

Kirkwood

NEIGHBOR

DeKalb Avenue Improvements and Impacts



by Carl Holt

On Wednesday, April 18, Renew Atlanta hosted a packed house at the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center for a presentation on the Renew Atlanta DeKalb Avenue project. Several hundred people attended, including Georgia House District 84 Rep. Bee Nguyen and Atlanta City Council

members Natalyn Archibong, Andre Dickens, Amir Farokhi, and Matt Westmoreland.

The meeting began with Archibong and Farokhi – whose districts are home to DeKalb Avenue – addressing the crowd. Archibong thanked the community for years of input on the project and said, “We are ready to move forward.”

The project manager spoke next, sharing the purpose of the project – to “provide a safe corridor for all modes of users: pedestrians, cyclists, buses, cars and rail station connections.” Nearly 70% of all crashes on DeKalb Avenue from 2017 to 2018 took place in the contraflow section, between Jackson Street and Rocky Ford Road.

The DeKalb Avenue project is now divided into two phases, with completion scheduled for 2020.

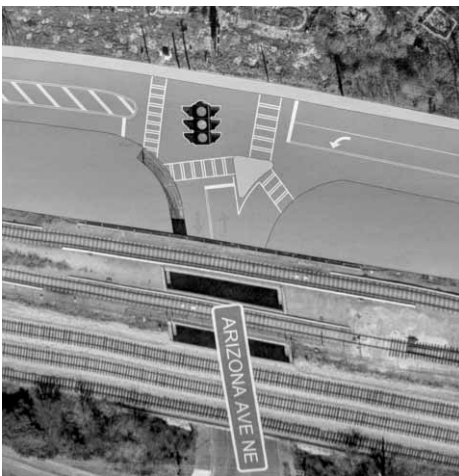
Phase 1, Operational Improvements,

includes contraflow lane removal, resurfacing, restriping of the street, and traffic signal improvements with protected left turn phases. This phase is expected to take eight months to a year, depending on weather.

Phase 2, Complete Street Improvements, will add bicycle facilities, fiber communication installation, medians, sidewalk, and American Disability Act improvements. The timeline for this phase is less than 2 years. The proposed separate bicycle facilities will be difficult, as right-of-way may need to be purchased.

Renew Atlanta spent the past year, since the last public meeting about the project in March 2017, performing studies on impacts to the DeKalb Avenue corridor and surrounding neighborhoods. They found that there

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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 St. NE.

Everyone is welcome!

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President: Teaniese Davis
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Vice President: Stan Sugarman
stansugarman@gmail.com

Secretary: Susanne Blam
susanne2106@gmail.com

Treasurer: Megan Owens
historic_kirkwood@yahoo.com

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Megan Weinzeirl
editor.knonewsletter@gmail.com

Copy Editor: Karen Schrier

Advertising: Jeffery Childers
jefferylchilders@bellsouth.net

Layout: Kate Siegel • Kartouche

Distribution: Jeffery Childers

Comments? Story Ideas? Advertising Questions?

Your comments about this newsletter or story ideas are encouraged. Please contact the Editor.

Kirkwood Neighbor is published monthly by the Kirkwood Neighbors' Organization (KNO) and is distributed at all KNO and Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU-O) meetings, to Kirkwood's elected representatives, our fire and police stations, and to city and county officials. This newsletter is distributed free of charge at the locations listed on the right.

All material in the Kirkwood Neighbor is copyrighted by the Kirkwood Neighbors' Organization (KNO).

Kirkwood Neighbors' Organization (KNO)
P.O. Box 170010 • Atlanta, Georgia 30317
www.historic-kirkwood.org

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Dulce Vegan 1994 Hosea Williams Drive

Guitar Shed 1610 Hosea Williams Drive Ste. E

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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

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Sun In My Belly 2161 College Avenue

Taproom Coffee 1963 Hosea Williams Drive #R106

Toomer Elementary School 65 Rogers Street NE

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Pet Party in the Park!



Rebecca Shivers, contributor

Pet Party in the Park provides an opportunity for the animal lovers of Kirkwood and the surrounding neighborhoods to share their love, have fun, raise money for shelters and, perhaps, adopt a homeless animal. The nonprofit event benefitting local no-kill animal shelters began with an idea from our 10-year-old daughter, Autumn.

One of the most unique aspects of Pet Party in the Park is the opportunity for children to be directly involved in event planning and execution: A committee made up of children is solely

in charge of planning and running the pet pageant. They hold meetings, assign jobs, and learn that they can make a real difference in the community.

Last year's inaugural event included a pet parade, cake walk for pets, petting zoo, pet "dress up" and kissing booth, face painting, a silent auction, vendor booths, and a pet pageant. It raised more than \$2,500 and facilitated a pet adoption.

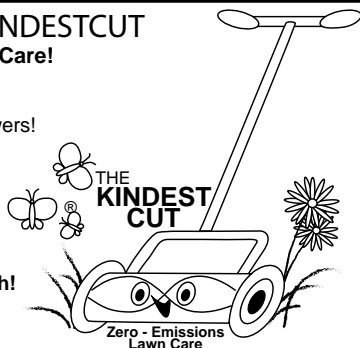
Bring your pets and your picnic basket to enjoy the morning together with your family and neighbors. Volunteers are also needed to help with the event activities.

