

The Mainstream

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THE MAINSTREAM is the official
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WINTER ISSUE
Dec/Jan/Feb 2008

THE MAINSTREAM

Winter Issue
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Deep Think



Cover (Norma Bennett and James Harris at Mainstreet Christmas Party 2007) back page photographs by Gerald Ferguson.

This Page photographs by Audrey Arthur. Mainstreet Jazz Festival 2008 Montage including headliner, Antonio Allen. For more Jazz Festival snapshots go to www.mainstreetcommunity.org.



Change

By Kwadjo Boaitay

The spiritual and political leader of India and the Indian independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi, who is also affectionately called "Great Soul" or "Father," is noted as saying: "Be the change that you want to see in the world."

Change is a great big word, and as Ghandi and many other leaders before and after him have demonstrated, change first begins within us, within the consciousness of each individual. Can we say that change or transformation within the consciousness of Barack Obama is what made him the 44th president of the United States of America. In fact it is this change that has brought about each president, lawyer, teacher, carpenter, or homemaker. Change.

The demographics in our community have changed. So has the economic base and soundness of our infrastructure. We have more instances of juvenile inspired acts of crime in our neighborhood and more youths not in school. There are a number of vacant and abandoned homes in our community and a large number of individuals choosing not to comply with the covenants and by-laws of our community. Yet, this is the first year in a very long time when there have been more candidates than seats to be filled on our board of directors. Incumbents **Winfrey Pierce and Gerald Ferguson**

retained their seats and homeowner **Elizabeth Jordan** is the newly elected member on our board.

On December 3, 2008 two new staff members will join the Mainstreet Community Services Association, Inc. team:

Community Associate, Nadine Rivers-Johnson and **Community Assistant, Larryette Kyle.**

We have begun driving through the community on a regular basis and have noted some positive changes. Some vacant properties that have been vandalized or left with yards unkempt have been restored and are now in compliance with our community design standards.

Russell Landscape Group is now the landscaping company for the entire Mainstreet community. They have already begun making their thoughtful imprint on our community increasing the flower beds and foliage at the front entrance, creating a green island at the entrance of **Parkwest** neighborhood and refreshing the beds and foliage at the entrances of **Parkside Townhomes** and **Lakeview** community.

We've seen an increased presence of DeKalb's finest. They've provided insight and guidance as we work together to combat the crime in our neighborhood. They played an instrumental role in our September 11, 2008 neighborhood crime watch forum as well as continue to support our community in the "Interactive Community Policing" program. Our new ICP contact person is **Officer JT Marshall.**

There is no doubt that we have a lot to do but we can recognize and be grateful for the change taking place in our community, the needed change to bring our community forward, the change to make it the very best community to live in Dekalb county. This change is being seen -bit by bit- but more than that it is felt in the general buoyant spirit of our community who love living here, who don't plan to move and are inspired to do anything they can to help us move forward as a community.

I am grateful in my short time here to have met and worked with many of you in our community. Working on our newsletter and website,

the crime watch committee, national night out, and simply engaging with my community while walking with my wife and daughter through our trails and neighborhood has meant so much to me. Mainstreet is a beautiful community, mature, full of life and bubbling always bubbling with something new. Although I will be moving to Little Rock, Arkansas to grow a

big afro and beard you'll have a familiar face in **Tonya Terrell**, formerly our Account Specialist, taking over as Community Association Manager. Please drop by the office and let her know of the ways in which you would like to support your community. Thanks again for all that you have done and are doing for Mainstreet.



Tonya Terrell is our new (interim) Community Manager. Tonya came aboard as the Accounts Manager June of last year where she inherited an overwhelming amount of inaccurate ownership record keeping along with a substantial amount in delinquent accounts. She quickly jumped right in and starting working towards maintaining the accounts and collecting monies due to the Association. Prior to coming to Mainstreet she served as our Portfolio Manager with Heritage Property Management and Mainstreet was just one of the associations she had in her portfolio. She started with Heritage as a Property Administrator and demonstrated the initiative along with a strong work ethic, which resulted in her quickly being promoted to the position of Property Manager. She has brought her skills and knowledge of the industry and has exemplified her duties by collecting an astounding amount in delinquencies for Mainstreet; along with assisting

in the 50/50 amnesty program. In addition, she has been well versed in the particulars of community association covenants and bylaws along with the legal ramifications pertaining to delinquent homeowners. Tonya has been a resident of Georgia for almost 7 years now and is a native of Richmond, Virginia. She happily commutes to Stone Mountain daily as she resides in Duluth, Georgia and is a recently divorced and the proud parent of a 23 year old son, Sean Terrell. Tonya is a graduate of Virginia Tech University where she received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and is pursuing her masters. She has been involved with Mainstreet since 2006 and is ready to serve you proud as your new (Interim) Community Manager. Please stop by, make yourself acquainted and say hello to all of the new staff!

