

THE Inman Park Advocator



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

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April 2020

Volume 48 • Issue 4

President's Message

IPNA in the Time of COVID-19

By Beverly Miller • President@inmanpark.org

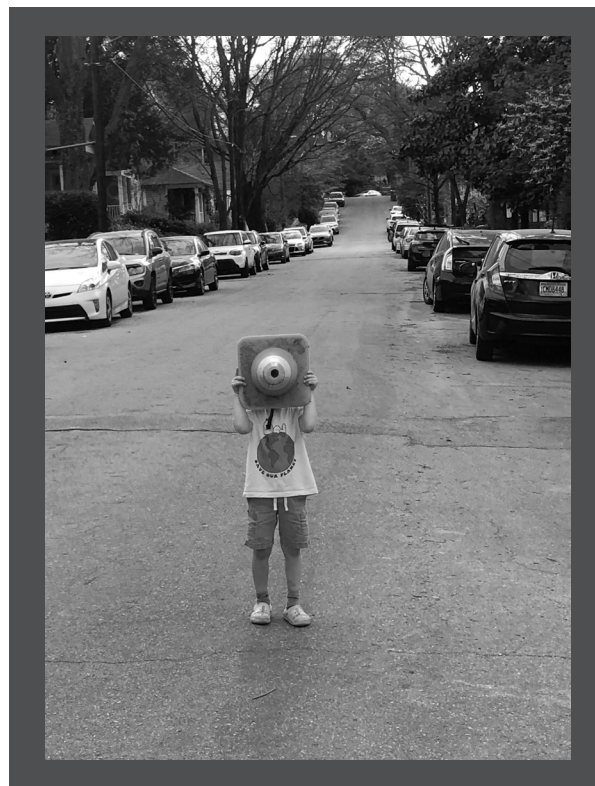
Hello, neighbors! I hope this Advocate finds you well. I miss seeing all of you. Social distancing is certainly not the norm for IPNA. We like to gather, then gather some more, especially during the month of April.

IPNA has long thrived on strength in numbers. We like to solve all of our problems through a process that involves a whole bunch of meetings, meetings which on occasion have been known to adjourn into impromptu frivolity. So getting through this long spell of physical isolation is proving to be tough. Our social fabric has totally changed, and we find ourselves in uncharted territory.

We can no longer take comfort from our normal routine. It is unprecedented for IPNA to have a planned monthly business meeting canceled, except for a couple of cases in which weather events prevented the meeting from taking place, but cancel the March meeting we did. During this time of uncertainty, there are many questions about all of the other IPNA events that would normally be upcoming.

When can we hold an in-person meeting again? No one knows. Until we can, we are working now to figure out the best way for our membership to vote remotely on any new historic preservation, zoning applications, or other matters that arise. So stay tuned! The City is not currently holding its regularly scheduled hearings to review zoning or historic preservation applications, so everything has thus far been deferred.

How will we stay connected? VP of Communications Melissa Miller and Web Wizard Cristy Lenz are doing a great job of facilitating communication, as is Advocate Editrix Carla Jeffries. Our first remote vote took place in March when the Education Committee needed IPNA approval for their position paper on the CINS survey regarding proposed changes for Atlanta Public Schools. Approval was granted thanks to everyone who took time to participate by reading last month's position letter from the Education Committee and casting your votes on our web site.



When will we have Festival? It is totally unprecedented that our beloved Inman Park Festival and Tour of Homes not take place the last weekend in April. Sadly, this year it will not. However, our Festival co-chairs Sam Bailey and Jane Bradshaw and the entire Festival Committee are working tirelessly to find the best resolution. There is a possibility that Festival can be re-scheduled, so keep your fingers crossed and watch for updates. When we do have Festival, I predict it will be the most epic one ever! And of course we will still need you to volunteer!

(continued on page 6)

Happenings
this month

Page 4-5

Grady Cluster
History
Lesson

Page 7

Speak for the
Trees

Page 9

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pollyontheavenue.com/clay-camp-2020.html



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COVID-19
update

In the event our office is temporarily closed, please do not hesitate to call if you have an urgent dental question. Press "2" to get to my cellphone.



"Dear friends and neighbors, due to the current COVID-19 situation, our future office hours are uncertain. However, do not hesitate to reach out if you have a dental question or need. Please stay safe everyone and we look forward to seeing our wonderful patients soon!"

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Advertise in The Advocate!

The Inman Park Neighborhood Association is happy to announce that our neighborhood magazine, The Advocate, is once again published by neighborhood volunteers and features only local ads.

The Advocate is mailed directly each month to 2200 homes in Inman Park, shared on social media with Inman Park and surrounding neighborhoods, and distributed to neighborhood businesses, providing a great way to advertise to your neighbors.

To purchase ads, go to inmanpark.org and click on the "Advocator Ad Sales" link at the top of the home page.

	1month	3 months (10% discount)	6 months (15% discount)	12 months (20% discount)
Full page	\$500	\$450	\$425	\$400
Half page	\$250	\$225	\$212.50	\$200
Quarter page	\$150	\$135	\$127.50	\$120

Please remember to support our fabulous local sponsors who make this publication possible!