Saturday, May 12 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON
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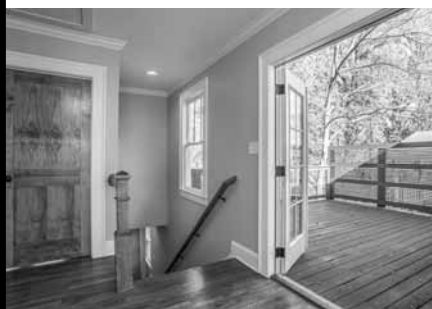
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Library Renovation Kicks Off with Exterior Work

The Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System has begun construction work on the Kirkwood branch as part of the Library Renovation Project. The six other libraries that are part of this group are

the Sandy Springs, Dogwood, Southwest, Roswell, Washington Park, and West End branches.

Exterior work began in April and will continue through August. Improve-

ments include roof and brick repair, pressure washing, exterior painting, and gutter and fence work.

"Taking care of this exterior work while we remain open will reduce the amount of time we need to close for interior renovations," said Dr. Gabriel Morley, director of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System. "We know there will be some inconvenience, but our end goal is to modernize and upgrade our libraries with minimal impact to service delivery. We believe this is the best

To help library leadership determine how to best meet the needs of patrons, as well as identify which programs and services are most important to the community:

www.afpls.org
"Take the Library Survey"

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Need computer help but have no time for a full class? Get one-on-one assistance (as time allows) with your computer needs and online library resources. All ages.

Teen Homework Help Hour

Mondays (except May 28), 4:00 PM

Middle and high school students can show proof of school enrollment and an active AFPLS library card to receive up to 10 pages of free homework prints. Ages 13-18.

Teeny Tiny Tots Story Time

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM

Join us as we build successful readers through language development, listening, and social skills. Move, sing, hear stories, and meet other preschoolers from the neighborhood. Ages 6-36 months.

American Library Association

Choose Privacy Week

Tuesday, May 1 – Friday, May 4

Check out a book or film on data mining or cyberspies and pick up information about online safety. All ages.

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 5, 3:00 PM

Check out two books from the Kirkwood Library and get a free comic book while supplies last. Enjoy coloring pages and more! All ages.

Spring Fling: Summer Reading Kickoff

Saturday, May 19, 10:30 AM

Get ready for the summer reading program and find out why Libraries Rock with music and art activities featuring D.J. Presyce at the Kirkwood Spring Fling! All ages.

Call or visit the library for more information and to register for events.

11 Kirkwood Rd. NE • 404-377-6471

way to accomplish that mission."

The Group 1 libraries are expected to close sometime in August to complete interior renovations, which are expected to take four to nine months, depending on the branch.

For up-to-date information on the Library Renovation Project and information on all libraries being renovated:

www.afpls.org/news/2193-library-renovation-project-update

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Local Builder's New Home Featured on Tour

Stan Sugarman, co-owner and operator of Kirkwood-based Stryant Construction, has lived in Kirkwood for 14 years, but it wasn't until 2017 that he, wife Elysa, and son Andrew moved into their dream home at 74 Warren Street NE. Although Sugarman has long been involved

in the neighborhood and has held a variety of volunteer posts over the years, currently serving as vice president of the Kirkwood Neighbors' Organization, this will be the family's first time hosting a stop on the Spring Fling Tour of Homes. The Sugarman residence



has an open floorplan and a fireplace on the porch, where the family spends a lot of time. One of their favorite features of the home is its location: It backs up to Fred A. Toomer Elementary School, and they can often hear happy sounds of children on the playground.

As you may expect, Stryant Construction built the home. In recent years, Stryant has completed more than 75

single-family rehabilitation projects, 350 apartment unit renovations, and 46,000 square feet of commercial build-outs.

**Saturday & Sunday,
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12:00 NOON – 5:00 PM

Purchase tickets online at
**kirkwoodfling.com/
tour-of-homes/**
or in person at
Taproom Coffee or the
KNO booth at Spring Fling.



Forks to the Ready ...

The Kirkwood Blue Ribbon BBQ Cook-off, one of the most popular activities at the annual Kirkwood Spring Fling and Tour of Homes, will take place during the festival on Saturday, May 19. Setup begins at 11:00 AM, with the public tasting slated for 12:30 PM.

Neighbors wishing to compete need only register, grab an apron, make their best BBQ from the comfort of their own kitchen, package their entry in a chafing dish, then bring it plus a tent to Bessie Branham Park. Entry is free and open to teams or individuals. Tastings are \$5/fork.

Teams will compete for more than \$700 in cash and prizes, including custom championship trophies from Jason Smith of Smithworks Iron & Design. Creativity counts – and not just in plating. Team names and table decorations will be taken into account by the judges.

One People's Choice Champion will be chosen based on voting from the public tasters, and a judges' panel comprised of local restaurant and community leaders will select winners for the pork and chicken categories.

Register by Tuesday, May 8

www.kirkwoodfling.com/blue-ribbon-bbq-cook-off/

Be a Spring Fling Volunteer!

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DeKalb Avenue

continued from page 1

will be an average delay of 18 seconds at signaled intersections and an average 11% increase in traffic from commuters using neighborhood streets to the north and south as cut-throughs to avoid congestion caused by removing DeKalb's contraflow lane. Details for Kirkwood streets are in the chart below.

The project presentation (along with presentations from 2016 and 2017) is available on the Renew Atlanta website renewatlantabond.com/project/dekalb-avenue-complete-street

Send your feedback to renewatlanta@atlantaga.gov

Projected Impacts to Neighborhood Streets	7:45-8:45 AM	5:00-6:00 PM
Hosea L. Williams Drive Moreland Ave. to Rocky Ford Rd.	5 vehicles (2%)	10 vehicles (5%)
Rocky Ford Road DeKalb Ave. to Hosea L. Williams Dr.	40 vehicles (10%)	50 vehicles (10%)
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