



NEWSLETTER

BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Fall 2009

Athens, Georgia, USA

Meet your new neighbors: A spa settles into the 'hood

By Melissa Link

The former Sunday school building on the corner of Chase and Boulevard is primed and will soon be sporting a fresh coat of cool blue paint as renovations are underway to accommodate Urban Sanctuary Spa. Located on Milledge Avenue just south of Five Points since 2005, Urban Sanctuary is a day spa focusing on organic and natural health and relaxation including Reiki, massage, and facials.

“We are extremely excited about bringing life back into an historic building that has been sitting empty for so long,” says Alan McArthur, an Athens native who is co-owner of Urban Sanctuary with Candice Courcy. Courcy believes Urban Sanctuary is a perfect fit for the Boulevard neighborhood and they plan to offer discounts and specials to customers who walk or bike to the spa.

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Did you know...

► One of the former residents of this Victorian-style home on Yonah Avenue was the constable at the county jail — which is still visible among the city buildings at the end of Boulevard and Pound Street.



Come to the Buena Vista Porch Tour to find out more
Details, Page 2

What do you know about Buena Vista?

By Kristen Morales

Boulevard doesn't stop once you drive up to the Georgia Power property and the “kudzu valley” across the street from it.

In fact, the entire length of Boulevard, and the grid of streets all along it, were laid out in 1890 when

a group of Athens businessmen purchased what was then Buena Vista Farms. Soon, an electric streetcar was buzzing residents of this new suburb into town or to the Normal School for Girls, where the Navy Supply Corps School stands today.

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‘Pocket park’ in the works

By Marci White and Dan Lorenz

A small group of Boulevard residents who have been laying the groundwork for a neighborhood pocket park are starting to see the project gain momentum. A likely

site for the park has been selected, and a preliminary design is in the works.

The most likely spot for the park is off Barber Street, where Boulevard ends. The nearly 2-acre

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MEET YOUR BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE FOR 2010

OFFICERS:

Matt Elliott, Chair
Vice chair: **Position open!**
Marie Woods, Secretary
Mary Beth Gates, Treasurer

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Jane Travis: Membership/Finance
Kristen Morales: Newsletter/Publicity
Melissa Link: Programs
Jeff Hepinstall Cymerman: Neighborhood Watch
Briggs Carney: Preservation/Environmental Quality

AT-LARGE MEMBERS:

Chuck Ramsey
Mark Ebell
Russ Foster
Gregg Bayard
Charles Apostolik
Carole Holmes

Buena Vista

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So, why not protect the entire length of Boulevard?

That's the question a few members of the Boulevard Steering Committee asked earlier this year, relaunching an effort to get the upper end of Boulevard — known as Buena Vista Heights — designated as a local historic district.

Much of the neighborhood was already put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996, and in 2000 a survey of hundreds of homes throughout Athens led the city's planning department to pursue local designation.

That effort by the city failed. But today, many longtime residents — along with some young families who have moved into the neighborhood — continue to be interested in historic preservation and are helping renew the effort for local designation.

The members of the Steering Committee — Melissa Link, Kristen Morales and Marie Woods — coordinated three informational meetings, open to anyone who owned property in the neighborhood. The idea was to inform other neighbors about the process and provide more information about what it means to be in a locally designated historic district.

The next step is fundraising. The effort needs to raise about \$2,000 to pay for a survey of all the properties in the neighborhood. The first major fundraiser is the Buena Vista Porch Tour, taking place from 2-5 p.m. Dec. 6. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 on the first porch of the tour, 194 Buena Vista Ave. This is a self-guided tour focusing on the history of the neighborhood, with four select homes welcoming visitors onto their porches. You may reserve your spot by e-mailing Kristen Morales at kbergman@mindspring.com or calling 706-206-3055.

Buena Vista Porch Tour

When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

Where: The self-guided tour starts on the porch of 194 Buena Vista Avenue. Docents on the porch of four homes will retell the history of each home.

How much: \$10 in advance, \$15 on the day of the tour.

More information: There will also be food and live music. Call 706-206-3055 or e-mail kbergman@mindspring.com for tickets.

New spa

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The building's owner, Chris Peterson, is working closely with McArthur and Courcy to customize renovations to the spa's needs. Exterior plans have been approved by the Athens-Clarke County commission with no opposition to speak of. The renovations should be completed sometime early next year and will include a scalloped privacy fence along the eastern edge of the property, a seven-space parking lot, and a variety of trees and shrubs. Courcy looks forward to installing a small garden so the spa may grow some therapeutic herbs on-site. When renovations are complete, the building will feature a community room for classes and workshops as well as an additional waiting room for private parties. The new space will also allow Urban Sanctuary to offer additional services as well as an expanded line of products.

For more information, visit: www.urbansanctuaryspa.com.