2020 Inman Park Book Club

Meets at 7:00 pm on the last Tuesday of most months.
Most book selections are available at our neighborhood bookstore:

A Cappella Books

208 Haralson Ave, Inman Park

10% Discount! Shop local!

May 26

"The Dressmaker's Gift"

by Fiona Valpy

Host: Kevin and Kathy Dowling
245 N. Highland Ave., Apt 314

June 30

"Beneath the Tamarind Tree"

by Isha Sesay

Host: Susan Levy, 627 Irwin St., Unit 3

Inman Park
Security Patrol
Activity •
February 2020

Directed Patrols • 124
Drop Ins • 79

Alarm • 1

Condolences
to the family of
Jeanie Thomas,
former long-
time resident of
Waverly Way.



Porch Party

June 26 • 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by:

Ann & Jeff Cramer
1054 Austin Ave.

Posted in the spirit of optimism!
Let us hope we are able to socialize again by then.

. . .

All are welcome! Please bring a dish to share
and your favorite beverage to enjoy.

We'd like to meet our new neighbors!

If you are new to Inman Park, welcome! We're glad you're here.
Please contact the IPNA hospitality chair at
hospitality@inmanpark.org

Also, if you have personal news or a life event to share, the
Hospitality Committee would love to hear about it and recognize
you in the Advocate. Get in touch!

Thank you to our Inman
Park residents who are
serving on the frontlines of
healthcare and protecting
our community from
COVID-19

No Other Happenings to Note; Enjoy a Poem Instead

Song Of A Second April

By Edna St. Vincent Millay

April this year, not otherwise
Than April of a year ago,
Is full of whispers, full of sighs,
Of dazzling mud and dingy snow;
Hepaticas that pleased you so
Are here again, and butterflies.

There rings a hammering all day,
And shingles lie about the doors;
In orchards near and far away
The grey wood-pecker taps and bores;
The men are merry at their chores,
And children earnest at their play.

The larger streams run still and deep,
Noisy and swift the small brooks run
Among the mullein stalks the sheep
Go up the hillside in the sun,
Pensively,--only you are gone,
You that alone I cared to keep.



Miami building floral -- Johnathan Katz

IPNA Calendar

May 20

IPNA Meeting
Trolley Barn
7:30 p.m.

May 26

Book Club
See page 4
for details

May 28

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

Jun 17

IPNA Meeting
Trolley Barn
7:30 p.m.

Jun 26

Porch Party
See page 4
for details

Jun 30

Book Club
See page 4
for details



President's Message, continued

We look forward to returning to normalcy, and I think it will be a long time before any of us take for granted the freedom to enjoy life as usual. Meanwhile, our thoughts are with all of those close to home and worldwide who have been affected by COVID-19. We are grateful for the service of our healthcare professionals who continue to work on the front lines. Many thanks to our Lifelong Committee for providing local support through their Neighbor-to-Neighbor project. Thanks also to our public service providers, elected officials, and many others who are working tirelessly to halt the spread of the virus, and also to our neighborhood businesses who are able to stay open and provide the goods and services we all need during this difficult time.

As we all try to do our part to stop the

spread of COVID-19, if we stay well enough, we may find ourselves at home drinking quarantine and thinking wistfully about those carefree times when we could go out to our great neighborhood establishments. And no doubt we will consider how we'll appreciate these places all the more when we are able to get out again.

If you're able, now would be a good time to go online to order take-out or delivery from your favorite restaurants that remain open. Also consider buying yourself gift cards to any restaurants or service providers that are currently closed. You can look forward to treating yourself when they re-open, and you'll help them stay afloat in the meantime. Please continue to support the Advocate's advertisers in any way you can. This month's Advocate ads are being run at no charge for all of our sponsoring

businesses that are closed.

Let's all look forward to the time when we can again gather, especially at Festival, whenever it may be. As pointed out by Pat Westrick, Festival Grand Marshall along with her husband Richard, the Inman Park Festival is about celebrating our community. It's a big party by us, about us, and for us. Sure, we invite other people and we make money, but at its heart, Festival is a gathering for us.

As Pat also noted, even during this crazy time when we can't congregate as usual, in fact, especially during this time, we are still a community. More than ever we need to stay in touch. And more than ever we need to support each other. We are learning new and creative ways to do that.

Inman Park Transportation Committee Update

By Janice Darling • janice@crossing-point.com

We have some new information regarding our two major traffic improvement projects. As a reminder, since 2017 we have been working together with RENEW project managers, Inman Park neighbors, and traffic engineers. The designs for these two projects focus on our goals of 1) creating safer streets for pedestrians, bikers, and drivers and 2) reducing traffic speed while also fitting into our budget.

Project 1 North Highland Corridor

This project is the stretch of North Highland between Alaska and Elizabeth. Plans include new crosswalks, flashing beacons, rideshare drop off areas, bike lanes, additional parking spots, and bulb-outs at intersections to improve visibility.

In our November update we informed you that the target construction start date would be summer 2020. Sadly, but not surprisingly, this is now pushed to October 2020.

