

THE Inman Park Advocator



Atlanta's Small Town Downtown News • Newsletter of the Inman Park Neighborhood Association

advocator@inmanpark.org • inmanpark.org • 245 North Highland Avenue NE • Suite 230-401 • Atlanta 30307

November 2017

Volume 45 • Issue 11

President's Message

Inman Park's 150 Ton Fatberg

By NEIL KINKOPF • PRESIDENT@INMANPARK.ORG

My apologies, Dear Reader, for my absence from last month's Advocate. The crush of work from my day job plus a very active IPNA docket left me without time to draft my column. Recent events out in the world have, however, given me an apt metaphor for my last month – the fatberg. Ever since learning of the sewer-clogging London Fatberg weighing in at over 150 tons and more than 800 feet in length, I have been obsessed. Most especially, I can't help but wonder, do we have an Inman Park Fatberg? I can think of no better explanation for the clogged sewers and flooding in Springvale Park. If I'm right (and Dear Leader always is) what do you imagine archaeologists will find when they excavate the Inman Park Fatberg? I have a pretty good idea about that too. Forty six years worth of Festival grease and napkins provide a pretty good start. Maybe the chain Danny Feig-Sandoval used to tie himself to the tree all those years ago is now congealed at the center of the mass. Closer to the top, I expect we will find a few hundred brightly colored paint sticks. All through the great lump, there will be old Advocators, wine bottles from porch parties, and t-shirts with "staff" and "volunteer" on the back. In short, our Fatberg would be made of the glue that holds our neighborhood together. One person's trash is another's treasure.

Our neighborhood faces a wide array of crucially important decisions over the next few months. We will be choosing a new Mayor and District 2 City Council representative. Thank you to Cristy Lenz for helping us stay informed by putting on candidate forums for these races last month. Thank you to all the neighbors who pitched in to help, including Jay Bookman, Beverly Miller, Sandi Parker, Alison Gordon, and Ro Lawson.

continued on page 4

2017 Inman Park Holiday Party

Friday, December 8 • 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm
The Trolley Barn • 963 Edgewood Avenue

The annual Inman Park Holiday Party returns to the Trolley Barn this year. Don't miss this chance to meet and visit with fellow Inman Park neighbors over food, drinks, and dancing. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and complimentary beer and wine while a DJ spins a delightful mix of old standards and new favorites. So don your holiday finest and join us for a good time!

Everyone is welcome. Admission is complimentary for current IPNA members and \$25 at the door for guests and non-members. IPNA members will soon receive an invitation via e-mail.

Visit inmanpark.org and become an IPNA member for free before December 6 to enjoy complimentary admission to the party.

**Happenings
this month**

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**Meet the
Festival
Chairs**

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Natatorium**

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the *Advocator* is the official newsletter of the Inman Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. (IPNA). In addition to the reports by the IPNA board of directors, officers, committee chairs, and the agenda for the current month's meeting, the *Advocator* publishes letters to the editor, press releases, articles deemed of interest to the community and paid advertising. Publishing of display advertisement, articles, letters, or notices does not constitute an endorsement by IPNA, its Board of Directors and/or the *Advocator* and the *Advocator* staff. The content and opinions of a published article or letter represent the opinions of the author and not the opinion of IPNA, its Board of Directors and/or the *Advocator* and the *Advocator* staff unless it is expressly stated. IPNA reserves the right to edit all items submitted for publication and to reject any material or ads submitted for publication. Material submitted anonymously, including press releases, will not be published. By submitting materials and photos you acknowledge you have the right to do so and understand the *Advocator* is published online as well in print.

Content is due on the 20th of the month prior to publication and should be submitted to advocator@inmanpark.org.

From the President *continued*

At the IPNA meeting last month, we heard from representatives of the City regarding a proposal to install parking meters in our hood. The City's reps took an unusual position: they said they would not do anything we do not want them to do and that they just want to open a dialogue with us about options. As we go to the polls, I hope we elect officials who will run the City in a way that makes this approach the norm.

In the coming months, we will be considering the proposals for developments on the site of Villa de Grip and Jenkins Metals. What ends up being done with these projects will have profound ramifications for the neighborhood. I hope, Dear Reader, you will continue to pay attention and participate in our deliberations regarding these projects. The last thing we want is to see a Fatberg on either site. **M**

2017 Inman Park Book Club

The Inman Park Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. to discuss the featured selection. Please bring a covered dish to share and contact Jan Keith (404-688-7330) with any questions. Most book club selections are available at our neighborhood bookstore, A Capella, 208 Haralson Avenue NE. Shop local!

