pet Clinic, Club House
- 4 Sun, 6pm LakeFest Planning, Club House
- 6 Tues, 7pm ARB, Club House
- 9 Fri, 8pm First Friday Concert, Beach House (see pg. 3)
- 10 Sat, Deadline for May PLAINTalk
- 12 Mon, 7:30pm City Council Meeting, City Hall
- 16 Fri, 12:30pm DDA, Take 2
- 17 Sat, PLAIN's City Wide Yard Sale
- 20 Tues, 7pm ARB, Club House
- 27 Tues, 7:30P City Council Work Session, City Hall
- 27 Tues, 6:30pm TAB, Beach House

Guide to Calendar Acronyms

- ARB** = Architectural Review Board
- DDA** = Downtown Development Authority
- PLAIN** = Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors
- PLEAS** = Pine Lake Environment, Access & Stewardship
- PLL** = Pine Lake Local (Business Networking and Support)
- TAB** = Tree Authority Board

Pine Lake Citywide Yard Sale

Gwyneth Butera

It's time to clear off those overcrowded shelves and empty those stuffed closets! Mark your calendars for April 17th. To hold a yard sale during this event, you will need to fill out an application and pay a \$5 fee which goes towards advertising. The applications are available at city hall, but I have some copies at my house if city hall hours are too restrictive for you to be able to get there.

Now is the time to clean out and have some fun and maybe even make a few dollars, too!

May

- 1 Sat, 8:30-10:30am PLAIN Pancake Breakfast, Beach House
- 2 Sun, 3:30pm Pet Clinic, Club House
- 2 Sun, 6pm LakeFest Planning, Club House
- 3 Mon, 7pm PLEAS Meeting, Beach House
- 4 Tues, 7pm ARB, Club House
- 6 Thurs, 7:30pm PLAIN, Club House
- 7 Fri, 8pm First Friday Concert, Beach House
- 9 Sun, Mother's Day
- 10 Mon, 7:30pm City Council Meeting, City Hall
- 10 Mon, Deadline for PLAINTalk
- 13 Thurs, 7:30pm Town Hall Meeting, Club House
- 16 Sun, 1-6pm FIRST Pine Lake Tour of Homes & Gardens (see page 3)
- 18 Tues, 7pm ARB, Club House
- 21 Fri, 12:30pm DDA, Take 2
- 22 Sat, 8:00 am PLEAS Clean-up Day, Beach House/Lake
- 25 Mon, 7:30pm City Council Work Session, City Hall
- 25 Tues, 6:30pm TAB, Beach House
- 27 Thurs, 7pm Neighborhood Watch, Beach House
- 29 Sat, noon Memorial Day Parade, (Kick-off at the Club House) Beach Opening and City Cookout
- 29 Sat, 2pm PLAIN Ice Cream Social, Beach House
- 30 Sun, 3:30pm Pet Clinic, Club House
- 31 Mon, Memorial Day City offices closed

Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors

PLAIN

2008 - 09 OFFICERS & CHAIRS

President

Gwyneth Butera
gwyneth@butera.org

Vice President

Lalah Manly

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PLAIN WEBSITE

www.plainhelps.org

JOIN PLAIN

Join the Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors or renew your current membership. Just fill out the membership form found in this newsletter and submit along with payment of \$25 per household to: PLAIN P.O. Box 44 Pine Lake, GA 30072-0044

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

SUBMISSIONS

PLAIN welcomes submissions to PLAINTalk that report on news in our community, 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.

A PLAIN Call for New Energy

Lalah Manly

PLAIN is ready for some fresh blood, a change in perspective, some new running shoes . . . The current slate of officers has been serving for a number of years and would love to see some new energy step up to the plate! We're all still here to guide and assist, but want to move on to support the city in other ways.

PLAIN is important! Planning and producing many of the city's social events means we stay connected to one another. We're here to help a neighbor when the need arises.

It's my job as vice president of PLAIN to nominate and present a slate of officers to the PLAIN membership at it's May meeting. Elections will take place at the June meeting. Let me be plain (heh): if PLAIN is to stay afloat, we need 3 or 4 new people for the current 4 positions: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. What do these positions entail?

PLAIN Officer Duties:

The PLAIN president presides at the neighborhood meetings and helps to plan all the events as well as supporting the volunteers for other PLAIN activities such as PLAINTalk, Neighbor-

hood Watch and others.

The PLAIN vice president presides at neighborhood meetings in the absence of the president. The vice president gathers the slate of officers for next election cycle.

The PLAIN secretary takes the minutes at the monthly meeting and provides them to the leadership within 1 week of the meeting. The secretary also serves as an alternate to selected Pine Lake leadership meetings.