We are still in the "Right of Way (ROW) acquisition phase" but we are assured that progress is being made. I suppose the good news is that the City Council recently approved legislation allowing the project managers to contract with a ROW acquisition consultant and initiate ROW activities (title searches, appraisals, negotiation, etc.). They are currently finalizing contract elements with the ROW consultant. Once they are on board, the necessary acquisitions could take up to six (6) months. Don't get your hopes up (I sure don't) but they tell us that because they only need to negotiate with three property owners, the acquisition phase may take less than the anticipated 6 months (yay!), allowing for the original target construction start date (which was already pushed out over a year from the original estimate).

Despite asking what we can do to expedite the process and pleading for a quicker turn around, we have been unable to get any further information.

Project 2 Edgewood and Euclid

As a reminder, our goals with this project are to slow traffic down and allow for safe pedestrian crossings. Plans include removing the merge, tee-ing off the intersection, adding stop signs at the intersection, and removing the left turn lane.

Our new project manager, Mike Crawford, is continuing to be creative in how the project is put out to bid to get us as much as possible from our original design within the budget allocated. In addition, he is including this project along with a few others with the hope that this will result in better pricing. With the timing of getting bids out, proposals in, and selecting a vendor... it looks like we will have construction starting sometime around May 2020. (And again, don't get your hopes up.)

The transportation committee needs members. We have been focusing a lot on these two projects but there are so many more things we could be monitoring and communicating about! We would love to have someone report out on Edgewood Ave changes, on plans for Dekalb Ave, on bike lanes. We would love to have an advocate for keeping our crosswalks painted (calling 311 when there is a need). If you have a passion for anything transportation related in our neighborhood – we have a place for you! Give me a call any time!

A Condensed History of the Grady Cluster from 1872 – 2020

By Annsley Klehr • anzoid@yahoo.com

Over the last decade and a half, the physical composition of the Grady Cluster has gone through major changes--from school consolidations to new building constructions and renovations. Despite this physical transformation, the Grady Cluster has managed to continue not just its existence, but has also become a high-performing cluster. If all of this history had not occurred, our Grady Cluster would not be what it is today. No one can predict the future, but we can make educated speculations based on the Cluster's history.

In 1872, Boys High School, (which eventually became Henry W. Grady High School), was the first of two high schools created by Atlanta Public Schools (APS). Almost 40 years later, the technical department of Boys High branched off and was called Tech High. In 1924, the Boys High building moved to its current location in the wing of the campus now facing Charles Allen Drive. It has been renovated three times--in 1950, 1987, and 2004. The Samuel Martin Inman building was also opened in 1924 as an elementary school (K-7) at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Park Drive. In 1928, Morningside (K-7) and Mary Lin Elementary Schools opened to service a growing population on the eastern side of Atlanta.[1] Mary Lin at that time was a feeder school for Bass High School, which was located on Euclid Avenue in Little Five Points. In 1947, Tech High merged with Boys High to form Grady High School. Morningside and Inman both fed into Grady, which at that time, served 8th-12th grade students and had a separate wing for the 8th graders.[2]

In 1961, when Atlanta's schools were integrated, the Grady Cluster schools were majority white Christian, and one of every three students at Grady was Jewish. There were just two African American students in Grady's 8th grade class,[3] and the first integrated class at Grady High School[4]. In 1971, the United States Supreme Court unanimously upheld bussing programs being used to integrate public schools. The ruling began a decade of white flight from the City of Atlanta to the suburbs. In 1973, the City of Atlanta and the NAACP settled 15 years of litigation by agreeing that in lieu of large-scale, city-wide busing, the city would hire an African-American superintendent and administrative staff. However, the compromise did involve bussing for students in the city's Northside neighborhoods. Whites left the city in droves during this period. In 1968, 38 percent of all APS students were white. By 1974, this number had dropped to 15 percent. By 1986, only 7 percent of APS students were white.[5]

The Council of Intown Neighborhood and Schools (CINS) was formed in 1978 when a group of Morningside moms banded together to integrate their neighborhood school. (A similar group called Northside Atlanta Parents for Public Schools (NAPPS) started around the same time for the Buckhead area). The students at Morningside at that time were predominantly African Americans from other areas of the city who were bussed in. These CINS moms worked hard to create relationships and friendships that would keep the cultures of the schools intact. Little could they have imagined what the demographics would look like today in 2020.

The schools continued to evolve. In 1978, Inman Elementary School became Inman Middle School.[6] Just four years later, in 1982, Moreland Elementary School closed, leaving all students in the Inman Park catchment area to only attend Mary Lin Elementary; at the same time, several other elementary schools closed their doors. By the mid-1980s, Grady High, Inman Middle, and Morningside Elementary were all growing in population as intown Atlanta housing prices started

to increase. And around this time, as a mandate by the courts, 200 white students from Morningside and 200 African American students from CW Hill were bussed to each other's schools. Renovations to Inman Middle School in 1985 created enough space to rezone all 6th graders from Morningside, CW Hill, Home Park, Fowler Street, and Mary Lin Elementary Schools to Inman, which inevitably changed the demographics at the school and eliminated the needs of the Morningside-CW Hill pairing.[7]

Around this same time, CINS and APS created magnet schools, Grady High School becoming a Communications Magnet. By having 12 intown schools with a special focus, these magnet programs allowed schools to draw students not just from their catchment, but all over the city.[8] This gave the schools more interest and stability to encourage those in catchment to return to their schools. The struggling Inman Middle and new Walden Middle Schools aligned their curricula with Grady.[9] As a result of these efforts, verbal SAT scores between 1986 and 1990 saw an increase of 72 points, contributing to Grady's recognition as a Georgia School of Excellence in 1991 and again in 1995.[10]