Contact Tonya Terrell at
tonya@mainstreetcommunity.org



Submissions deadline for Spring issue of *The Mainstream* is February 10, 2009

Crime Watch Coordinators

WARNING



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM IN FORCE

Our Neighbors are watching to report suspicious activity to our LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Sandra French 404.292.9680

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Clubside

Gregory Harris 770.879.6898

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Lake Watch

Juliet and Tavin Howard
404.296.6160

Lakeside

Coordinator Needed

Lake View

Sherry West 404.298.0562

Parkwest Village

Nemo Jones 404.573.1088

Nimblechase

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North Post

Cecil Taylor 770.413.9385

Parkside

Mamye Britt 770.498.7589

BJ Slater 770.413.1267

Robert Gordon 404.610.5357

If you are interested in learning more about **Crime Watch Coordinators** contact **George Bullett**, Vice President, MCSA, Inc., Board of Directors or **Robert Gordon**, Crime Watch Committee Chairperson at 770.469.7238.

Crime Watch Committee

meets every other Saturday at 10 a.m. in the clubhouse.

Persistence

Q&A with Officer J.T. Marshall

By Kwadjo Boaitey

Officer J.T. Marshall has taken over as our new **Interactive Community Policing** coordinator assigned to the Mainstreet community. Although Officer Marshall is not new to our community he replaces Officer CA Henry as our ICP representative for DeKalb county.

Welcome to Mainstreet Officer Marshall. What would you like our members to know about you and the work you are doing here at Mainstreet?

I am a six year veteran of the Dekalb County Police Department. I started as a uniform patrol officer and in 2007 I was transferred to Tucker Precinct's Anti-Crime Unit. In February 2008 I was transferred to Dekalb County's ICP Unit (Interactive Community Police). I have been working alongside Ofc. Henry in the Mainstreet Subdivision since February and I am looking forward to help reduce crime and solve the crime related issues that concern the Mainstreet subdivision.

What is your assessment of our community?

The Mainstreet Community is a very nice community with good residents. The main problems that occur in Mainstreet is mostly from persons outside of the community. The issues can easily be solved with the help of the community and the Dekalb County Police Department. Ofc. Henry and I have worked together with the former manager, Diane Mundine in the past and have noticed a drastic reduction in crime over the past six months that the ICP program has been in place. However, there is still a lot of work to be done because my goal is to have 0% crime in the Mainstreet Community! I am looking forward to working with Kwadjo a person who I feel is going to be a good manager for the Mainstreet Community because he always has such a positive attitude.

We seem to have hotspots of crime activity. Even though no area of our community is immune more of the reported incidents of crime seem to be on the side of our community close to Redan Rd. and bordering the apartment complex at the corner of Redan and Hairston Rds. Is this an accurate assessment? If this is and accurate assessment why do you think this is happening and what can our community do to solve this seemingly perpetual wave of crime.

Yes, this is a very accurate assessment. I have been working closely with The Park at Hairston Apartments management team to help reduce crime at the apartment complex. We have also



been conducting special details at the intersection of S.Hairston Rd. and Redan Rd. along with the surrounding communities. Mainstreet is also close to Redan High School and we have been having a problem with truants skipping school and causing trouble in the community. To combat this problem, Major Yarborough (Precinct Commander) has put together a six man anti-crime unit to combat burglary and truancy. I strongly suggest to the community that if you see a crime REPORT IT! If you see suspicious activity REPORT IT! With the help from the community, the police department can do its job more effectively.

We enjoyed working with Ofc. Henry and look forward to working closely with you. We understand that the goal of ICP is to manifest deep relationships with the community and its members so that you will come to know our community and in that way be better able to stamp out any negative influences within it. What can we do to make that happen? How is it working?