Dec
10

Holiday Party Brunch
1 p.m.
Paula Mason, 1046 Washita Avenue

Jan
30

A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles
Jan Keith, 889 Edgewood Avenue



Farewell, Neighbors!

Danny and Lori Feig-Sandoval

Alta Ave

Thank you for 71 years of combined service to the neighborhood. Danny and Lori have relocated to Colorado but will be back for Festival in April.

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Other Happenings to Note

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”

November 7– December 31 • Center for Puppetry Arts • puppet.org

This delightfully retro, pitch-perfect adaptation of the classic 1964 stop-motion holiday film will enchant the whole family! Get tickets early because this one always sells out!

“Santaland Diaries” and “Madeline’s Christmas”

November 17 – December 31; December 2 – December 31 • Horizon Theatre

horizontheatre.com

An outrageous holiday comedy written by NPR comedy genius David Sedaris, Santaland Diaries stars Crumpet, a rebel without a Clause who recounts the true-life tale of an out-of-work writer’s stint as a Macy’s Department Store elf.

Also, Madeline’s Christmas is a musical play adapted from Ludwig Bemelmans’ delightful book. A holiday treat for the whole family!



Rumours - A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

November 22 • Variety Playhouse • variety-playhouse.com

Atlanta is proud to be home to the southeast’s premier Fleetwood Mac tribute band! Do you believe in miracles? Do you believe in the ways of magic? Do you believe in the renovation of the Variety Playhouse or do you need to see it with your own two eyes?

The Harvest Hunt and Malts & Vaults of Oakland

November 24 – November 26; November 25 • Oakland Cemetery

oaklandcemetery.com/events

Want something fun and active to do after Thanksgiving feasting? Gather a group of friends (or even your family) for a day of post-Thanksgiving sleuthing on this self-guided scavenger hunt throughout historic Oakland Cemetery! All proceeds from The Harvest Hunt benefit Historic Oakland Foundation’s mission to preserve, restore, enhance, and share Oakland Cemetery. Or learn about Atlanta’s long and vivid history of brewing during the special guided walking tour, Malts & Vaults of Oakland: Where Beer Meets History. Stick around for a post-tour sampling of local brews and cocktails provided courtesy of Old 4th Distillery and My Friend’s Growler Shop.

“Invasion: Christmas Carol”


December 1 – December 30 • Dad’s Garage

dadsgarage.com/shows/invasion-christmas-carol-2017

A crazy new guest star invades the venerable Dickens play with every performance and turns it on its head! The cast doesn’t know who to expect (a T-rex? Colonel Sanders?)... and a new Christmas story is born each night. You might laugh way too hard but your English professor isn’t here to kick you out so go ahead and enjoy yourself.

“Urban Nutcracker”

December 8 – December 10 • Ballethnic Dance Company • ballethnic.org

This soulful celebration takes place on Atlanta’s own Sweet Auburn Avenue in the 1940’s. Step back in time as the smooth Chocolatier sweeps Brown Sugar off to a magical land filled with leaping Reggae Rag Dolls and the spinning Black Russian. This fresh take remixes the classical ballet with a fusion of modern, jazz, and tap for a fun new experience that captures all the magic of the original. Enjoy the majestic journey and whimsical characters, such as Mother Spice and her tumbling Spice Drops and the bubbly Coca-Cola Pas de Six. Performed at Morehouse College. 

IPNA Calendar

Nov
8

IPNA Meeting
Trolley Barn
7:30 p.m.

Nov
30

NPU-N Meeting
L5P Community Center
7:00 p.m.

Dec
8

IPNA Holiday Party
7 p.m.
See cover for details.

Dec
10

Book Club Holiday Party
1 p.m.
See page 4 for details.

Dec
20

IPNA Meeting
Trolley Barn
7:30 p.m.

Dec
28

NPU-N Meeting
L5P Community Center
7:00 p.m.



Neighborhood Meeting Highlights: What you missed...