As demographics were changing, so too were the educational philosophies of the intown parents. These parents were looking for an alternative to traditional education, and so began the founding of several of the cooperative nursery schools, some of which are still thriving today. The charter schools movement of 1995 was birthed out of these cooperative school ideologies--namely, a desire for more parent involvement and hands-on learning opportunities, to name a few. In 1997, though Grady's communication magnet program seemed to be successful, its principal, Dr. Vincent Murray, recognized that the needs of the majority of Grady students were not yet being met. In an attempt to think outside the box and meet the needs of all students, Dr. Murray began looking at charter school options. After two years of exploring whether Grady should be converted to a charter school, a meeting of the Grady families was held to ask questions and get input about the charter proposal. There appeared a clear division among color and class lines; those African American families whose children were not in the magnet program worried that the rest of the school would be underfunded and did not support the charter. The African American population made up about two-thirds of Grady's population and the other third was made up of white students. As a result of this deep divide, during the following school year, Mr. Murray started an initiative around discrimination training, stating in a letter to the faculty, "Individually we are different; together we are Grady"[11], with the hope of helping to repair the damage done to his community from the charter exploration.[12]

Grady's magnet program continued to thrive, reaching 400 students by 2004-2005 and saw SAT scores for both math and verbal increase from 1998-2005 by about 100 points.[13] Meanwhile, in the fall of 1999, intown families worried about their schools' capacity as Mary Lin and Morningside were starting to outgrow their spaces. APS held a meeting to inform the Northside schools about upcoming rezonings, redistrictings, and renovations in which APS announced that Walden Middle School was to be closed and John Hope renovated. CINS petitioned for Walden to stay open and advocated for a new elementary school to relieve the overcrowding.[14]

(continued on page 12)

Inman Park Spring Festival & Tour of Homes 2020

Our top priority is the safety and health of our patrons, artists, guests, staff, vendors and community. Therefore, due to COVID-19 concerns and CDC and City of Atlanta recommendations, Inman Park Spring Festival & Tour of Homes, scheduled to take place April 24-26, 2020 will be postponed or cancelled. We are evaluating if a rescheduled event is possible or if we will see you next April, 2021. We will announce more information in the next few weeks. We encourage all to adhere to the CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Stay safe!



Speak for the Trees: Where the Wild Things Are

By Jim Abbot • abbot.jim@gmail.com

Occasionally I get asked why I love trees so much. I tend to give different answers to that question, depending on my audience and my mood at the moment. Sometimes I mention my childhood in a small town, where I spent countless hours playing in the woods, climbing trees, and paddling down a river that winds through cypress and tupelo trees. At other times, I talk about my good fortune in deciding to participate in a tree planting back in 1998, and discovering the wonderfully spirited camaraderie of people working together to benefit present and future generations.

The honest answer, though, is that I don't know for sure. It's not like I get as excited about a camellia bush or some tulips. I admire and envy gardeners, but one look at my yard will reveal to anyone that admiration and envy are as close as I'm ever going to get to that marvelous talent.

In the end, I've decided that it's okay not to know for sure. Maybe a little mystery is not a bad thing? Hmm, come to think of it, "mystery" is a good word in this context. Who hasn't looked into a deep, dark forest, or stood at the base of a towering tree, and sensed the presence of something mysterious? In an age when we can measure the age of the universe and clock the speed of light, it's heartening to realize that something wild, something immeasurable, something irreducibly mysterious is right out there in our own yards!

In any case, did I mention that I love trees?



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Inspiring Inman Park Resident Fights Suicide

By Cooper Baker • cre.cooper@gmail.com

On March 14, 2018 I received a call from my sister-in-law that my 36 year-old brother had taken his life. I never could have imagined the pain and heartbreak associated with my brother becoming a tragic statistic of suicide. According to the Center for Disease Control, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States with an average of 132 suicides per day.

In 2018 I was living in Nashville and in my attempts to find solace from my brother's passing, I attended AFSP's annual "Out of the Darkness" Walk with my family and friends. The crowd was large, and everyone brought their own personal connection to suicide. It was truly an amazing day that helped me find comfort and peace for the first time in a while.

When I moved back to Atlanta shortly after, I knew I had to get involved with the local AFSP Chapter. After making

some calls and sending out emails to leadership, I joined the Junior Board and have loved every minute of it. The main focus of the Junior Board is to plan a Spring Fundraiser, which we call "Party for Prevention." The event featuring a live band, food, silent auction and raffle items takes place Saturday, June 13 at Eventide Brewing. All the money raised goes to fight suicide here in Georgia and bring hope to suicide survivors.

The good news is suicide can be prevented. More investment in suicide prevention education and research will reduce the number of untimely death of Americans such as my brother each year. I hope that you will join me next month as we raise money to prevent suicide.

More information on suicide prevention can be found at www.afsp.org.



Crescent moon and possible Venus -- Johnathan Katz

Celebrating 36 Years
of bringing Inman Park home.

