



What's Important to You? Speak Up!

by Kate Siegel

In case you couldn't guess by the yard signs and the steady stream of candidate information showing up in your mailbox, there's an election coming soon. Whether you're concerned about taxes, transit, trees – or all three, or something else – this is a good way for you to help determine policy and priorities for Atlanta's future. Here in Kirkwood, you'll have the opportunity to cast a vote for:

- Mayor of Atlanta
- City Council President
- City Council District 5 representative (that's us)
- 3 "at large" City Council representatives (who aren't focused on a specific area)
- State Representative of the 89th District (to fill the unexpired term of Stacey

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7.

Vote early at the Bessie Branham Recreation Center 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM through Friday, November 3. Abrams, who resigned to run for governor)

- Board of Education member for District 3
- 3 "at large" Board of Education members

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There are also two referendum questions regarding homestead exemption and homestead option sales tax.

To find out what your choices will be at the polling place, enter your voter information at www.mvp.sos. ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do. Then look for the "Click Here for Sample Ballots" link in the Voter Information section at the upper left on the My Voter Page.

Do your homework to learn about the candidates who want to represent you. Search for interviews, questionnaires, and endorsements. Don't take statements at face value; look for the stories behind the soundbites.



Kirkwood Neighbors' Organization (KNO) is a racially and economically diverse civic organization devoted to the revitalization of Atlanta's historic Kirkwood community.

KNO meets on the 10th of each month at 7 pm at the Turner Monumental A.M.E. Church, 66 Howard Street NE.

Everyone is welcome!

2017 KNO Officers

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Comments? Story Ideas? Advertising Questions? Your comments about this newsletter or story ideas are encouraged. Please contact the Editor.

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Anna's BBO 1976 Hosea Williams Drive Atlanta Intown 1963 Hosea Williams Drive #R101 Big H Grocery 1932 Hosea Williams Drive Blue Ink Title 1963 Hosea Williams Drive #R103 Conscious Health 1963 Hosea Williams Drive #R104A DeKalb Atlanta Human Services Center 30 Warren Street DeKalb Atlanta Senior Center 25 Warren Street SE Dulce Vegan 1994 Hosea Williams Drive Guitar Shed 1610 Hosea Williams Drive Ste. E Indigo Wellness 1963 Hosea Williams Drive #R107 Kirkwood Feed and Seed 1998 Hosea Williams Drive Kirkwood Library 11 Kirkwood Road Langford's Barber Shop 1947 Hosea Williams Drive Le Petit Marche 1963 Hosea Williams Drive LIV Fitness 1853 Memorial Drive The Pullman 1992 Hosea Williams Drive Spotted Trotter 1610 Hosea Williams Drive Ste. A&B Sun In My Belly 2161 College Avenue Taproom Coffee 1963 Hosea Williams Drive #R106 Toomer Elementary School 65 Rogers Street NE Valero 1989 Hosea Williams Drive All KNO and NPU-O meetings & neighborhood events



Poppa Corn's held their official ribbon cutting on October 27 at 1617 Hosea L. Williams Dr., the former Dis 'N' Dat location. "It's the vintage candy store you wish still existed, merged with the best of the best gourmet popcorn shop!" said Jonathan Rich. Owner Keith Forrester (to the right of Councilmember Natalyn Archibong, above) says the store, staffed in part by students from Maynard Jackson High School, will offer fresh-popped popcorn in all kinds of sweet and savory flavors, from traditional buttered and caramel corns to dill pickle, jalapeño cheese, spicy peanut, and even fruit flavors like banana and blackberry. They also have candy and drinks, as well as containers for gift arrangements.



Spring Fling Planning

The planning committee is searching for community leaders interested in organizing various aspects of the 16th annual Kirkwood Spring Fling festival, including: the 5K road race, artists market, BBQ cook-off, food and beverages, kids' area, marketing and sponsorship, and volunteers.

> Meeting on **Wednesday, Nov. 15**, location TBD www.facebook.com/kirkwoodfling chair@kirkwoodfling.com





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FATE Students Busy Making a Difference

by Shalea Niles

Toomer is once again promoting "attendance for all" with our FATE Five Attendance Club. The goal of the club is for every student to reach the best attendance possible. Some absences are unavoidable, but we hope students can keep to five or fewer total absences during the school year. Those falling within the five-absences cap can celebrate and receive rewards throughout the school year. This includes two visits from the game bus, one in December and another in May.

