

## DOING THE RIGHT THINGS FOR THE WRONG REASONS



I wish I could personally show gratitude to all of our homeowners for both their public and secretive support in helping take our community back. Having been on the Board of Directors has really made particular sayings that my parents would tell me (when I was much younger) come true. One saying that sticks out more than the others was,

“You are not going to satisfy all the people all the time.” So, I adopted the mind set to do what’s right, and everything else will work itself out.

Wearing two hats -- those of the Board of Directors President and Chair for the Architectural Review Board -- a lot of things have become apparent. There are several types of homeowners in any community, and they are:

1. Those that really care about the community;
2. Those that care only about seeing things done, the way they want it done;
3. Those that find fault with everything -- by the way these types never volunteer for anything in the community;
4. Those that will not call 911, but will call the Clubhouse and want the staff to call 911 - two days after the incident; and
5. Those that don’t pay their assessments, but consistently complain about what the landscapers, contractors, vendors and everybody else doesn’t do.

I don’t like to come from this position of communicating with my fellow homeowners, but this is where the rubber meets the road, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, etc. (I could go on and on, but you get the picture.) Now, let’s dissect some of the items referenced above, and see where we fit:

1. A no brainer. They are the ones that give their time – when they can – and help us by offering suggestions, both positive and negative, and offer constructive comments.
2. These homeowners want to have a better community, only if it’s on their terms.
3. This type really blows me away, and that’s the type of homeowner that finds everything -- and I mean everything -- wrong.
4. This type sits in the window and watches the clock/watch to see if the trash is put out too early or too late.
5. Then the ones that will see a crime being committed on Saturday evening, and can’t or will not get a tag number from a vehicle, but will wait until Tuesday to call the Clubhouse and tell whoever answers the phone about the crime.

This type is the cream of the crop. They don’t pay assessments, because of some reasons which happened over five years ago, and they say they can’t see anything being done in the community. If there is an issue with any contractor, vendor, or landscape personnel, we need to know. But the best one of all is that somebody is stealing the money. I have been trying to figure out what money is

So much for the categorization, and in all seriousness, I feel the Board has done a great job. We are being very proactive, and have NOT raised assessments in two years (and don’t intend to). We have started collections proceedings, foreclosures, bank liens and garnishee actions to collect on delinquent accounts. We have been very successful with our efforts, and with improved technologies, we are getting even better... I can just hear the homeowner types 2 & 6’s now...

We have gotten the lakes flowing again, have a new communication system in the Clubhouse, and we own our own vehicle (Paid For). We have a new security and camera system, a new landscape company which cost much less than before, a Resource Center with five computers and a second, professional printer. Trees have been cut or limbed up to show more of the ambience of the community, and the front entrance is getting a new landscape theme. Roving security patrols have been instituted to curb crime in the community, and the Clubhouse is getting new flooring on the upper levels. These are just some of the major things we have done; there are too many smaller things to mention. We are still pressing toward the mark to bring us back to the realm of where we belong.

In conclusion, there are two things I feel must be said. I don’t answer nor respond to anonymous letters or phone calls; I like to know with whom I am dealing with. Second, I don’t understand how we as a people can go to the moon and back, but cannot walk next door or across the street and talk to our neighbors. I wish every homeowner well and continue to enjoy your community.

Rick Harris, President  
MCSA, Inc. Board of Directors

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY	9-1-1
Police Services	(404) 294-2000
Criminal Investigations	(770) 724-7841
Crime Awareness/Prevention	(678) 937-5339
Non-Emergency Dispatch	(678) 937-2852
Police Often As Possible (POAP Forms)	(687) 937-5301
Records (Copies of Police Reports)	(770) 724-7740
Code Enforcement	(770) 724-7490

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Mainstreet Park Drive

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Architectural Review Board  
 Rick Harris 770.469.6277  
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 Yvonne Edun 404.838.3690  
 Tennis Committee  
 Martin Edun 404.886.5730  
 Pat Wilson-Robinson 770.469.7238  
 Sharon Wilson 770.469.7238  
 Social Activities Committee  
 Nadine Rivers-Johnson 678.580.2762  
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 Landscaping Committee  
 Patrice Diamond 770.498.5911  
 Gardening Committee  
 Patrice Diamond 770.498.5911  
 Townhomes Committee  
 Mamy Britt 770.498.7589  
 Patrice Diamond 770.498.5911  
 Patricia Prayor 770.413.2872  
 Welcome Committee  
 Patrice Diamond 770.498.5911  
 Seniors Committee  
 Beverly Wright-Paige 770.465.9397  
 Newsletter/Web Committee  
 Nadine Rivers-Johnson 678.580.2762

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**VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN  
 YOUR COMMUNITY  
 MAINSTREET NEEDS  
 YOUR PARTICIPATION  
 AND COMMITMENT**



**Clubhouse Events**

**PUB NIGHT AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

1ST Saturdays—9:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.  
 Join your neighbors for Bid Whist, Spades, Dominoes, Uno,  
 Board Games, Trivia, Pool, Meet-& Greet! Deejay!  
 Food and Drink  
 Bring the Fun! See you there!