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photo cred: Eddie Krebs

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Inman Park Summer 2020 Bocce League

By Marcus Wittich • ipbocceleague@gmail.com

For those of you new to the Park of Inman or others that have kept your head in the sand and know not of the amazing league of the summer, We the Grand PooBaaa of the Inman Park Bocce Summer League takes pleasure to inform all the uneducated minions of an opportunity to participate in the Italian summer pastime, Bocce. Contrary to rumors some have whispered in our royal ear that due to the country of origin, and in order to contain the spread of foreign fun, the playing of Bocce has been banned in the Park of Inman. But no, this is not true and you too may participate in the quest to become a Knight or Dame of the table of the little round ball of Bocce.

Each year only two of our minions will reach this high honor through heavy drinking and hard labor on the court of Bocce by dispatching all other competitors and sticking strictly to our rules and guidelines.

1. Never touch your face
2. Wash your hands regularly while singing happy birthday to yourself at least 4 times a day
3. Always cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm
4. Use the air fist bump when greeting or congratulating your opponent
5. Forfeit your match if you have a fever

So what you may ask is this Bocce? To borrow for the most grand and high philosopher of our time, Sir Wiki:

Bocce, sometimes anglicized as bocci or boccie, is a ball sport belonging to the boules family, closely related to British bowls and French pétanque, with a common ancestry from ancient games played in the Roman Empire. Developed into its present form in Italy, it is played around Europe.

Confused?

Bocce is played on natural soil courts 90 ft in length and 10 ft wide. Inman Park has one of these courts near the playground by the duck pond. In bocce the only object is for one or more of your teams' balls (you have 4) to be closer than any of your opponent's balls to the pallina (small target ball, often white) at the end of every set. The first team to 15 wins

The summer league season, 2020 edition is now open . If you are interested in being out door in the fresh air and away from crowds then join us playing Bocce, please respond to this email ipbocceleague@gmail.com with the following information:

Team Name:
Player 1 Name:
Player 1 email:
Player 1 Phone:

Player 2 Name:
Player 2 email:
Player 2 Phone:



Neighbor to Neighbor

Inman Park neighbor volunteers are ready to assist anyone needing short-term help, for example:

- Getting to medical appointments
- Preparing meals or help with pets while recovering from illness
- Managing daily activities

Visit www.inmanpark.org/lifelonginmanpark
Contact Linda Gross (404-545-5222)
or Jackie Lawrence (404-272-0024)

Condensed History of Grady Cluster, continued

After three decades of white flight and the devastation that ensued in APS schools, gentrification of the schools brought more families with children back into the cities, creating a new host of issues--namely overcrowding. Morningside enrollment neared 1,000 students by 2007 and opened a kindergarten annex to alleviate congestion. Two years later, John Hope and CW Hill merged, while Springdale Park Elementary School was formed from the neighborhoods of Poncey-Highland, Virginia Highland, Druid Hills, and Midtown (roughly 360 students from both Morningside and Mary Lin Elementary Schools). As Atlanta began preparing for the Olympics, it demolished Atlanta's public housing complexes: Techwood/Clark Howell Homes, U-Rescue Vista, and John Hope Homes, and therefore, changing the demographics of those neighborhoods, causing the opposite issue--under-enrollment.[15] Just one year later, Mary Lin acquired eight double-wide portable classrooms on its playground (which would eventually be removed with a school renovation and expansion completed in 2015), and The Intown Academy opened in CW Hill's building.

In addition, intown charter schools began expanding and opening at a rapid pace. In 1999, Centennial Academy opened in Downtown Atlanta as a neighborhood zoned charter school, meaning that the students in that zone MUST attend the charter school (despite the capacity the building could actually hold) except for those grandfathered into the current schools they were attending. It began as a K-5 and converted to a K-8 charter school in 2014, adding one middle grade per year. Kindezi (Old Fourth Ward) followed suit in 2015 as a cluster charter school. Meanwhile, Grady remained a magnet school until the Gates Foundation donated a large sum of money to create "small schools". [16] Consequently, Grady was transformed into four small learning communities (SLC's). The intown students could choose from these SLC's: The Communications and Journalism Academy, the Public Policy and Justice Academy, the Business and Entrepreneurship Academy, and The Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Academy. [17]

A special thank you to Elizabeth Henry, Alfred Bernstein, and Herbert Gerson for their contribution of information. This article would not have been possible without Elizabeth Henry's history of the Grady Cluster from the 1972-2012 in her dissertation publication: *Halting White Flight: Atlanta's Second Civil Rights Movement*.
https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1029&context=history_diss

[1]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_W._Grady_High_School

[2]Interview with Alfred Bernstein on February 15, 2020 - Inman Elementary Alumnus 1961 and Grady High School Alumnus 1966

[3]Ibid.