FATE students participated in No Place for Hate Day on Friday, Oct. 20. The No Place for Hate campaign is an initiative of the Anti-Defamation League



The performance stage at Fred Armon Toomer Elementary has had the same curtains since the school opened in 1968. FATE would like to have new ones installed in time for the students' holiday performance, but replacing the 50-year-old tattered and torn curtains is an expense beyond what the school and its PTA can normally afford.

Make a donation to help purchase them at **paypal.me/fatepta** or **fundly.com/help-fate-purchase-new-stage-curtains**

"From little seeds grow mighty trees."

Schedule a tour: 404-802-3450

www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/1631

www.facebook.com/FriendsofToomerElementary

www.twitter.com/FATEaps

To help out a classroom, search for "Toomer" at DonorsChoose: **www.donorschoose.org**

Whitefoord Early Learning Academy, 3 years to Pre-K Office of Early Learning, 404-802-3640 Whitefoord Inc., 404-523-2500 that Atlanta Public Schools supports by working to build safe and inclusive communities. Students learned to recognize, report, and refuse bullying as a part of National Bullying Prevention Month.

FATE Playworks girls basketball season will officially kick off their first game on November 2 at McNair Discovery Learning Academy. Tipoff is at 7:15 PM. Wishing Coach Smalls and our FATE girls a great season ahead!

Because many families in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico were affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, students are working to collect brand new pencils as part of their

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 7 Election Day. No school.

Saturday, November 11 5:00-8:00 рм

Spaghetti Dinner & Auction. Dinner tickets are \$5 each and include spaghetti (meatballs optional), salad, Holeman & Finch bread, and beverage.

Friday, November 17 Crazy Socks for Good Attendance Day

November 20-24 Thanksgiving Break. *No school.*

Point Students in the "Write" Direction pencil drive. They hope to gather 1,500 unused pencils by November 17.

Oh! So <u>that's</u> how you pronounce it!



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4th Annual Jack-o-Lantern Smackdown!

Cub Scout Pack 302 has just the thing to cure your post-Halloween blues!

Let them hurl your toothy-grinned gourd from the top of one of Atlanta Fire Department's finest ladder trucks to a gloriously explosive end. Because who doesn't want to see massive amounts of pumpkin guts splattering on the ground after dropping from on high?

Plus, kids will get to hang out with some firemen for the day and probably get to sit in a fire truck.

There will also be beverages and baked goods. Maybe even some BBQ.



Saturday, November 4, 2:00-5:00 рм Charles R. Drew Charter School, 301 E. Lake Boulevard SE

Safer City Streets

Speed tables (speed humps) are scheduled to be installed on Rogers Street in November. In an effort to make the street safer for everyone in the area, especially the students of Toomer Elementary School, Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong sponsored an ordinance for these traffic calming devices, which was passed at a City Council meeting last month.

An Imagine Memorial meeting has been scheduled to discuss a major project to improve safety for pedestrians and motorists traveling from Reynoldstown to East Lake. This is the part of the planning process that began with a Georgia Tech study in 2014 to rexamine Memorial Drive in a holistic way. A community stakeholder committee has worked closely with Georgia Department of Transportation since 2015 and now includes a fulltime planning role.

Please come to learn more about the project, ask questions, and offer your input.

Wednesday, November 8, 6:00-8:00 PM at Drew Elementary Charter School

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Manage Stress to Get the Most Out of Your Holidays

by Jill Wener

Whether you enjoy this time of year or dread it, it's probably going to up your stress level. Even things we look forward to can cause us us worry or discomfort, because it's a change. That's a normal reaction.

Truth be told, holidays often bring out the worst in people. They're stressed about money, family, the cold weather ... you name it! Wanna know a secret? It's not about you! It never is.

People are too caught up in their own world to think about anyone else. So do your best to avoid taking things personally. Cut others some slack – even, for example, at the Target parking lot. You'll be giving yourself a gift, too.

Reset your expectations. If you expect apples to fall from an orange tree, you're going to be disappointed. If you expect your family to be anything other than, well, your family, over the holidays, you will needlessly be upset over something you can't change.

Treat everything that happens as if you *expected* it to happen.

Remember that booze doesn't make our problems go away. If you're planning to drink your way through a difficult family get-together or a work party, consider alternating every drink with water. You'll make better decisions, and because alcohol actually worsens insomnia, you'll feel better in the morning.

A little gratitude goes a long way. Practicing gratitude actually changes the way your brain functions.

At night before bed, tear off a sheet of paper and write five things you are grateful for, then place it in a jar. Keep it simple. I'm often grateful for avocados and friends, for instance.

If your family is game, try it at the dinner table. It will shift the entire mood of the meal (in a good way).