**BOOK CLUB**

4TH Fridays—7:30 P.M.  
 Club members and homeowners welcome.  
 Bring your reading suggestions!

**KARATE AT MAINSTREET**

Saturday Morning  
 Beginners: 9:00 A.M.—10:30 A.M.  
 Advanced: 10:30 A.M.—NOON

**MCCWCC (Crime Watch)**

Block Captains Needed!  
 Report crime directly and often!  
**See Crime Watch "Eye On U" Signs**  
 www.crimewatch@mainstreetcommunity.org

**BIBLE STUDY AT MAINSTREET**

For more information contact



many exciting things going on right here in our neighborhood. Residents are beginning to see the many community improvements made to date.

First, I'd like to thank the many homeowners who have responded to inquiries about their assessments and made the appropriate arrangements to get their HOA accounts current. Our annual budget is funded by the homeowner assessments paid. It is our fiduciary responsibility to then maintain all common areas, utilities, and amenities from those funds.

As reported in the last issue of *The Mainstream*, the Mainstreet Resource Center—funded by donations from Wells Fargo Bank, their *Days of Giving* Grant program, and the Young Men's Leadership Academy/Diamonds & Pearls after-school program at Mainstreet — is fully operational and continues to be utilized by residents and youth. The Captain Planet Foundation grant project has been completed, and a beautiful commemorative “reflective” garden was installed on the Clubhouse lake area.

Thanks to the Atlanta Food Bank organization and volunteers from Suntrust Bank, the Mainstreet Community Garden area was cleared, completing the first phase of this community project. Lots will be available for annual leasing in time for a fall planting to residents. Watch for additional information on the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for late summer and the commencement of fall planting. As part of this *healthy living* initiative, we are currently holding a contest to name the Mainstreet Community Garden. Submissions will be taken through the deadline, which is June 15, 2011. The winner will be announced on July 1, 2011. The winning submission will grace the formal community garden sign, and the winning artist will design the garden's supply building. Students of different age groups from E. L. Miller, Miller Grove Middle, and Redan High Schools will be chosen to decorate the garden's gated areas. Contact the Clubhouse administrative office for further information, to volunteer, or to lease your residential garden plot.

We are also getting ready for the summer pool season at the Clubhouse. Please update your Mainstreet identification card with a current 2011 sticker for entrance to the community pools during the summer months. Homeowners must be in good standing or under a payment plan to obtain current identifications cards and/or 2011 stickers. Again, we are here to assist you if you need help with your HOA account status. In addition to regular pool hours, we will offer swimming lessons for youth on a limited basis. Visit the Clubhouse for more information or to sign your children up for the program. There will be a Mainstreet Summer Camp for Youth offered over the summer. See the Summer Camp flyer in this issue on Page 7.

Last, but certainly not least, Girl Scout Troop #26408, led by Mainstreet resident and volunteer, Joan Gaudet, is decorating the

design was selected by a Board vote. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned prior to the Memorial Day Weekend. *Kudos* to these future leaders!

There are many, many interesting and informative articles in this issue, so please take a moment to enjoy the good news we have to share. Mainstreet's Board of Directors and staff have once again strived to provide residents with the best opportunities for community involvement and ways to participate or volunteer.

Additionally, I would like to take a moment to thank the many advertisers featured on the pages that follow. Their contributions help us continue to provide a graduating senior with a scholarship award opportunity each year, so please be sure to utilize their services should the opportunity arise. Your continued support helps this worthy cause on many levels.

In conclusion, I wish each of you the best spring ever and look forward to being able to service this community. It is truly an honor to share this issue with you.

*Nadine Rivers-Johnson*  
Community Association Administrator  
Editor-In-Chief, *The Mainstream*

## **2011 Calendar of Events**

<b>Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt</b>	<b>04/23/11</b>
<b>*SPONSORED BY GA STATE REP MICHELE HENSON*</b>	
<b>Mainstreet Health Fair</b>	<b>05/28/11</b>
<b>Pool Season Opening "All Free Days"</b>	<b>5/29-5/30/11</b>
<b>Shopping/Vendors at Pub Night</b>	<b>06/05/11</b>
<b>Annual Fourth of July Celebration</b>	<b>07/04/11</b>
<b>National Night Out Against Crime</b>	<b>08/02/11</b>
<b>Community Yard Sale</b>	<b>08/20/11</b>
<b>Annual Children's Halloween Party</b>	<b>10/31/11</b>

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### **NOTICE**

**Board of Director's Meetings**  
**are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month**  
**at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Keep abreast of current news and topics**  
**affecting the community**