[4]Interview with Herbert Gerson on February 16, 2020 - Morningside Elementary Alumnus 1961 and Grady High School Alumnus and senior class president 1966

[5]Gary Orfield and Carole Ashkinaze, *The Closing Door: Conservative Policy and Black Opportunity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), which came from Henry, Elizabeth E., "Halting White Flight: Atlanta's Second Civil Rights Movement." Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2012.https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/history_diss/31

[6]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_W._Grady_High_School

[7]Henry, Elizabeth E., "Halting White Flight: Atlanta's Second Civil Rights Movement." Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2012. https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/history_diss/31

[8] Ibid., pg 169

[9] Ibid. p. 173

[10] "High Schools That Work." from Henry, Elizabeth E., "Halting

The continuing gentrification of intown neighborhoods and the resulting overcrowding has prompted the much-needed recent changes in the Grady Cluster.[18] Howard Middle School, which was Howard Elementary School (1923-1948) and then Howard High School (until 1976), has been going through a major renovation and expansion. In the Fall of 2020, Howard Middle School will replace Inman Middle School as the middle school for the Grady Cluster.[19] (Kindezi O4W and Centennial Academy both have middle schools that will feed into Grady). At that same time, Morningside Elementary will move to the Inman campus for two years while its campus is renovated and updated. In 2022, Morningside will move back to its campus, at which time the Inman campus will be available for use in some capacity. In addition, Springdale Park, which is currently over-capacity, will likely have a Kindergarten annex starting in the following academic year (2020-2021). Grady will also be undergoing a \$39.5 million renovation until the summer of 2021: additional classrooms, security upgrades, renovations of the gym, auditorium, performing arts department, media center, and cafeteria. This will thereby increase Grady's capacity, with enough seats projected for the next ten years.

Overcrowding in the Grady Cluster schools will continue to be an ongoing issue as families continue to flock to intown neighborhoods. The history of the Grady Cluster above will hopefully help inform APS and its families and neighborhoods, so that together we can work towards creating long-term solutions. For those who have taken CINS' Grady Cluster Overcrowding Survey, you have added your vision to that of the advocates, dedicated parents, and organizations that over a century and a half, brought us to where we are today. Your voice in this survey will help to create a better place for all students. Stay-tuned for survey results in the near future, or feel free to reach out to CINS (www.cinsatlanta.org).

White Flight: Atlanta's Second Civil Rights Movement." Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2012.https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/history_diss/31 pg 175

[11]Dr. Vincent Murray, Grady High School principal, "Letter to faculty," August 9, 1999 as quoted in Henry, Elizabeth E., "Halting White Flight: Atlanta's Second Civil Rights Movement." Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2012.https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/history_diss/31

[12]Henry, Elizabeth E., "Halting White Flight: Atlanta's Second Civil Rights Movement." Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2012. https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/history_diss/31

[13]Ibid

[14]Ibid.

[15]Ibid.

[16]Electronic mail exchange with Barbara Feinberg, former CINS president, February 21, 2020.

[17]Henry, Elizabeth E., "Halting White Flight: Atlanta's Second Civil Rights Movement." Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2012. https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/history_diss/31 p. 295

[18]Ibid.

[19]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_T._Howard_High_School

Former Legislator Writes Book on “Saving the Georgia Coast”

By Paul Bolster • bolster@bellsouth.net

It seems like only yesterday that I represented Inman Park in the Georgia House of Representatives (1974-1986). At first I represented only a portion, but the 1980 census reapportionment made it all. I was young (28) when first elected but so were all the urban pioneers restoring their homes and reclaiming their neighborhoods from investors who put little into their investments. I lived in Ormewood Park and we modeled our organizing efforts, South Atlantans For Neighborhood Development after BOND (if you don't know it, you will have to ask). My friend Charlie Arter was the community school principal at Moreland Elementary (now Horizon et al), Don Watson and Don Bender were organizing the credit union, Joe Drolet was organizing the City Wide League of Neighborhoods, and the neighborhood was fighting the Presidential Parkway.

The neighborhoods were just beginning to have clout at city hall. The biggest crowd I ever riled up was a CAUTION march and rally that ended at the World Congress Center. With my wife Riki teaching Inman Park kids at Grady High, raising three of our own, trying to serve the public interest, life was never slow and never dull. It is slower now and I have had an opportunity to research a small slice of Georgia's political history and write a book, “Saving the Georgia Coast.” It is not my history but it is infused with my empathy for the legislative process.

I once had a little rental house on Tybee Island. I loved being there whenever possible and enjoyed the beach; but what I really loved was taking my small REI kayak, slipping across the tidal river through Jack's Cut over to Little Tybee Island. Much larger than urbanized Tybee, most of Little Tybee is marsh grass and small hammocks. On either side of high or low tide you will find a narrow stream that gets you into the wide expanse of marsh that flows on the back side of the slim barrier island. It's narrow but has a mile long natural sandy beach. Once I met a six inch fin coming round an S turn and directly at my tiny craft. After a few moments of hysteria, I realized the large adult dolphin was just relishing a little friendly human contact. There were no structures on the island--mansions, docks, camp grounds, or picnic tables. When I stretched out on the beach one October, there was not another soul in sight and I felt like a lone visitor to a South Pacific atoll.

So the book came from basic curiosity. Why was this beautiful island and its marshland here for me to freely explore? What politics made this so? I learned it was not free and natural by accident.

I came to this project with a PhD in history from UGA that had lain on a shelf for many years. Maybe the taxpayers of Georgia should get a return from the investment in my education. But perhaps more importantly I wanted people to know what legislators do and how they struggle to make the laws that govern us. Reid Harris, the star of the book, spent six years in the House and left us a narrative of his struggles to protect the coast. I was looking for a story that gives legislators the credit for what they do.