Ofc. Henry has done a great job with the Mainstreet subdivision and I am hoping to do an even better job. The community needs to continue working with the ICP program and report every single issue of concern.

We know that your point of contact will be the manager of the Association but can homeowners expect to both see and talk with you as you drive through the community?

Yes, I want the community to know my face. So feel free to wave or stop me if you have any question or concerns. Thank you!

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Dear Mainstreet Residents,

Tucker Precinct would like to extend an invitation to visit the precinct on **Wednesday, December 17th** for a holiday gathering to mingle with precinct officers and staff, District 1 personnel, and CID Detectives. We kindly ask that you bring a little something with you: covered dishes, desserts, baked goods, beverages, meat, cheese, or fruit platters, etc. to share. If you can provide me with what you are planning to bring by *Wednesday, December 10th*, I would greatly appreciate it.

We are trying to accommodate 2 police shifts, so we have scheduled our event from **1:30- 4:30P** on the 17th. We would like to have everything set up by 1:00P.

Whether or not you bring something to share, you are always welcome to drop by and spend some time with us...so spread the word.

Thank You,

Sharen Dorcon
Crime Prevention/Public Ed. Specialist
DKPD-Tucker Precinct
678.937.5339

My Mainstreet

Alixandria Abrams and David Parker



By Kwadjo Boaitey

So you are the chairperson for Mainstreet's first neighborhood Christmas Decorating Committee. What are some of your plans? What can the community look forward to seeing?

As chairperson this year, my main goal is to get as much of the community decorated as possible. The main front entrance will be decorated, as well as the clubhouse, the deck and the swimming area too. Also this year, we are going to go a different route, we have decided to decorate the whole community. The committee really wants to decorate all the signs in Mainstreet, as well as the tennis courts, the light posts going down Mainstreet Park Drive, and the light posts in Parkside townhomes. I think the community will look very lovely this year.

I know that you have been an active volunteer in the Mainstreet community what interested you about chairing this committee?

My interest for this committee came from

my love of Christmas. I love Christmas decorations when they are done in a moderate manner. If the decorations are done tastefully I believe it adds a classy value to the property. So I am very excited about heading this committee.

Will you be doing this again next year? How can interested homeowners get involved?

If I am still here, living in this community and not away at college, then of course I would love to head the committee again. I know that this community has a lot of talented people so at the same time I wouldn't mind letting someone else head the committee. For interested homeowners, to join the committee you can simply email me or call the office. I look forward to any and everyone who might be interested in joining the committee. Merry Christmas!

Contact Alixandria Abram at alixandria.abram@gmail.com



By Kwadjo Boaitey

Russell Landscaping has been serving our landscaping needs specifically the amenities as well as Mainstreet's Parkside/Disney Court Townhome neighborhoods for a number of years. How would you describe our community? Do we have special needs? What makes us unique?

Mainstreet is an established community, full of trails, parks, and other entertainment areas all of which must be maintained and presentable to the community at all times. A special need that Mainstreet presents is the size of the community including the natural areas that must be maintained. Mainstreet is unique because of the amenities and entertainment areas because many newer neighborhoods don't offer this.

Can you describe what a day tending Mainstreet's landscaping needs looks like for your team?

During the spring and summer months, the crew at Mainstreet focuses on mowing all of the large green spaces, blowing off areas, and weed eating. During the fall and winter, the crew focuses its attention on the removal of the falling leaves and pruning.

Tell us a little bit yourself and how you got involved with Russell Landscaping? What makes Russell Landscaping a unique and a perfect match for our community?

I graduated in 2004 from the University of Georgia with a degree in landscape & Grounds Management. I worked as a Crew