**REMEMBER: Homeowner Meetings**  
**with the Board of Directors held every other month.**  
**Watch the Clubhouse Marquee and listen to**

mortgage payment, and for those that are renting the same goes towards a rental payment. In return for such a large investment, you would think that an individual(s) would be very concerned about maintaining the exterior, as well as the interior, of their homes. As a long-time resident and homeowner in Mainstreet, I'd like for each of our homeowners and residents to consider following a few simple guidelines:

1. To complete the finished look of the yard, edge your driveway and sidewalk, and blow off or sweep the curb as well when you mow your lawn. The first thing a potential home buyer or resident observes when riding through the neighborhood is how "we" as a community maintain our property. Your lawn, the shrubbery, flowers, and fencing are the added "jewels" to complement the exterior of the home. Invest a few dollars by purchasing grass seed to fix patches or where the grass has thinned out. Purchase a few flats of flowers to intersperse with your landscape for seasonal color. Hire someone to clean your gutters, and repair them if needed. Remove trash receptacles from the street or front porch and, place them at the back of the driveway. Trim your shrubbery/hedges, and prune your trees. Finally, *don't park* your vehicle on the grass. This defeats all the work you've put into your landscaping. You'll be amazed at the impact a few small changes can make.
2. Get to know your neighbors! If you have an elderly neighbor that cannot work in their yard due to physical or medical reasons, call or email the Clubhouse office during business hours, and the Board along with the Landscape Committee, can look at each situation and perhaps form a volunteer group to donate their time and energy to help that homeowner. This is what being a community is about.
3. Last, being a volunteer is the "heart" of a community. Get involved! The Board of Directors is trying to revitalize and energize the community, but we need your support and help. Donating an afternoon or time during the weekend to complete some of the projects we're trying to institute will go a long way. The summer months are approaching, and a wonderful time can be had by all homeowners and residents through giving of our most precious commodity - time.

*Patrice Diamond, Vice President  
MCSA, Inc. Board of Directors*

that both benefit homeowners and the community. Many homeowners have taken the initiative to work towards payment plan agreements and attaining a "current" status in their assessments. As a result, many have also become more involved in the activities and amenities Mainstreet has to offer.

Spring has arrived, and although we have had some success in collecting past due assessments, there are still many homeowners who have chosen to not "spring" into action by addressing their HOA assessment delinquencies.

It is a property owner's right and obligation to be educated about HOA assessments as it relates to their community. The article below, written by Michael Rome, J.D., is not to be substituted for legal advice. However, it does help homeowners better understand the legal obligation entered into upon purchasing property in a "mandatory homeowner's association" like the Mainstreet Community, for those that may not already be aware of these obligations.

Mainstreet's staff and its Board of Directors is committed to diligently pursuing the goal of moving forward towards having a thriving community with a zero delinquency rate. That goal can only be accomplished when we collectively do our parts financially. We look forward to helping you "spring" into action by assisting you in the achievement of a current HOA assessment status.

*Understanding HOA Dues in Georgia*

*By: Michael Rome, J.D.*

The provisions for paying annual dues are contained in the Declaration of Covenants for your association. The Declaration of Covenants is filed on the deed records in your county's Superior Court. You automatically agreed to the terms of these covenants by purchasing your home.

If a homeowner does not pay the dues, most covenants state that the association may charge a late fee and interest. In addition, a lien can be filed on the property called an "Assessment Lien." This lien may contain extra costs including recording fees, cancellation fees, and attorney fees. It is not necessary to institute suit in order to file the lien.

*Kristina Gilchrist*

**CUTTING IN MAINSTREET**

Mainstreet has a strict prohibition on the cutting down of trees, which requires the approval of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) before any trees may be cut down, except in the case of an emergency, i.e., trees about to fall on their own, trees destroyed by wind or storms, or any other condition that could pose harm or injury to persons or damage to property. In such cases, the homeowner *must* contact the ARB as soon as practicable after such incident to advise the reason why the tree(s) were cut down. Any person who cuts down trees without the prior expressed written approval of the Architectural Review Board will be fin



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**MOVING.** We have our walking trails, lakes, picnic pavilion, swimming pools, playgrounds, tennis courts. Oh, I almost forgot to mention our large, multi-purpose Clubhouse!

Since the economic downturn has allowed me the pleasure of staying home, I've had time to savor the pleasant atmosphere of nature that surrounds me and do work around my home that I have put off due to a lack of time. I worked so hard to pay the mortgage I rarely had time to truly enjoy my home. Of course it's no longer worth what I owe on it; nonetheless, it is mine. It is my shelter, and I value it. I appreciate it, and I know one day it will again have value. In the meantime, I am going to do all that I can to keep my home's appearance neat and invest in upgrades, even though I know there is currently no market for the sale of my home. However, I have lived long enough on this earth to know that our values will eventually return. Like the stock market, we will experience gains. One day in the future, we can once again anticipate making a profit when we sell.