IPNA, October 18, 2017 meeting at the Trolley Barn:

Inman Park Security Patrol (IPSP)

1. Crime is down
2. Don't leave anything in your car. Be mindful of holiday packages
3. Little Five Points shooting was targeted towards a rapper visiting the area. No one was hurt.
4. IPSP is increasing daytime and bike patrols

Announcements

1. The Festival team is looking for two Committee Chairs: Rentals and Signage

Elected Officials

Jay Tribby, Chief of Staff for Kwanza Hall, City Councilman for District 2

1. Marijuana has been reclassified by the City of Atlanta and is no longer an arrestable offense. Anyone caught with less than an ounce of the substance will be charged a fine of no more than \$75.00
2. Lifelong Inman Park Master plan to be voted on for formal approval by the city
3. MLK Natatorium to be dedicated at the end of the month
4. The resident parking ordinance for Inman Park, that was not put before the IPNA, is stuck in committee and is not expected to move forward

IPNA Treasurer

The Inman Park Budget that was presented at the September and October IPNA meetings was voted on and accepted unanimously

IPNA President

1. Jonathan Miller was voted in as the new IPNA VP of Zoning
2. The motion to change the IPNA meeting for November to November 8 was voted on and passed

Parking Meters

1. Neighbors and business owners in Inman Park voiced concerns regarding the proposed parking meters. City said this was in no way a done deal and came to the meeting to seek input

2. In the end a vote was held to vote to say "no" to parking meters, at this time. Delivery lanes, Uber/Lyft pickup points and safe street crossing were concerns voiced. These issues are being handled by the Transportation Committee and will continue to be addressed by them

3. Please send your thoughts on parking meters in Inman Park to parking@atlantaga.gov

Zoning

1. Shell Station on Moreland will be at the next meeting to ask for a variance on obtaining a liquor license so they can sell beer and wine
2. A business from 900 Dekalb will come seeking approval for liquor license
3. Villa de Grip will be heard at the November 8 IPNA meeting

Historic Preservation

1. 1054 Euclid - new construction on vacant lot. Immediate neighbors voted to support. IPNA voted to support the application
2. 66 Spruce Street - new dormers and chimney. Immediate neighbors voted to support. IPNA voted to support the application
3. 215 Hurt Street - tearing off an addition from the 1970s and updating with one that conforms to the Craftman style of the home. Immediate neighbors voted to support. IPNA voted to support the application

Archives

Emory wants to house the IP archives. A discussion regarding the current state of the archives and cost to house properly was discussed. IPNA voted to move forward with donating archives to Emory conditionally

NPU-N, October 2017

NPU wanted the IPNA to vote on a resolution to mandate affordable housing along the BeltLine corridor. Vote was 20 to 2 in favor of affordable housing. The two who voted against felt the language was unclear

For the full meeting minutes go to inmanpark.org. The next meeting is on November 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Trolley Barn



Winners of the 2017 Little 5 Points Halloween Parade

Thank you to the 87 floats that made this year's parade a success!
Thank you also to the Grand Marshals - Julie Odom from Euclid Ave Yacht Club, Jessi Wade from Aurora Coffee, and Lydia Bishop of Bang-On Custom T-Shirts!
The winners of this year parade were:

- L5P Halloween Parade Witches' Cup (recognizing L5P

groups) for another year went to Euclid Avenue Yacht Club with their "Yellow Submarine"

- Raven's Crown (for outside L5P groups) for another year went to 13 Stories Haunted House from Newnan, Georgia
- Pennywise Prize (recognizing walking groups) went to Creepy Cosplay Collective **M**



Photo by William Byrd



Photo by William Byrd



Photo by Sanchez Kenyata Photography

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Tree Planting to Honor Cathy Bradshaw


BY JIM ABBOT • INMAN PARK TREE WATCH COORDINATOR • ABBOT.JIM@GMAIL.COM

Every winter, Inman Park Tree Watch coordinates with Trees Atlanta to plant new trees in the neighborhood. The date of our next planting project is Saturday, January 13, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Inman Park Tree Watch and Trees Atlanta are pleased to announce that, with the support of her “Hollow Family,” we are dedicating this season’s planting to Cathy Bradshaw, who celebrates a milestone birthday this fall. Cathy is a dear friend of Inman Park’s trees: co-founder of Tree Watch, driving force behind the memorial grove at Poplar Circle, and baker of a

locally famous chocolate cake that has boosted proceeds at many a fundraiser. Thank you, Cathy, for all you’ve done to keep Inman Park green, shady, and lovely!