Georgia has 100 miles of coast (not counting the ins and outs of estuaries, islands, river deltas, and marshlands) and only a small part is developed. When you count the pockets of development east of Savannah and east of Brunswick it covers maybe less than ten miles of the coast and leaves the rest undeveloped by modern standards. Only four of the fourteen barrier islands (Tybee, Sea Island, St Simons, and Jekyll) are reachable by car. It is preserved because some courageous Georgia leaders passed the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act of 1970. Yes, that was 50 years ago and it still remains a bulwark of the state's environmental law. In 1970 Georgia led the nation in protecting the value in its marshlands before federal legislation expanded our national laws protecting fragile ecosystems.

This book brings to life the political climate of the state between 1968 and 1970, introduces the characters who made decisions. There was tall, lean and intellectual Reid Harris, the representative from Brunswick; elegant and passionate Jane Yarn, who charmed legislators and organized volunteers to produce a massive letter writing campaign; George Bagby, the official “Fish Head,” who advised Lester Maddox into a new role as an environmental governor. Many more individuals played essential roles: Senator A.L. Holloway, Attorney General Arthur Bolton, Dr. Fred Marland, Dr. Eugene Odum, R. S. “Rock” Howard, Robert Hanie, and Speaker George L. Smith. The book draws a picture of the bipartisan coalition supporting the bill.

It reviews the Georgia beginnings of the Sierra Club and the Georgia Conservancy and also follows the contributions of the Garden Club of Georgia, the zoology students at UGA, and the scientists cloistered at the UGA Marine Institute on Sapelo. Lester Maddox's “little people” demanded that the state leaders “Save the Marsh.”

The book points to the coastal challenges today and the more than 25 organizations that seek to protect the future of the islands and marshlands. Sea rise may force the marshes and even the islands to migrate while more people want the opportunity to live at the edge of the sea. Legislators will make decisions affecting the future of the coast and voters will need to make sure they are well informed. Some will need to be courageous as in the past.

Saving the Georgia Coast is published by the University of Georgia Press and available from A Capella books (in these times of isolation they deliver). Go to Indieboundbooks.org to support our independent book sellers or the usual sources where books are sold.

IPNA Meeting March 18, 2020

Minutes

One thing is for sure: Social distancing is totally contrary to the nature of IPNA.

However, in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19, IPNA is suspending our March Business Meeting. Based on a directive received Friday from the City, all NPUs are working to clear their March agendas in order to avoid meeting. NPU-N has asked its member organizations to reach out to their applicants and request deferrals. As a result, we have no zoning applications that need to be voted on this month, and there are also no historic preservation applications. Therefore, the board has voted not to hold either an in-person or a virtual March meeting.

Everyone stay safe and well until IPNA can get back to normal. Watch for updates to stay informed about upcoming events.

But also please keep reading because even though we can't meet in person, IPNA still needs your participation this month!

There is one important issue on which the IPNA membership needs to vote. Several weeks ago, a survey went out from CINS (The Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools) regarding solutions to overcrowding in the Grady Cluster. CINS, a non-profit that advocates and engages the community on behalf of the Grady Cluster, will be sharing the results of that survey in a couple of weeks. Meanwhile, the IPNA Education Committee, under the leadership of Eric Goldberg, has worked hard to sift through the various options and to identify what they consider the best solution. The IPNA Board has voted unanimously to support the Education Committee's conclusions.

Please proceed as follows in order to vote:

- 1.) Read the statement below from the Education Committee. For more detailed information, the committee's position paper is also available in its entirety on the next page.
- 2.) Go to www.inmanpark.org to cast your vote. On your member landing page, from the menu on the right side of your screen, select "Online Voting." You will then be able to vote "yes" if you support the Education Committee's position or "no" if you do not.

The Inman Park Neighborhood Association Education Committee's recommendation for Inman Middle School usage and relieving Grady Cluster crowding is as follows: Make Inman Middle School a 5th/6th grade academy and change the David T. Howard School grade configuration to 7-9.

Such a scenario would see Grady High receive grades 10-12.

We believe this is both the best way to ease crowding on the elementary school level and at Grady High over the next decade and to group together developmentally appropriate cohorts across the cluster.

This plan also gives Atlanta Public Schools (APS) the time and breathing room to develop a long range facilities strategy for the Grady Cluster.

On the next page is the position paper detailing the IPNA Education Committee's recommendation, which was delivered to the APS Board of Education on March 13.

Date: March 9, 2020
To: The Atlanta Public School Board
From: The Inman Park Education Committee
Re: Future Use of the Samuel Inman Middle School Building

Our committee has attended the various community meetings held by Atlanta Public School (APS) and meetings held by the Mary Lin community. These meetings were attended by Atlanta Public School Board (ABOE) members, which was greatly appreciated. Our experience thus far has been that the process is transparent, informative, and has included valuable conclusions made by Sizemore Group, the contractor hired to complete a full facilities assessment. After attending the meeting on February 25th, examining the data, and looking carefully at all five possible solutions, the Inman Park Education Committee has determined that Option C will provide the most comprehensive solution that will provide significant relief to all of the Grady Cluster schools. While none of the options create a perfect scenario, the committee believes that Option C will maintain and increase diversity in all of the Grady Cluster schools, address overcrowding, create opportunities for students to become cohorts at specific developmental periods, and provide valuable time to continue examining enrollment data and make decisions that will likely need 7-10 years for implementation.