While looking at what I need to do and walking through the neighborhood looking at what my neighbors need to do, it occurred to me - this is a perfect time for our community to pull together and put a facelift on our homes. Our houses are experiencing a lot of deterioration due to age and neglect of maintenance. It is time for us to replace siding and add or replace gutters. Let's not wait until investors have swooped up all the property! Wouldn't it be a fantastic thing for us to expend our energy on revitalizing our own community? Let's face it, to develop a subdivision with the amenities that Mainstreet has would, in today's dollars, be too exorbitant for most of us to buy into. We own the property; and we all share access to and responsibility for the amenities here. Let's start getting our homes up to par. Let's start a conversation on what we can do to make Mainstreet better. Let's develop ideas and strategies that will help revitalize our community and make it once again a desirable neighborhood to reside in.

We have transportation at our door. Newer communities are trying to develop around transportation hubs - we already have it. We need to start updating and investing in our homes now. We need to organize around our schools and invest time and energy into making them the best. We need to let our elected officials know what we want our tax dollars to be used for, and hold them accountable. Let's monitor the types of businesses going into our commercial areas. We have our own community. **Let's own it!** Let's pay attention to what is going on around us. Let's get MOVING again!!

*A Resident*



## **TENNIS ANYONE?**

First Lady, Michelle Obama, is currently featured in a Public Service Announcement on the Tennis Channel. She is promoting her "Lets Move" Program in conjunction with the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) *Quick Start Program* for Kids. Mainstreet fully supports Michelle Obama's initiative to fight obesity in kids, particularly as it relates to supporting kids in tennis. Just last month, Mainstreet sponsored a free tennis event for neighborhood youth to encourage them to "get moving" and to get involved in tennis early. For more information on "Let's Move," visit [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov).

***Tennis outperforms other sports when it comes to physical fitness development. According to Jack Groppel, PhD, of LGE Sport Science, "Tennis combines the fat burning benefits of aerobic exercise with the health and strength building benefits of interval exercise. The demands of tennis literally mirrors the stresses of life in a dynamic way." "Tennis builds strength in your upper body, legs, hips and abdomen and improves your speed and overall flexibility." states Barbara Jacobs, feature writer for Vitality Magazine. "Tennis participation by older individuals has tremendous physiological and psychological benefits." says James Rippe MD of the University of Massachusetts Medical School.***

In any given season, Mainstreet joins over 80,000 Atlanta league tennis players maintaining a minimum of two (2) tennis teams playing year-round. Since 2000, the Mainstreet Community has earned **five City Championships** and **two First-Place Plaques**, on display at the Clubhouse community courts. Also, tennis perhaps affords more scholarship opportunities than in other sport, since there are typically fewer kids applying for them. The younger the student, the better it is to get started.

Following is an excellent example of such an opportunity. Two young African-American girls from Locust Grove, GA (ages 7 and 9 years old in 2008) began hitting tennis balls at a local park. In January of 2010, just 18 months after they began playing tennis, both were contacted by Venus and Serena Williams and a national coach. They had become nationally ranked! It is too soon to tell what history will bring for these two sisters -- Mikayla and Alycia Parks -- but keep your eyes and ears open, because they are off to a very good start in making tennis history. The next slam coming up this year is the French Open. Get the full schedule for the year by visiting and reading other tennis news [www.chargingthenet.com](http://www.chargingthenet.com)

*Larrvette Kyle, Tennis Captain.*



year for seven years. Each litter has four kittens. How many Kittens will they have? Let's see, out of each litter of kittens, two are female. Each of the two females, after one year, starts having four kittens of their own each year, and each litter produces two more females; after one year, these females start having litters and so on and so on ..... How many Kittens are there after seven yrs? The astounding answer is **4,372 cats produced over 7 yrs!** That's a lot of cats! That is just estimating the minimal amount!

Cats and Dogs can breed twice each yr, and the litters can be as big as 8, 10, or 12; usually at least half of them are female. Everyone loves puppies and kittens, but there aren't enough good homes for all of them! The pet-overpopulation problem is tremendous! Many people believe they can easily give or even sell them ...**NOT TRUE!** All you have to do is look how many are in shelters (lots of adult animals in shelters were puppies and kittens when they came in) and all the strays running around. So, what do you do with puppies and kittens you cannot sell or even give away? Most shelters are already too full and won't take any more, OR the ones that will take them, if they aren't adopted within whatever their time limit is—are **EUTHANIZED!** Some people will dump boxes of puppies or kittens somewhere, telling themselves "Oh, people will come along and take them and give them good homes." ..... **NOT!!!!** Most, if not all of those babies, will either STARVE TO DEATH, get RUN OVER by a car, or EATEN by another animal!!! Would you want to be responsible for THAT? Besides, all of the above, pups and kitties need vaccinations to protect them from the many canine and feline diseases. Even if they somehow do not fall victim to the horrible aforementioned ends, 99% will get horribly ill and suffer an unbearable DEATH! ... So, what's the answer? **SPAY & NEUTER YOUR PETS!!!**

You can find **LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER** programs at: **PAWS ATLANTA** on Covington Hwy, Decatur, GA. Get info at [www.pawsatlanta.org](http://www.pawsatlanta.org) under "Services." They are running specials on cats until MAY and specials on Dogs from MAY 2—JULY 25 (They also have LOW-COST Vaccination Clinics). Also, at **LIFELINE** on Lake St., Avondale Estates, [www.atlantapets.org](http://www.atlantapets.org) Any questions? I' be glad to answer you—email me at: [angelpaw@bellsouth.net](mailto:angelpaw@bellsouth.net).