Do you want a new tree or trees for your yard or planting strip? Contact me at the email address above, at 404-281-0638, or by filling out the contact form on www.inmanparktrees.com.

And if you want to add your name to the list of people honoring Cathy Bradshaw with this upcoming tree planting, please contact me to make that happen. 



is pleased to announce a tree planting in honor of

Cathy Bradshaw

in recognition of her dedication to Inman Park for over 45 years, giving environmental, health, and aesthetic benefits to the community for years to come.



Festival Focus

The Next Festival Chairs: Robbie Whyte & Cooper Pierce

BY COOPER PIERCE AND ROBBIE WHYTE • FESTIVAL 2018 CO-CHAIRS
C3PIERCE@YAHOO.COM • ROBBIE@WHYTEKERNER.COM

We are honored to be the Festival Chairs for the 2018 and 2019 Inman Park Festivals. As long time residents who have raised our children here, we are excited to give back and contribute to the annual neighborhood holiday. What could be better than volunteering time to put on a full weekend of fun? Yes, there are many ways to be involved and volunteer in our neighborhood, but the best has to be serving on the Festival Committee, where we make the magic happen. Plus, we get to wear those cool “STAFF” t-shirts during Festival. (We know you’re jealous, right?) The other popular option is volunteering during Festival for 2 hour shifts for the many tasks it takes to put on Festival. That’s cool, too . . . and it does come with those fashionable white volunteer tees. They go with everything.

We moved here back in 1992, when Pat Westrick sold us a bungalow on Alta Avenue in the upper east side of our divided neighborhood. All the green space we take for granted today was vacant overgrown property. Our parents thought we were nuts (not that we are your typical couple). They should have known, with Robbie being a graphic designer and milliner and Cooper an architect, that we would choose to make our home in “Inman Park, where it’s hard to be odd!” We renovated and expanded that bungalow and were later fortunate to buy one of the GDOT properties. Cooper designed and built our new house overlooking what is now Freedom Park. Our children refer to it as Inman Park since there is not one by that name, and it’s in the middle of the neighborhood.



Robbie Whyte & Cooper Pierce

Our neighborhood has changed and grown so much in those 25 years to become what it is today – one of, if not THE, hottest neighborhood in Atlanta. We first helped in neighborhood activities, volunteered for Festival shifts, and then helped in the founding of the Inman Park pool. Shortly afterward, Cooper served on the IPNA Board as the zoning VP. Children’s activities started to consume our time and we were focused on that for several years, like many who are raising families here. We now enjoy meeting many of you who have joined the Inman Diners Club. It’s a great way to meet some neighbors from other parts of the neighborhood. Now, having a bit more free time, with our children grown, we have joined the Festival Committee to give back to this community. We are looking forward to another fun-filled weekend in April. Come join us and be a part of the fun. **M**

Save the Date for Inman Park Festival 2018!

April 27, 28, and 29, 2018



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Festival 2018 List of Committee Chairs

By ROBBIE WHYTE • FESTIVAL 2018 CHAIR

ROBBIE@WHYTEKERNER.COM

It takes a village to pull off the best Festival in Atlanta! Leading up to that weekend we have a crew of Committee Chairs that work hard all year. Want to get involved? We also need thousands of volunteers at the event itself so plan on giving a few hours between April 27 and April 29, 2018! All proceeds go to help our neighborhood be the best it can be! 

Festival 2018 Committee Chairs

ATMs	Sandy Hoke
Beer	Christel Sundin and Rob Craig
Bus	Randy Bailey
Butterfly Ball	Thea Quillian
Caterpillar Ball	Jane Bradshaw
Caterpillar Zone	Alison Gordon
Cleanup	Tony Smith
Communication	George Gary and Paul Perry
Dance	Carolyn McLaughlin
Electrical	Tom Pelletier
Entertainment	Steve Ellison and Jacques Mebius
Exhibitors	Christel Sundin and Rob Craig
Fire Protection	Joe Castellano
Fire Ants	Richard Westrick
Food	Wendy and Rob Orleman
Golf Carts	Thom Abelew and Melissa Miller
House Tour	Regina Brewer, Leigh Hayes, Jan Keith, Pat Westrick and Nancy Morrison
Parade	Karen Heim
Marketing	Diya and Sandeep Luke
Rentals	Mollie and Whatley Fenlon
Sales	Tara and Greg Wyman
Security	Nikhil Perumbeti and Katie Goldberg
Signage	Cam McCaa and Kelly Krolkowski (with help from Danny Feig-Sandoval)
Social Media	Mary Fiorello
Sponsors	Lacey Goodwin and Janice Darling
Theatre Night	Aimee Franz
Ticket Book	Carol Mitchell
Trash	Dennis Mobley, Cory Feig-Sandoval and David Coffman