The PLAIN treasurer collects member dues, prepares and adheres to an approved budget maintains accurate records, transacts business through Wachovia bank, keeps the executive board informed of financial strengths and weaknesses, submits a monthly Treasurers report, works with various city committees to deposit and keep an accurate record of fund for their groups, maintains \$150 cash box, collects monthly monies and receipts for monthly PLAIN breakfast, holds the key to the PLAIN post office box and checks the box regularly for official correspondence.

One of the gifts given to the city by Gwyneth Butera, current president, is her organization

(Continued on page 6)

HILCO VALET **YOUR PINE LAKE CLEANERS** **4635 ROCKBRIDGE RD** **STONE MOUNTAIN, GA. 30083**

THE CORNER OF ROCKBRIDGE AND ROWLAND

DRY CLEANING SPECIAL
10 PIECES \$19.99 PREPAID
LAUNDRY SHIRTS 99 CENTS
WASH & FOLD \$12.00 BAG
WE DO CORPORATE CLEANING
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ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS

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*Support our Local Businesses
and tell them you saw their
ad in PLAINtalk*

Safety By Design

Melanie Hammet

In recent years, a strange and beautiful relationship has developed between urban planners and law enforcement. When Pine Lake hired an urban designer to rewrite building codes and ordinances, there were several tenets embodied in our final zoning standards that reflected the new relationship and the desires of city residents. Not only is our code designed to protect and perpetuate the lake, the trees, and building standards — it is designed to enhance personal and community safety.

How does this actually work?

A design concept very literally called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) breaks the idea into simple sections, both obvious and surprising. These excerpts from the website (see #1, below) illustrate the three basics:

Natural Surveillance

We need to create environments where there is plenty of opportunity for people engaged in their normal behavior to observe the space around them. By designing the placement of physical features, activities and people in such a way to maximize visibility, natural surveillance occurs.

Natural Access Control

Most criminal intruders will try to find a way into an area where they will not be easily observed. Limiting access and increasing natural surveillance keeps them out altogether or marks them as an intruder. By selectively placing entrances and exits, fencing, lighting and landscape to control the flow of or limit access, natural access control occurs.

Natural Territorial Reinforcement:

An environment designed to clearly delineate private space does two things. First, it creates a sense of ownership. Owners have vested interest and are more likely to challenge intruders or report them to the police. Second, the sense of owned space creates an environment where “strangers” or “intruders” stand out and are more easily identified. By using buildings, fences, pavement, signs, lighting and landscape to express ownership and define

public, semi-public and private space, natural territorial reinforcement occurs.

It’s clear that our individual homes, our blocks, and our overall city have elements that both support and stray from these CPTED principles. A walk around the neighborhood demonstrates room for improvement ---and examples of success.

For additional info, here are websites that are a great resource:

1. www.mesaaz.gov/POLICE/literature/pdf/CPTED_long.pdf
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_prevention_through_environmental_design

March PLAIN Meeting Featured *Living On A Budget*

Nicky Rosenbluth

Despite a slow start while I tried to regroup from getting home from work late, we had a small but interested group.

We started out with website tips and promised to download info for the two seniors that were unable to get on websites. Greg Creech created and showed us an excellent and easy budget tool - thank you Greg. Sheryl Feenan who is at Consumer Credit Counseling gave us some excellent tips on more budgeting, credit card questions, mortgages (I did not know you could modify your mortgage) - thank you Sheryl, Ellen Mintzmeyer shared some great resources regarding some reading materials and how she modifies her budget to stretch her income, and an upcoming workshop. Ellen (not sure of last name) introduced Angel Food Ministries and how they can save money. Lalah did not get a chance to present but we went to her website and looked at the good cheap eating blogs - very impressive - thank you Lalah.

People left with resources such as Living on a dime, how to use Coupons more efficiently via Coupon Mom, cheap healthy eating, menus4moms, angel food ministries and Consumer Credit counseling.

Feedback thus far is positive — everyone learned at least one useful thing.