**Your Animal Lovin' Neighbor—Bev**

## **Blast Winter-Weary Concrete Clean**

*Article from Jerry Baker, Master Gardner*

After a hard winter like we've just had, concrete driveways, sidewalks, and patios are itchin' for a cleaning. After all, they've carried the load – literally – of everything the season had to offer, from snow and ice to salt and debris. So treat your concrete to a bath that will spruce it up and get it ready for the new season.

When you need to tackle a large area, don't mess around, call in the big guns – a power washer! While they can cost a pretty penny to buy, you can rent one at just about any local hardware store for a few bucks.

Use this mixture for extra-bright results: Mix equal parts bleach and water – outside, so you don't breathe in the fumes from the bleach, and wear rubber gloves, goggles, long sleeves, and old pants to guard against stray splashes when you use it. Then cover all surrounding vegetation, buildings, and materials with plastic, so they don't get damaged by any overspray.

*Patrice Diamond, Chair*

In my last Mainstream article, I wrote about change. Well a lot of change has taken place in the community. Common violations which changed drastically were:

1. Inoperable / junk vehicles on the property were moved.
2. Lawn maintenance and lawns are being cut with greater frequency.
3. Debris and trash is decreasing with many homeowners cleaning up their property.

Items which did not change were:

1. Trash containers are still being left on the curb for several days. Let's work to do better with this.

Three out of four -- hmmm...not bad -- 75% is good anywhere. The community is really beginning to look much better. But the other 15 major Community Design Standards are constantly being violated.

- Trash containers must be removed and put out of view from the streets until the next pick up day. If your neighbor is working weird hours, why not move them from the street and put them in their driveway? This is also a great way to meet your neighbor.
- Lawn furniture, Tonka toys, kids furniture, grills, smokers and fryers cannot be left on the front lawns, and must be moved daily.

The Board of Directors, as of this writing, is looking very hard at re-writing the Community Design Standards. There are some items we feel *must* be changed or clarified. Any violation of a DeKalb County ordinance is automatically a community violation. However, the County of DeKalb will not enforce Community Design Standards. This is probably why, when Code Enforcement is called, they will not respond unless it is a County violation.

The **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD** is very understanding when requests for approval is being considered, but nothing will be approved which degrades the community. I asked for input from the Mainstreet Community, and I received quite a few. But I need to know who is sending them, so we can canvas that particular neighborhood with the problems. *All information is strictly confidential.* You are not a "SNITCH," you are a concerned neighbor wanting to keep their home values up.

Until next time, have a great summer, and get a plot in the Mainstreet Community Garden!

*Rick Harris, Chair*

# SUMMER CAMP

May 23rd - August 5th 2011



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TODAY**

Mainstreet Community and surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to two armed incidents within the past two weeks. What can't be denied is that the perpetrators of some of these senseless crimes reside within our community and neighboring areas, but witnesses will not come forward to help identify and apprehend these individuals. Yet, there are residents who are aware of who some of these people are.

This unfortunate lack of community involvement allows criminals to continue their crime sprees without fear. It must be reiterated that the *police can't do their jobs unless they are given information with which to do so*. Thanks to the surveillance cameras in place at the Clubhouse, there was a swift apprehension of one of the perpetrators in its recent burglary, and the DeKalb County Police Department is working diligently to locate and apprehend the other suspect. Many of the crimes occurring are being committed by teenagers and young adults. Know where your children are, who they associate with, and what they are doing! There have also been incidents wherein gang graffiti has been sprayed on common areas of the neighborhood. With that being said, the Mainstreet Board of Directors has chosen to post the captured photos of any alleged suspects in any crimes or vandalism occurring in the community on the Mainstreet website.

The Mainstreet Crime Watch, the Board of Directors and the Administration of Mainstreet Community Services Association, Inc. have been working diligently to find effective, proactive solutions to combat and deter the escalating problems to include:

- Surveillance cameras at the Clubhouse and surrounding properties including the Pavilion and playground areas
- Wrought-iron security doors and window bars, as well as additional monitoring equipment in the Clubhouse
- Beginning Monday, April 18, 2011, Executive Enforcement Security began roaming patrols throughout the entire Mainstreet Community. Executive Enforcement has the legal jurisdiction to apprehend and detain suspects and perpetrators for law enforcement. *\*Please note that you may be able to receive a discount on your homeowners insurance because of this increased security being provided. Contact your insurance company -- you may be entitled to additional homeowners' insurance discounts.*
- DeKalb County Police Department continues their patrols routinely, and upon special request with the Patrol Often as Possible (POAP) forms, will patrol requested areas. Please contact me or the Clubhouse if you need a form or assistance with completing one.