Howard Building

BY TYLER JONES • GRADY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT • JONESTYLER221@GMAIL.COM

Old Fourth Ward is one of the most recent developing neighborhoods in Atlanta, and amid the extension of the BeltLine and crop-up of high-end apartment buildings, this area has changed dramatically in the last couple of years.

In the wake of overall Old Fourth Ward development, one change coming to the area is the reopening of the David T. Howard building. Opened in 1924, the David T. Howard building lies in the center of Old Fourth Ward and served as both an elementary and high school with notable alumni such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Maynard Jackson. After closing due to declining enrollment in 1976, the school remains vacant. However, APS plans to reopen it as the Grady cluster's new middle school shortly after its completion in July 2020. The reinstatement of this building marks the first time the school will see an integrated student body.

The push for restoration came from issues posed by the building's current vacancy (vandalism, public safety, etc.) and the need for a larger building for Inman Middle School. Inman Middle School's current enrollment tops 1,000, despite the building's capacity of only 875, while the capacity of the Howard building is 1,375.

"The relief that's needed is for the field space. That is the problem that Inman has, and Grady has, [is that] they have teams that can't really practice," said Dr. Betsy Bockman, former principal at Inman Middle School. "They need the field space definitely to take the trailers away."

Moving the cluster's middle school not only alleviates overcrowding, freeing Inman to become an elementary schools, but contributes to the changing atmosphere of the Old Fourth Ward community.

Residents and businesses in the area alike will be affected by this change, and with shops like Jake's Ice Cream and the multitude of restaurants in Krog Street Market a short walk from the building, the surrounding area of the Howard building could be impacted as it becomes a popular after-school destination.

"I think that it is actually going to be good for business, especially now that [the Howard School] is right here. We get a lot of kids that come here, and I think that it makes a lot of sense," Marvin Tandongfor, an employee at Jake's Ice Cream and Inman alumnus, said. "After school this might become the new spot for kids to come and chill and eat ice cream. It's going to be pretty busy around here."

Other businesses also have a positive outlook on the school's impact.



"Kids will want to come here to eat and get food after school," Amari Hines, who works at the pizza restaurant Varuni Napoli in Krog Street Market, said. "I think it will be a popular place."

This transition from Inman to Howard will have notable effects not only on the businesses and residents of the area, but to the children attending the Howard School as well.

"[There is a] realization that the neighborhood will change dramatically and we welcome that," Godfrey Finch, the Howard Alumni representative on the building's design team, said. "We know that we are going to be able to touch a number of children from different backgrounds from what [the former Howard students] were there. It's exciting."

Others also have high hopes for the building's reopening.

"Our lens as we're building this is college and career-ready focus," said Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Inman's current principal. "So I feel that that school will be better equipped for not only getting these elementary students to middle school but then to push those students on to the high school."

Despite the significant changes coming to the community and the school, the Howard building will keep its name, becoming the Howard Middle School.

"Having that name...to believe in people like [David T. Howard] did will be a great starting point," Finch said. "Not only does that tie the new students that are coming in but also the old students that graduated from there."

While the explicit effects of the Howard school's reopening remain to be seen, its prospects of a positive impact on the community and students seem promising.

"As we open other schools the Howard school can be an example of how important it is to embrace the newness, the differences, as well as how much we are together and how we are alike as opposed to how we are different," Finch said. **M**

How to Make Cake Pops

By REBECCA CHAPMAN • GRADY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT • REBECCALC333@GMAIL.COM

These cake pops match the flavors of fall and taste delicious. They are easy to make and very versatile. Add or subtract spices to get different flavor combinations.

With the flavor combination of apple and cinnamon, these pops combine two traditional fall flavors.

Apple Cake Pops

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 ½ cups granulated sugar
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ cups applesauce
- 2 cups buttercream (see below)
- 4 cups melted white chocolate
- Red and green food dye
- ½ cup melted chocolate

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour two 10 inch round pans.