And speaking of the dinner table, **don't talk politics.** Just don't.

Finally, it may sound odd, but rest is the basis of activity. If you don't sleep, you don't perform as well. And you're more likely to snap at your family or co-workers.

Take care of yourself this holiday season. Get sleep, exercise, and don't forget the self-care. Treat yourself to a massage or a yoga class. Give meditation a shot.

At the very least, take five minutes to yourself, once or twice a day, *without* your phone or social media.

Jill teaches Vedic meditation at Conscious Health Meditation + Wellness. www.jillwener.com





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311 Service Improvements

ATL311 provides the citizens, visitors, and business owners with a single contact number for City of Atlanta non-emergency requests. A number of changes have been made to make it easier to find information, report problems, and check status on existing tickets.

Code Enforcement has been added to the system on a trial basis. Virtual Hold is a new feature which allows callers the option to receive a callback from the next available agent if their hold time is more than two minutes.

You can also use Facebook and Twitter to find out useful information and to report problems.

- •www.twitter.com/COA311
- •www.facebook.com/ ATL311

Take a Walk Through History

Saturday, November 18 • 10:30 AM

The Civil War to Civil Rights tour on part of the historic battlefield in the Kirkwood neighborhood features wartime stories from over 150 years ago as well as stories of conflicts that occurred in the area more than 100 years later.

Friday, December 29 • 11:00 AM

Frontlines tour, BATL's longest running and most popular offering, is perfect for out-of-town guests and bored students on holiday vacation.

All BATL walking tours require advance reservations. Tickets are available online at **www.batlevent.org**. For more information, call 404-377-6148.



Join your neighbors at Hawk Hollow for "S'mores for All!" Wylde Center provides all of the fixings for the best campfireroasted s'mores ever at this fun, family-friendly event. All are welcome on Sunday, Nov. 12, from 4:00-6:00 PM at Hawk Hollow (2304 1st Ave). Free for members, \$10 suggested donation for non-members. For more information, visit www.wyldecenter.org.

Away for the Holidays? How to Protect Your Home

by Duncan Cottrell

As the holiday season approaches, many of us will be making plans to leave town. Experienced burglars will make plans, too. They know that families travel over the holidays, and they'll actively look for homes that appear unoccupied.

Most burglars won't approach a house if they believe someone is inside, so the best way to make burglars think you're home is by pretending to be home.

Don't let mail pile up. A large stack of mail is an obvious sign to potential burglars that you aren't home. Ask a neighbor or friend to pick up your mail, or stop mail delivery with the U.S. Postal Service directly.

Turn lights on and off. Install timers so your lights continue to go on and off in patterns that are normal for your household. You can also attach a TV or radio to a timer to add noise from within the house. If you have a smart home, you may be able to control lights and televisions directly from your phone.

Leave the curtains open. If you usually keep your curtains open, a burglar who is watching the neighborhood will notice if they're suddenly closed all day. Consider leaving your curtains mostly open when you're away, so the change isn't so drastic.

Put the trash out. Ask a neighbor to move your trash bins for you. A house that has the right trash cans in front of it on the right night (and that get taken back the next day) won't get unwanted attention.

Keep up with appearances. If your neighbors are likely to have leaf-free lawns, for example, make sure you schedule service while you're away, so piles of leaves don't broadcast your absence.

Duncan is the Entry Enforcer. www.entryenforcer.com





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Handsome Hunks and Dangerous Dames Glam Up East Atlanta Library



by Henry Bryant

Walker Davis's art displays a campy, witty, cinematic style. He uses bold color and brushstrokes to explore ideas of classic pop art of the 1950s, but he gives the subject matter a modern perspective with the juxtaposition of vintage horror and sci-fi aesthetics, rock 'n' roll, and sexuality.

His work is on display at the Gallery Wall of the East Atlanta Library through the end of the year. Visitors can ask at the circulation desk for access during the library's regular hours.

In addition to painting, Walker is also involved in musical theatre and has performed on stage in over 30 musicals and plays in the Atlanta area and elsewhere. He has even written

a couple of original stage plays.

"My primary goal in life is to share my gifts and talents with the world and to lead a creative life that's filled with love, art, and passion," the artist, actor, and playwright says.

Walker received his

bachelor of fine arts degree in painting from Armstrong State University in Savannah. He graduated at the top of his class with the accolades of magna cum laude, Phi Kappa Phi membership for outstanding academic achievement, and best all-around in art history.

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3465 Jackson Dr., Decatur 4 bed/2.5 bath complete renovation 0f 1955 Mid-century Modern home \$229,900 • Dana Link



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