The Crime Watch needs active volunteers and neighborhood block captains. As a homeowner, I want to see crime totally eradicated in Mainstreet. As the Crime Watch Coordinator, I can't do it alone. I need individuals to attend the Crime Watch meetings, coordinate email, text, and telephone communications among neighbors, and help form a safe watch "web" -- a proactive safety network to monitor criminal activity and potential problems. This will also help residents become acquainted with their neighbors. We have to continue an active, PROACTIVE approach to the issue of crime in our community. Together, we can make a difference!

*Yvonne Edun*  
*Mainstreet Community Crime Watch*

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### Overlay Code Will Bring Better Development to Communities (Latest Draft Under Review)

The revised draft of the Greater Hidden Hills Overlay Code is now under review. This Code will set the standard for how future commercial development should look in the areas bounded by Redan Road, S. Hairston Road, Panola Road, and Covington Highway respectively. It sets standards for mixed-use development that will allow a mix of residential, commercial, and office uses. This type of development leads to more profitable and attractive projects.

Restrictions will be set on the types of business that can operate in the area. More intense uses are allowed on Covington Highway, such as a private high school, an ambulance, and urgent care service. At the intersections of Redan/Hairston Roads, Redan/Panola Roads, and Panola/Young Roads, uses compatible with pedestrian-friendly commercial and residential development are allowed. The Overlay offers an incentive to conserve green space and create community-friendly development where the closed Hidden Hills Country Club lies.

If you would like to see the draft and be on the mailing list for all updates on the overlay, send an e-mail to [hhca@yahoo.com](mailto:hhca@yahoo.com). You can also see the draft at <http://www.hiddenhillslink.org/>.



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As springtime once more, and everything is blossoming again to bring us the colors of summer. In the same manner, our life springs up anew each season. The dead of winter is gone, and vigor and energy comes along like new buds in flowers. Christian life is exactly like spring -- new hope for the downtrodden, and another beginning as we look ahead to what the summer will bring. We look up to the heavens, and our spirit is lifted up. I will dwell in this short devotional about goodness, because we have a good God, and He only wants what is good for those who put his or her trust in Him who is sovereign.

**What is Goodness?** God in His words continuously mentioned about good things, doing good works, and rewarding good works. In **Matthew 5:16** – **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.** It is clear that doing good works ultimately ends up giving glory to God in Heaven. So as loving Christians, we should always keep in mind that being good and doing good is right in the sight of God. In Psalm 23, **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.** Goodness and Mercy are the ministries of God most needed by humanity, they follow us through life.

**The Importance of Seeing the Good in All.** It is important to see the good in all, as there are blessings in every aspect of our reality, and the potential for grace exists in all beings. Our perception shapes the lives we lead, because the universe adjusts itself almost instantly to our expectations. When we look for negativity, we are bound to come across it in abundance. Conversely, we create positive energy when we endeavor to see the goodness around us. As easy as it is to criticize the people and situation that frustrate or hurt us, we do ourselves a disservice in the process. It is important to see the good in all, as there are blessings hiding in every aspect of our outer-world reality (spiritual), and the potential for grace from God exists in all human beings. When our lives are flooded with challenges, grief, and pain, we may be tempted to believe that some individuals or incidents are simply bad. But if we look for the good in all, good reveals itself to us, easing our doubts and reminding us that the universe God created is a place of balance.

There is a perceptible energy shift that takes place when we choose to see the good in all. The unnecessary tension that came into us when we dwelled on the negatives fades away and is replaced by sympathetic tolerance and eventually within us peace. We can forgive those that have wronged us, because we recognize in them traits we admire; we may even discover that we can bring out the good in one another. Though loss still grieves us, we recognize the beginning of a new phase of existence that abounds with fresh opportunities. Each new challenge, just like springtime, becomes another chance to prove ourselves, and we learn to show great patience in the face of difficulty. **Psalm 37:7 – Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Psalm 40:1 – I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined to me and heard my cry.**

There are few pleasures greater than gazing outward and seeing beauty, wisdom, and harmony. These are the attributes of the universe that help us to cope when we encounter their opposing forces. In Genesis, God in His great wisdom, created the heavens and the earth and everything in it, including us, and He expressed His satisfaction by the statement **“God saw that it was good.”** When we create our reality, we make our world a better place each time we acknowledge the good in our circumstances and in the people we encounter. As we draw attention to the positive aspects of the world and people around us, our understanding of the affirmative nature of all will grow.