2. Mix together flour, cinnamon, salt, baking powder, and baking soda.
3. Cream together butter and sugar. Add in eggs one at a time, beating until combined.
4. Alternate mixing in dry mix and a applesauce beginning and ending with the dry mix. Combine after each addition. Do not overmix.
5. Evenly divide between pans and bake for 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.
6. Cool for 10 minutes. Remove from pan. Cool completely.
7. Crumble cake and mix with 2 cups buttercream frosting until well combined and about the texture of cookie dough. Dye red or green if desired.
8. Roll dough into 2 tbsp balls and insert lollipop sticks. Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm
9. Dye white chocolate red or green (or split the white chocolate and do both). Carefully dip the pops in the melted white chocolate and turn to coat. Let excess chocolate

drip off. Let chocolate set at room temperature until solid, then chill until hard.

10. Put chocolate in a bag with a small hole cut in one corner (or in a piping bag with a small round tip). Pipe small stems on the top of the pops. Chill until hard. Enjoy.

This standard recipe works for mixing to make cake pops, but it can also be used for frosting cakes or cookies.

Buttercream frosting

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 16-oz powdered sugar
- 3 tbsps milk

Instructions:

1. Sift powdered sugar.
2. Cream butter. Add in vanilla extract. Slowly add in sifted powdered sugar about ½ cup at a time. Make sure to fully combine after each addition.
3. Add in milk one tablespoon at a time and beat well until light and fluffy. **M**



Birth Announcement

Charles Cassius Hauser of Haralson Street
was born on October 1st.

He was 8 lbs 7 oz, and 19" long.



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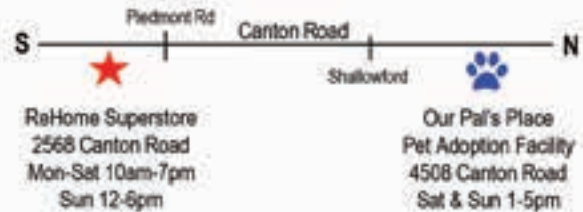
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Work continues on new MLK Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center

BY ISADORA PENNINGTON • ATLANTA INTOWN PAPER • ISADORAPENNINGTON@GMAIL.COM

The local media recently got an upclose look at the progress on the new Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center. The 64,000-square-foot facility, located on Hilliard Street next door Selena S. Butler Park and across the street from the King Memorial MARTA station, replaces the MLK Jr. Natatorium, which was closed in 2012 due to structural issues.

The facility will feature a zero entry pool, swim programs, football, softball, volleyball, space for traditional gym equipment, locker and shower rooms, a running track, a computer lounge, gathering spaces, a senior center, and even a 24' climbing wall.

The building itself is the length of a football field, and has a maximum capacity of 1,800 people, with a pool large enough to accommodate up to 380 bathers at a time. The land was gifted to the department by its previous owner, the Atlanta Housing Authority, which has made this ambitious plan possible.

The center has, at its heart, a mission to meet the needs of the surrounding community.

"We've never had a space this comprehensive," said Amy Phuong, Commissioner of the Atlanta Parks & Recreation



Photograph by Isadora Pennington

Department, gesturing at the long hallway which will soon be bustling with visitors. With accessibility in mind, the facility aims to remain a financially viable option for guests by keeping fees low: admission will be only \$5 a day, and yearly passes will be roughly \$10 per month. **M**

Simple Cranberry Sauce

As the holidays approach, keep it simple.

Ingredients

1 cup water

1 cup sugar

12-oz bag fresh or frozen cranberries

1/2 teaspoon freshly grated orange zest

Preparation

Bring water and sugar to a boil, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Add cranberries and simmer, stirring occasionally, until berries just pop, 10 to 12 minutes. Stir in orange zest, then cool. **M**



Failing Virginia Highland Stores

BY KATHERINE ESTREL • GRADY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Walking down North Highland is like watching a movie in slow motion. New characters come and go; some leave a mark and some are easily forgotten. Except, instead of people, these characters are small businesses

Over the past few years, stores, especially between Los Angeles Avenue NE and Virginia Avenue NE, have appeared with great anticipation, then closed, leaving not even a trace. Places like Honey Butter, Pie Shop, Winter Wren, 310 Rosemont, the Spice Shop, Half Moon Outfitters, the list continues, are no longer around.

“For the first 10 years, stores were a lot more stable,” Terri Hill, owner of the 20-year-old Dakota J’s, said. “There wasn’t as much turnover.” In more recent years, though, around 12 stores have gone under, according to Hill.