NOTES FROM CITY HALL

PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF PINE LAKE

www.pinelakega.com

April 2010

RECENT COUNCIL ACTIONS

Highlights from February 23 and March 8, 2010 Council meetings:

- Review ed proposals for City Auditor
- Approved and further amended the capital improvements budget
- Approved a variance for a property on Spruce Drive damaged by the fall flooding. This variance will allow the homeowner to undertake construction within the state-mandated stream buffer zone. The construction will lift a pre-existing house up 9', using the original footprint.
- Approved a resolution in support of Mercy House's application for funding from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Review ed a draft of the 2010 Beach Rules
- Further discussed new regulations and rates for use of City facilities

Pine Lake Joins Other DeKalb Cities in Opposing DeKalb County

A complicated but very important negotiation between the nine cities of DeKalb County and the County is currently stalled. Called the "Service Delivery Strategy," the agreement details the services that the County will provide Pine Lake (such as Roads and Drainage, additional police, etc.) and what we must pay for these services through a tax-sharing arrangement. This agreement is mandated by the state, and failure to reach an agreement not only means that the tax cannot be collected, but that the issuance of new permits is suspended, both in Pine Lake and in DeKalb County. Obviously, the County has as much at risk as Pine Lake and the other cities, so we are confident that an agreement will be reached. But in the meantime, the failure of the cities and the county to reach an agreement has everyone

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

anxious. The Mayor and City Administrator are monitoring the situation and providing regular updates to Council.

Pine Lake Increases Visibility

After months, if not years, of persistent pressure from our city's leadership, the Georgia Department of Transportation has added Pine Lake to the exit signs on I-285 at Memorial Drive. And in late

March, look for new banners that will stretch across Rockbridge Road, announcing "Welcome to Pine Lake • Renewed Community Spirit." The slogan, adopted by the business members of the Downtown Development Authority, signals a closer relationship between the Rockbridge merchants and the residential section of town.

One Small Step for Fiscal Balance

Mayor Greg Zarus is working hard with Council to balance this year's budget with minimal millage rate increases. "I'd like to remind the community that the city is facing some of the same effects of the economy as you might be facing -- insurance rates have increased by more than 10% and defaults on tax payments have increased by 300%. Our city functions on taxes. In order to balance the budget, we have to cut back. YOU can help by simply cleaning up your curb and helping your neighbors do the same."

Mayor's Trash Amnesty Days on Hold

In light of the city's budgetary concerns, Pine Lake's traditional Trash Amnesty Days which are listed in the city calendar are on hold. This four day event allows residents to dispose of items to be picked up by city workers with none of the usual fees to the resident. It is a highly appreciated service but quite costly to the city. A final decision will be made at the March 30th Council Meeting. An announcement will be made after the council meeting.

Coming Soon! Our FIRST Pine Lake Tour of Homes and Gardens

Pine Lake City Arts is getting ready to announce the tour sites for this first of, what is hoped will be, an annual event.



Mark your calendars:

Sunday, May 16th

1-6pm

Tickets are \$15. and proceeds

will go to Pine Lake Theatre Arts Camp and LakeFest. Camp funding will provide need-based scholarships and monies for LakeFest will go towards promotions for this annual event which will be held October 2nd and 3rd.

Kathie de Nobriga and Traci Augustosky Lopez are busily finalizing the tour sites in the next few weeks.

The Tour Schedule will be announced in the next issue of PLAINTalk.

(Continued from page 1)

Arbor Day activities (an article detailing all of Chris' work for Pine Lake is forthcoming).

The tree planting demonstration featured a Bald Cypress, a deciduous conifer which should thrive in the moist soil of the wetlands and complement the other wetland plantings.



Maddie Nomura and Bailey Carr watch the planting of the tree.

Eventually a tree identification plaque will be added and this tree will become part of a group of specimen trees planted around the city.

Thanks to the many participants who, in addition to enjoying a beautiful day and updating their tree and wetlands IQ, helped to meet the city's grant requirements through their participation in this event.



City arborist, Chris Barneycastle, identifies native plant species along the wetlands walk.

(Continued from page 3)

A PLAIN Call *continued*

of the PLAIN materials. She has a database listing what happens when and how it was publicized last year. She will also continue to update the PLAIN website, which is in the process of being completely revamped. I'm grateful to Gwyneth for her stamina in keeping each of us moving on the tasks we said we'd take on, and for her fresh look at how to green-up as many of our processes as possible.

Mary Stuckey should be thanked for her work as treasurer, for bringing financial reports to each meeting, and for being a consistent face at Saturday morning breakfasts ready to accept membership applications and funds.

Linda and her fabulous, accurate meeting minutes! Because of her, PLAIN's minutes are available on the PLAIN website for all of us. Oh! And Linda and Mary together seem ever-ready to do the shopping and show up to make things happen.

You know folks, that's really what it comes down to: showing up. Will you?

Contact Lalah at lalah143@gmail.com



4634 Rockbridge Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
(404) 781-1200 www.take2intl.net

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April Yard of the Month

Candice Howland

Joe and Czech King have created a peaceful little oasis in the yard of their house on the lake. I recently heard the story of a neighbor who was not feeling well one day and was drawn to the bench that sits so invitingly among the blooms. She said she felt a peace come over her while sitting there and that for her it is a special healing place. I'm sure many of us feel that way as we walk around the lake and come upon this sweet little yard.