In conclusion, there are few lessons we will learn in this life that will prove as instrumental to our happiness and satisfaction. In appreciating all possible goodness that exists around us, we can internalize it, making it a lasting part of our life -- whether it be at home, work, church, helping others, or just plainly doing nothing. So friends, brothers, and sisters in Christ, look up! Don't bow down to the pressures of a fallen world. See the good in others, and enjoy the new “spring” of our lives. It takes but a few muscles to smile and a thousand to frown, so choose the first and forget the second. My prayer is for everyone to have a wonderful summer, full of the blessings God has prepared for all of us.

**An Open Invitation to All:** Join us once a month for the study of God's word. Watch for announcements at our community Clubhouse.

*In Christ, Noel Tiu*

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**Lawn Care Calendar for the South:** Create a lush, green carpet in your landscape with this seasonal calendar of lawn-care tips for the South.

Spring ~ Spread a pre-emergence herbicide to stop annual weeds before they sprout. Apply the pre-emergence product from mid-February to early March for best results. Begin mowing your lawn as it begins to grow in mid-to-late spring. Don't let thatch build up. Thatch is a layer of old, dead grass stems that builds up on lawns. It prevents air, water, and nutrients from getting to your lawn's root system. Remove thatch before the grass starts growing in summer.

Summer ~ Fertilize your lawn. Warm season lawns get hungry in the summer. Start feeding your grass as the weather warms up in late April or early May. Feed according to the fertilizer package instructions throughout the summer. Get rid of grubs by using a long-acting grub killer and apply this in early to late May. Start a new lawn via use of seed, sprigs, or plugs and start in the summer. Remember that warm season grasses that thrive in the South need plenty of water as they get established; never allow a new lawn to dry out. Keep mowing regularly in the summer. Avoid removing more than one third of the leaf's total blade length at a time. Removing more can stress your lawn. Water as needed during the summer to keep it green. On average, provide about one (1”) inch of water per week.

Fall ~ Over seed with annual ryegrass should you have Bermuda grass, since it goes dormant (turns brown) in the winter months. Ryegrass grows and stays green during the cooler months, then dies out once it gets hot – just as your Bermuda grass starts turning green. Prevent winter weeds by using a pre-emergence herbicide from mid-October to mid-November. Finish up mowing by mowing your lawn as it slows down during the fall season. Don't let it get too long as it goes dormant.

student in Chattanooga, TN during the 1960 Freedom Rides and sit-in movements. Attacked by the KKK and other racist groups, he was introduced to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1961. Dr. King took the 18-year-old Ricks out of the city and introduced him to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Commission (SNCC), a student movement. Along with Dr. King in Albany, GA, he championed student voter registration projects. During this time, he witnessed first-hand houses being blown up, churches burned, and several assassination attempts. He was jailed at least five times as a result. During the Birmingham, AL movement, a church was infamously blown up, and four little black children were killed. Mucasa was subsequently shot in the head on April 27, 1973, along with then Senator Arthur Langford, while trying to integrate the Southwest Hospital. An all white jury found the perpetrators innocent of the charges.



He continued to fight for the right to vote in Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama working with civil rights legends such as Fannie Lou Hamer, Stokely Carmichael, Ralph Abernathy, Jr., Rev. Hosea Williams, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and was a part of the 50-mile Selma to Montgomery march which led to the right to vote for blacks. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his book *“Where Do We Go From Here,”* called Mucasa the “fireball” of the Civil Rights Movement, and Stokely Carmichael publicly credited him with coining the well-known phrase “Black Power!”

Currently, “Father Africa” continues to strive for black education, championing blacks to “learn their history,” and is the Ambassador for giving 500 full scholarships per year to young adults who travel to Cuba for a fully funded, free education to become doctors. His hope is to get 100 Mainstreet Community youths to complete medical school under this program at no cost. Those interested can visit his website at [ifconews.org](http://ifconews.org). Mucasa talks to and works with youth, adults, and senior citizens throughout Mainstreet, DeKalb County, and travels all over the world spreading his message.

As a Mainstreet resident, he takes full advantage of all amenities within the Association. As a cancer survivor, he credits his community and all it has to offer with helping him to lose over 40 pounds and for “bringing him back.” His goal is to take up the reigns of the Honorable Dr. King in teaching today’s youth principles of non-violence and love for one another. Join us in honoring and saluting this great community leader and civil rights icon.

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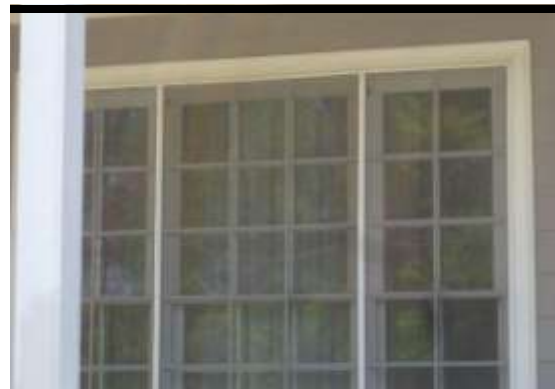
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New legislation recently passed which provides that Georgia counties must mail an Annual property tax Assessment Notice to all real estate property owners every year. This will give every property owner the opportunity to appeal the value. The 2011 Annual Assessment Notices are scheduled to be mailed in mid-May, 2011.