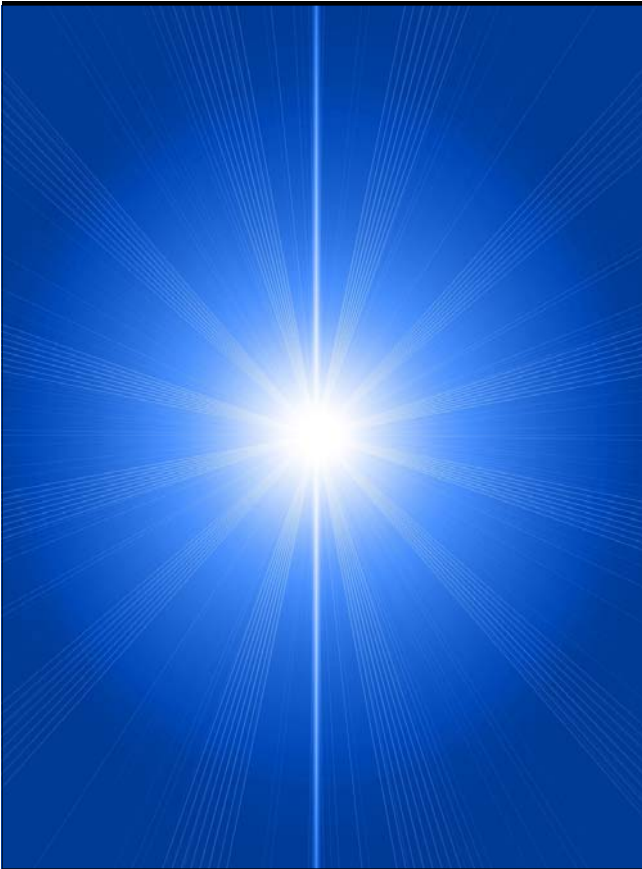
Supervisor at two other landscape companies and joined Russell's team in August 2007. In December 2007, I began working as a Director at Russell's Doraville office. Russell Landscape Group is small enough to be a locally owned & family operated, but large enough to meet all of Mainstreet's landscaping needs including new installations, seasonal flower installation, and basic maintenance.

Do have any landscaping tips for our homeowners this season? How can they create and maintain their yards during this drought that we've been experiencing?

Homeowners can choose drought tolerant plants when putting in new landscaping. Make sure to check whether a plant enjoys the sun or shade and plant accordingly. Rain barrels can be decorative on the side of the house and also serve as extra water to use throughout your yard during the summer.

Go to www.russelllandscapegroup.com

What Christmas means to me



By Alixandria Abram

Christmas has always been this extremely over rated holiday to me. The real meaning of Christmas has been overshadowed by the media's version of Christmas. The media portrays Christmas as a time for buying expensive gifts and enjoying the livelihood of Santa Claus.

Personally, I believe that Christmas is just an excuse to buy gifts you really cannot afford and then to have the consumer stay in debt for a couple of months because of all the money you spend. These days Christmas is entirely too commercialized.

It's not Christmas if your tree does not have a million presents under your tree. If your house is not decorated with enough lights to cause your children to become blind then the holiday is not worthy of mention anymore. Other people have chosen to ignore the holiday altogether. Some people have even begun to work on Christmas.

I wonder what ever happened to the traditional values of Christmas. The Christmas season has been under attack for years. Schools are not allowed to display Christmas decorations that have any meaning relating to Christ. Many stores and retail chains will not allow the usage of Christmas in their employee's conversations at work. The Salvation Army can no longer ask for Christmas donations in front of businesses and retail chains.

It is simply amazing how Christmas has really changed. The trees that they normally sell during this time of year have gone from the title of Christmas trees to holiday trees. I constantly ask when the madness will end. What ever happened to spending time with your family and celebrating the real reason for the season, Jesus Christ?

As a young child, I remember Christmas being a time of giving thanks to GOD for sending his son to die for us. The Christmas service at church was always amazing. Later on during the actual Christmas day, our family could reflect on all the wonderful things God has done for us.

It seems like everywhere I turn religion is being taken out of the Christmas holiday. Soon there will be no more Christmas...just happy holidays. It really does not make sense as to why the meaning of Christmas has changed so much during the later part of this century. Has the world really hardened their heart to this great holiday?

'Excerpt from "What Christmas Means to Me" - The Ladies Home Journal, First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany by Mary Baker Eddy.

...Human doctrines or hypotheses or vague human philosophy afford little divine effulgence, deific presence or power. Christmas to me is the reminder of God's great gift, — His spiritual idea, man and the universe, — a gift which so transcends mortal, material, sensual giving that the merriment, mad ambition, rivalry, and ritual of our common Christmas seem a human mockery in mimicry of the real worship in commemoration of Christ's coming.

I love to observe Christmas in quietude, humility, benevolence, charity, letting good will towards man, eloquent silence, prayer, and praise express my conception of Truth's appearing.

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