Joe and Czech have lived in Pine Lake on Park Drive for over nine years and every year they improve their garden a little more. We have had an unusually cold winter and spring this year so things are getting off to a slow start but the crocuses and daffodils in their front garden are spectacular. The Lenten roses are abundant and so healthy looking. Hidden from the street they have lovely ferns, a koi pond, walking trails and many unusual plants.

Sadly for all of us, Joe and Czech are moving to New Hampshire and have their lovely lakefront home for sale.

Congratulations on winning this month's Yard of the Month and please remember us and know we will miss you terribly. Good luck in your new home!

Join Your Neighborhood Association Today!



PINE LAKE ASSOCIATION OF INVOLVED NEIGHBORS

Fill out and send to: 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 plaintakeditor@plainhelps.org or call Ella 404 277-5747.

American Electric Contractors Free Estimates, Commercial and Residential certified and licensed. **Byron Brussard 770 328-0340.**

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<http://emintzmyer.qhealthzone.com>
<http://emintzmyer.ordemygift.com>

Electrician. I've known Sergio Arillo for over 25 years. He is a Lic. Master Electrician and a trustworthy, good-hearted man with impeccable integrity. I highly recommend his services. Call me, Ella Johannaber, if you want to hear more about him at 404 277-5747. Or you can call **Sergio for all your electrical needs at 404 731-6415.**

Eva Sotus is now offering facials here in Pine Lake! A 90 minute experience includes, appropriate cleansing, exfoliation, facial massage, extractions if needed, masque, moisturizer and a fabulous finish with neck and shoulder massage. Licensed for over 10 years as a paramedical aesthetician, at her Buckhead shop this would start at \$80 but now offering a 'this side of town' price of \$55.00. Feel free to call with questions and book an appt. Evenings and weekends available. **Call Eva at 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**

Home Maintenance Service. Painting and Carpentry. **Call 678 984-2563 or e-mail drotch@earthlink.net.**

For Sale: Dining room set - table and four chairs; solid oak; in brand new condition; \$200 or best offer. Antique large 3 by 9 Seal test sign - best offer. **Call Charlotte 404-294-6165**

Freelance Writing and Editing by Margie Fishman Pine Lake professional journalist with more than 10 years of experience writing for major publications. I write articles for newspapers and magazines, newsletters, web sites, advertising brochures, etc. I can edit resumes, papers, grant applications, etc. **E-mail margiefishman@hotmail.com.**

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

House For Sale: 646 Ivy Rd. 2bed-room/2bath. Large eat-in kitchen. 100X100 corner lot. Detached garage with electricity and HVAC, perfect for studio or workshop. \$169,000. **More info at 646ivy.com.**

Looking for help with the honey-do list? Your neighbor Matt can help. Reliable, responsible and high quality. **404-966-3808 or www.yourintownhandyman.com.**

Needed: new members for the Pine LakeFest Planning Committee. Any and all levels of assistance welcome. Come and help with promotions, food, music, logistics, special events, or other areas of interest. **Contact Kathie deNobriga for more information (404-299-9498 or kdenobriga@mindspring.com).**

MASSAGE, ETC! LMT with 15 yrs. Experience. One hour professional massage...only \$37! Other modalities: reflexology, ear candling, essential oils/ rindrop. Relax, unwind...in your own neighborhood! \$29 for first time Clients. Gift Certificates Available. **Paula Clancy 772-418-0235.**

Oeness 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 Oeness in everything. Group meets the third Sunday of the month and private sessions available, **call Gail at 404-668-0630.**

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, 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.**

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.**

Victor Services. Painting inside or outside. Home repairs - room or whole house. Gutters cleaned. Pressure Washing. Trash Hauled. Window painting inside or out. Carpet Cleaning. Moving service. Real Reasonable Rates. **Call your Pine Lake neighbor, Victor at 404 399-1244.**

First Friday *Eva Sotus*

I'm proud to announce Joe Davies will be performing at our next event. Joe is a well-known talent here in Atlanta working as guitarist for many groups including Zydefunk and Gleam.

Our casual coffee house offers the perfect setting for him to offer his more personal work from his album of originals, *Cup O' Joe*. His duo will perform his fun tunes that not only showcase his talent as a musician, but his uplifting and humorous spirit as well.

Check out our site for more info.

www.dellastreet.info/firstFriday.php

PLEASE NOTE!

First Friday will be on the second Friday of April, on the 9th.

**Joe Davies
April 9th, 8pm
at the Beach House**