Pocket park

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parcel was donated to the city of Athens more than 40 years ago under condition that the land remained undeveloped or used as a park. The fact that the county already owns the property was a key factor in its favor.

Four experienced designers have volunteered to work on the project. Longtime neighborhood resident Allen Stovall, a registered landscape architect and professor emeritus of UGA's College of Environment and Design, is leading the design team.

Team members include Henry Parker, a licensed architect and landscape architect, Greg Denzin, a professional landscape designer, and Kevan Williams, a UGA landscape architecture student. They will begin meeting in November. Meetings to gather neighborhood input into the plan will be scheduled.

While the momentum is increasing, getting to this point took some work.

First there was a survey.

To date, 184 people have filled out a survey conducted asking local residents their views about a neighborhood park.

Not surprisingly, the overwhelming sentiment was, "Yes, we want a neighborhood

park!" People said that they would use the park most often for: visiting with neighbors and friends, walking, sitting alone and relaxing, picnicking, and hiking on trails. The amenities most requested were: trees, benches, picnic tables, walking paths, landscaping, a drinking fountain and an open playing field.

Then, a few residents met with Commissioners Kelly Girtz and David Lynn this summer to get advice about the best way to get ACC support in developing a park. The commissioners suggested trying to get an agreement from the City Council to support letting the neighborhood develop a lot for use as a park, with the neighborhood bearing the brunt of the labor and cost and the city approving the design and providing minimal support to establish and maintain the park.

Upon the request of the commissioners, Leisure Services released a memo recommending that the neighborhood be given permission to create a simple park with open green space, benches, landscaping, walking paths and other simple amenities, if the neighborhood can finance it. They also said primarily due to budget constraints, LS doesn't have small neighborhood parks as part of their Master Plan for ACC recreation.

Earlier in November an organizational meeting was held

where it was agreed that a design for the park should be drawn up as soon as possible, partly so we can begin fundraising before the end of the year.

Fundraising was discussed, including contacting individual donors, selling commemorative bricks or tiles, and applying for grants. Submitting a proposal for SPLOST funding was also discussed.

A broad vision was outlined for an inviting park with an innovative, functional and environmentally-sound design. The park should be:

- Built to be affordable and easy to maintain.
 - Designed with an eye for safety and discouraging crime.
 - Preserve the natural environment as much as possible and work with the natural features of the lot.
 - Using simple, green technology whenever possible.
 - An expression of the creativity residing in our neighborhood.
- Local artists will work with the landscape designers to make art an integral part of the design.

Many more volunteers are needed for this project. Do you have a special talent or resource you can offer to help out? Or just want to pitch in when labor is needed? Please contact Dan Lorentz to volunteer: lorentz.d@gmail.com 859-539-2331.

THANK YOU LOCAL BUSINESSES WHO ARE BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC. MEMBERS!

Balance: A Pilates and Wellness Studio
160-1 Tracy St. - 706-546-1061

Certa Pro Painter
645 Oglethorpe Ave. - 706-353-3555

Kudzu Graphics
919 N. Chase St. - 706-548-8789

Carson Plumbing, Inc.
259 Wynburn Ave. - 706-548-3397

Sunshine Cleaners
754 N. Chase St. - 706-543-0664

And special thanks to The Grit for donating to our summer neighborhood party, and to Little Kings for hosting!

Boulevard Neighborhood Association Membership Form



Fees:

\$10 Household, one year

\$5 Student household, one year

\$25 Household, three years

\$20 Commercial, one year

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

Telephone _____

Please make check payable to **Boulevard Neighborhood Association** and mail to:

Jane Travis
150 Cohen Street
Athens, Georgia 30601

Note: Your personal information is for the exclusive use of communicating BNA membership news and events. Your information will not be shared with or sold to third parties.

Collect box tops for Chase Street School

At Chase Street Elementary School, the money earned from Box Tops for Education now goes to the school gardens! If you do not already send these special box tops coupons to another school, please clip them for Chase Street School. Each coupon is worth 10 cents and it adds up fast.

The coupons are on many common products including cereals, granola bars, Pillsbury cake mixes and biscuits, Green Giant vegetables, Juicy Juice, Huggies diapers, Scott toilet paper, Kleenex, Ziploc bags, etc.

You can drop them in the box at the school office or put them in the box on my front porch at 397 Boulevard.

By Carole Holmes

Don't miss the annual neighborhood meeting!

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Boulevard Neighborhood Association will take place 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, at Little Kings.

It's a good chance to meet your neighbors, relax after work and catch up on some neighborhood news. We will also vote on our proposed slate of Steering Committee members.

The Steering Committee is still accepting nominations for the 2010 committee. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Matt Elliott at mjelliott_99@yahoo.com.

Annual meeting

When: 7 p.m. Dec. 15

Where: Little Kings, 223 W. Hancock Ave.