For some shop owners, rent may be a major push factor.

“Rent’s expensive here, because you get a lot of exposure,” Paul Edwards, one of the owners of the three-year-old store Atlanta Pro Bikes, said. That’s a given; the classic real estate mantra is “location, location, location.”

According to Edwards, rent increases at a respectable three to seven percent annually. Rent may be pricey, but he believes this can be overcome, simply with a strong business plan and the ability to offer unique products.

“I think some of the stores have a lot of the same overlapping products, whether it’s clothing or jewelry,” Edwards said. “You just have to find a business that can survive, and that can survive rent increases.”

For Edwards and his co-owners, their timing in creating Atlanta Pro Bikes created a “perfect storm.”

“You have the BeltLine,” Edwards said. “People are wanting to get out of their cars and get into bikes. Bikes are really starting to take off in Atlanta in a way that five, 10 years ago, maybe this store wouldn’t have survived.”

That being said, a store that is too specialized is not guaranteed to succeed, either. The Spice Shop was a relatively short-lived business selling only spice and salt related products. Customers were not drawn to shop there, and their low priced items did not provide a worthwhile profit.

“You can’t put stores in these places that cannot sustain the rent, so if your highest priced item is \$20, you’ve got to sell a lot of \$20 items,” Hill said. “And you can buy spices online or in a grocery store.”

Hill brings up another huge factor: the shift towards e-commerce.

“When I first opened, most people didn’t even have computers in their home,” Hill said. “In the past five years, it’s become even more challenging with Amazon and online sites, and people just want to stay at home and buy from their computer.”

And if people are not shopping online, they may be shopping somewhere else. While the N. Highland Avenue strip has been an essential meeting place for neighbors over the years, other options are coming onto the scene, places which may offer more pizzazz and excitement.

“Ponce City Market may have something to do with it,” Edwards said. “People are wanting to shop at new places. People are going to Krog Street [Market], to Inman Park.”

Despite all of the odds against them, some stores, like Dakota J’s, have been able to crack the code to success. The main things that keep them around? Dedication, keeping things fresh, and providing a welcoming environment.

“It’s all about customer service and offering the customer something that they don’t always see,” Hill said. **M**



Birth Announcement

Ramin, Mary and Nazanin “Nina” Saghafi welcomed baby girl Margaret Zarrin “Zuzu” on October 2, 2017.



Birth Announcement

Austin and Mary Bradley are overjoyed to
announce the birth of their first child,
Arlo Everett Bradley,
who was born September 2, 2017.

*He loves bouncing for hours, long walks on The
BeltLine, and milk.*

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Agenda

November 8, 2017

IPNA Meeting • 7:30 p.m. • Babysitting Available

The Trolley Barn • 963 Edgewood Ave. NE

- I. Welcome & Introduction of Newcomers
- II. Police Officers' Reports
- III. Minutes of Last Meeting
- IV. Announcements
- V. Elected Officials' Reports
- VI. IPNA Officers' Reports
 - A. President
 - B. Planning
 - C. Zoning
 - D. Historic Preservation
 - E. Public Safety
 - F. Communications
 - G. Treasurer
 - H. Secretary
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Adjourn

Check inmanpark.org the day of the meeting for any agenda updates.



Good to Know

Inman Park Neighborhood Association (IPNA) membership:

Available to those who live within, own property within or operate a business within the boundaries of Inman Park. Membership is free with online registration at inmanpark.org. Membership allows you to vote (see bylaws online for details), gives you access to the directory and makes you eligible for special neighborhood events. In addition to being a member of IPNA, you may register for the Inman Park Security Patrol (IPSP) which staffs off-duty Atlanta Police officers to patrol our neighborhood. There are four levels of commitment starting at \$50 per year.

IPNA meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Trolley Barn.

IPSP membership is based upon a rolling annual membership term. Your renewal date is one year from your membership date and again every year after that.

Websites

InmanPark.org

InmanParkFestival.org

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Report All Crimes: Call 911

IP Security Patrol: 404-414-7802

L5P Mini-Precinct: 404-658-6782

L5P Business Association

www.little5points.com

Want to be a part of next month's *Advocator*?

If you have news to share with your neighbors in the December issue of the *Advocator*, please send your submissions to advocator@inmanpark.org on or before November 20.



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