If you do not agree with the value of your home displayed on the Notice, you have 45 days to appeal. No appeal form is necessary. Simply write a letter stating that you are appealing, and include in your letter the following information:

- Parcel Identification Number as found on the Notice of Assessment Change
- Property Address
- Your daytime phone number
- Your intention to appeal to either: Board of Equalization, Hearing Officer, or Arbitration) (*There is a difference in each.*)
- Any supporting documentation you may have as to why you disagree with our value.

You should know that the burden of proof falls on you, and key to your success is your choice of where to appeal (Board of Equalization, Hearing Officer or Arbitration) and the quality of your supporting proof. Your letter of appeal must be hand-delivered or POSTMARKED BY THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE by the Appeal Deadline date shown on the Notice. Late appeals will not be processed, and the County does not accept email or faxed appeals.

Mail your appeal directly to: DeKalb Property Appraisal Department, 120 W Trinity Place, Room 208, Decatur, GA 30030. *I suggest you send certified mail, so you can document delivery.* For more information, contact the County office at 404 371- 0841, or you can contact me at 404 683-9248.

Jerome Chavis, NTRC/Ingles Income Tax  
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**The Mainstreet Karate Program** is held each and every Saturday for both children and adults from 9:00 am - 10:30 am for beginners and, from 10:30 am -12:00 noon for intermediate students. An “adults only” class is offered every Thursday from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Training fees have remained the same since 2004 when the program first began. The fee is \$45.00 for 8 weeks of training, which consists of 8 to 16 class sessions depending on if students choose to participate in both classes.

Each class session is geared toward developing physical abilities, stamina, personal discipline and inner peace. While developing these qualities, you will also benefit by learning how to protect yourself from harmful attacks by others. Students also have the option of taking part in local competitions and tournaments. These tournaments take place year round and are always a good measuring tool for a student’s skills.

The instructor, Sensei Alvin Brown, offers 35 years of experience in Shorei Goju Ryu Karate, and he currently holds the rank of a 6<sup>th</sup> degree black belt under the United Martial Arts Association, and the United States Black Belt Association. You are welcome to stop by the Mainstreet Clubhouse and visit any of the above mentioned classes to meet the instructor and his students. Our doors are always open.



Suntrust Volunteers/Mainstreet



Lili Crymes, Atlanta Food Bank



M Ekers, LCrymes, PDiamond

**The Soul Factory Feeds** program takes a huge leap into the community, as it partners with the **Mainstreet Community Services Association, Inc.** to pilot a community garden.

The Soul Factory is a local faith-based organization located in Stone Mountain, GA that has partnered with the Atlanta Community Food Bank for the past few years offering a food pantry to Stone Mountain residents in need of food. The Soul Factory (TSF) is thrilled to have an opportunity to partner with the Mainstreet Community to ensure access to quality, sustainable food.

Within TSF’s 14-year history, they’ve been involved in many great outreach opportunities, such as: providing food and care at local shelters; helping displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina; re-building Shanty’s; and, supporting various orphanages in Tembisa, South Africa. Their efforts are by design, as they intentionally seek to serve those in need.

It has always been the goal of The Soul Factory to change lives from the inside out, realizing that the most basic of human needs must be cared for prior to any attempt to develop the inner man. TSF has supported the needs of their community by hosting food and gas “Give-Backs,” providing food by way of the food pantry, feeding the homeless and now the development of mobile food trucks to serve hot-nutritious meals. Inherent within the organizational culture of TSF, is the desire to serve, which is why this opportunity to work with the Mainstreet Community Garden makes for such a great partnership; it will ensure that those in need of food in the Stone Mountain Community can find healthy foods to nourish their bodies, as the garden will allow them to stock both their pantry and



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Michele Richards at [mrichards@cma-atlanta.com](mailto:mrichards@cma-atlanta.com) or 404-835-9162 for a proposal.

**Thank you for your continued support of Community Management Associates.**

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*after*



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Official Publication of Mainstreet Community Services Association, Inc.

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*THE MAINSTREAM* NEWSLETTER Summer 2011 Edition deadline for the submission of articles and/or vendor advertisements is Tuesday, June 28, 2011 by 3:00 P.M. *All advertisement payments must be made by check or money order. Homeowners are encouraged to submit articles of interest to the editor of **The Mainstream**, Nadine Rivers-Johnson, at [nadine@mainstreetcommunity.org](mailto:nadine@mainstreetcommunity.org). (Editorial licensing strictly enforced.)*

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Mainstreet Clubhouse on the Lake

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