Option C would create a 5th and 6th grade academy long term and the David T. Howard School would change from a 6-8th grade to 7-9th grade. Grady High School would receive students in 10th grade. The committee's conclusions are based on the following:

- Opening a 5/6 grade academy is the best long-term use for the Inman Middle School building from a facilities utilization standpoint as it helps relieve Grady Cluster elementary school overcrowding by taking a grade out of each of the cluster elementary schools.

- This option achieves a long time Grady Cluster goal of combining all of its elementary school-age students together at a younger age. Chief among the social advantages that this scenario would bring is grouping children of disparate socioeconomic backgrounds together prior to their entering David T. Howard in 7th grade.
- Starting in fifth grade, all of the Grady Cluster elementary school children will be together in one building, allowing them to build relationships and perhaps head off some of the problems that occur in middle school/junior high that are borne from unfamiliarity. (i.e. - fighting, clique building, etc.).
- The current Inman Middle School footprint needs to be managed and a two grade configuration (5/6) best nurtures this historic building as a resource and protects the surrounding Virginia-Highland neighborhood.
- A 5/6 academy on the site of the current Inman Middle School footprint mitigates traffic in that busy city corridor when compared to a K-5 elementary. Eleven- and twelve-year-olds are more likely to walk and take the bus, and less likely to be driven by car. This is important from the perspective of residents who live in the dense neighborhood bordering the current Inman Middle School.
- A 5/6 academy, known also as an "Intermediate School," is a configuration used elsewhere in the US. The current principal of Inman previously was principal of one in Indiana. It is a very developmentally appropriate age grouping, and offers a unique opportunity to cater to this age that is on the "cusp" of teen years.
- As Grady's renovation is not large enough to meet the future enrollment projections, pulling a grade out of Grady High (9th grade) relieves crowding on a footprint where space issues project to be most acute over the next decade.
- A 7-9 grade configuration or junior high is quite commonplace over much of the Northeast and other pockets of the country. An argument can be made that the 7-9 cohort have more in common developmentally than a 6-8

grouping.

- From an extracurricular perspective, a 7-9 junior high would see 7th and 8th grade sports teams and clubs grouped together with single grade teams and clubs for 9th graders and/or transport to Grady for participation.
- Many of the 5th grade teachers currently working at the Grady Cluster Elementary schools already have Middle School Certifications. Inman Middle School will be used as a holding school for two years which should provide ample time and opportunity for any teachers to become Middle School certified, thus creating a flexible educator team.

The committee recognizes that these configurations do not currently exist in the APS system and will create significant concern from administrators and educators. The two-grade academy model does exist in the highly successful City of Decatur Schools and around the nation. The creation of the cluster model was promoted as an opportunity to look at each cluster individually and to make recommended changes/enhancements based on the unique population of each cluster. While the two -grade academy may not work in the other APS cluster communities, it would work very well for the Grady Cluster because of the close proximity of most of the cluster elementary schools to the Inman, Howard, and Grady campuses. This proximity will allow continued walking/ biking opportunities for the students as they transition to each new campus which would maintain associated transportation costs. As demonstrated by the results of the survey, the number one issue for respondents is maintaining walkable community schools.

Eric Goldberg
Chair
Inman Park Neighborhood Association
Education Committee
IPNA Education Committee Members:
Regina Brewer
Tamara Jones
Julie Noble
Galit Levitan
Vicki Rafferty
Emily Kotzan
Alison Gordon
Scott Evans

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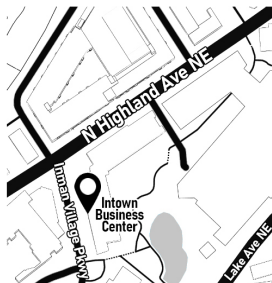
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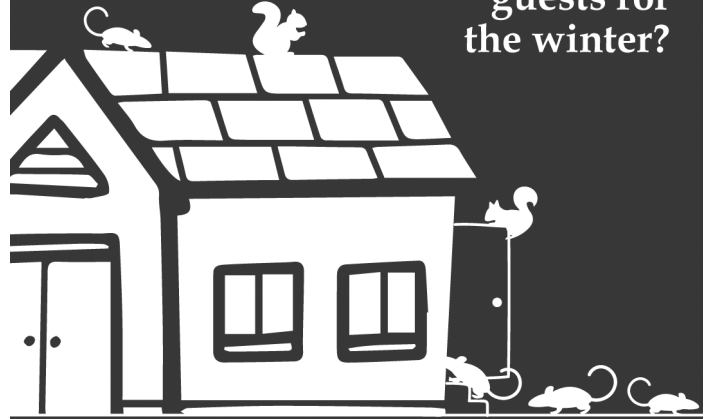
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Agenda

May 20, 2020

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***

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

If you have news to share with your neighbors in the May issue of the Advocate, please send your submissions to advocator@inmanpark.org before April 20.



Good to Know

Inman Park Neighborhood Association (IPNA) membership:

Inman Park Neighborhood Association (IPNA) membership: Available to those who live within or own property within the boundaries of Inman Park. Membership is \$5 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 beginning 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
Facebook.com/InmanPark
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