

Kirkwood

NEIGHBOR



photo by Jena Dost

Brandon Lowe at the Instrument Petting Zoo with violin teacher Kyle Walton.

More than a music school

by Katherine Moore

“We saw an opportunity and we took it,” says Adam Cole, co-director of the Grant Park Academy of the Arts. “Even though the greater Grant Park area is full of artists and musicians, no one had established a place where students could study the arts in the neighborhood. With the expansion of the area coming as a result of the Beltline, we knew we

could either be first or wish we had tried harder.”

And so a partnership was born between two veteran musicians and long-time Grant Park residents. Cole, a twelve-year veteran of the Fulton County and Atlanta Public School systems and an author with Royal Fireworks Press, was looking for a way to expand his existing

continues page 11

Help brighten a child's holiday

This year marks the seventh annual Atlanta Police Department's Zone 6 Toy Drive, an event that helps bring many smiles to neighborhood children each year by providing gifts they might not receive otherwise.

“The success of our program is due to the generosity of Zone 6 residents, including those in the Kirkwood neighborhood,” says APD Officer Felicia Sweet. “We cannot do this without your help.”

Neighbors can drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Zone 6 station. Monetary donations are also accepted, along with gift cards. Gifts are needed for children of all ages, especially items appropriate for older children and teens. Written receipts for donations are available.

“We thank everyone for their generosity and look forward to blessing the lives of many of our neighbors this holiday season,” Sweet says.

Drop off donations at
2025 Hosea Williams Drive SE.
Questions? Ask Officer Sweet, 404-450-4054.

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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 7:00 PM at the Turner Monumental A.M.E. Church, 66 Howard St. NE.

Everyone is welcome!

2018 KNO Officers

President:	Teaniese Davis teaniese@gmail.com
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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.

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

KNO Calendar of Events

Monday, Dec. 4

Cut-a-Thon for Kirkwood Cares, Kelsey Erin Salon

Tuesday, Dec. 5

KBOA Holiday Mixer, Kirkwood United Church of Christ

Wednesday, Dec. 5

Kirkwood Neighbors Night at the Pullman

Come buy your Kirkwood banners and swag, and support Kirkwood Cares.

7:00 PM: Spring Fling Committee leadership meeting

Monday, Dec. 10 • 7:00-8:00 PM

KNO Meeting & Holiday Potluck, downtown Kirkwood

Wednesday, Dec. 12 • 7:30 PM

Winter concert, Toomer Elementary cafeteria

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Kirkwood Neighbors Night at the Pullman

Thursday, Jan. 10 • 7:00-8:00 PM

KNO Meeting, Turner Monumental AME Church

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Atlanta Intown 1963 Hosea Williams Drive #R101

Big H Grocery 1932 Hosea Williams Drive

Blue Ink Title 1963 Hosea Williams Drive #R103

DeKalb Atlanta Human Services Center 30 Warren Street SE

DeKalb Atlanta Senior Center 25 Warren Street SE

Dulce Vegan 1994 Hosea Williams Drive

GBG Market 2033 Hosea L 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 – *not during renovation*

Langford's Barber Shop 1947 Hosea Williams Drive

Le Petit Marche 1963 Hosea Williams Drive

LIV Fitness 1853 Memorial Drive

Poppa Corn's 1617 Hosea Williams 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

Urban Pie 2012 Hosea Williams Drive

Valero 1989 Hosea Williams Drive

All KNO and NPU-O meetings & neighborhood events

What does it take to be a business mentor? You!

Are you an experienced entrepreneur or skilled business professional? Put your knowledge to work supporting local small businesses in your community as a Start:ME mentor.

The free, intensive, 14-session business training program for promising local small businesses has supported more than 150 businesses in metro Atlanta, including more than 60 in East Lake and Kirkwood, while bringing together hundreds of aspiring business owners and mentors.

Start:ME mentors take

businesses to the next level by sharing their own business insights with entrepreneurs, providing advice on business plans, marketing, and financials, and connecting entrepreneurs with business networks to help them succeed.

Long-time Start:ME mentor Steven Klamon of TUC Managed IT Solutions notes, "Being a mentor in the Start:ME program is absolutely fantastic. Coaching and guiding potential entrepreneurs through the concept, development of a business plan, and then

ultimately implementation of their business entity is an incredibly thrilling and rewarding experience."

Mentors consistently state that they get even more than they give to the experience. Mentor Jessica Woodside of WIKI Instruments says, "Not only is Start:ME a

phenomenal opportunity to support entrepreneurs in my community, it is a great networking opportunity as well. I hope that the relationships we built during the program continue to grow."

The 2019 program runs on weeknights from mid-January through late March.

Learn more about Start:ME and how to mentor in the East Lake/Kirkwood, Clarkston, and Southside programs at www.startmeatl.org/mentor

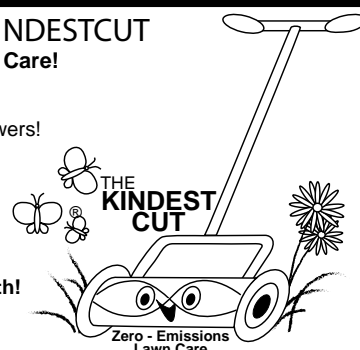
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Changes at Toomer: Moving forward in many ways

by Betsy Collins,
KNO Education Chair

Hello, Kirkwoodians! There's lots of growth happening in education and transportation here.

Toomer has a new principal, Caroline Brown. She is a very experienced educator and school leader with APS who has lived in Georgia since she was small child. She has been a principal at Burgess Elementary and most recently at the Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary School. She's known as a "no excuses" leader who excels with hands-on leadership and a focus on the Common Core.

Her goal is to align teaching well with the CCRPI testing subjects so that Toomer can continue to prepare students for success at the middle and high school levels. Brown also wants to improve outreach to our Edgewood neighbors and continue to involve both our neighborhoods as well as East Lake in building a strong school.

Toomer is also getting closer to its International Baccalaureate designation, led by Kaitie Clark, formerly of Decatur City Schools. We are all excited to see the fusion of social-emotional learning from IB and how it will dovetail with Principal Brown's vision for preparing better for CCRPI.

Brown had a meet-and-greet at the PTA meeting on

Nov. 14, where she conveyed confidence, warmth, a passion for teaching, and hands-on leadership. She was also introduced with the new assistant principal, Teruko Dobashi-Taylor. Taylor has numerous responsibilities as Brown's right hand, but she expressed that one of her passions is restorative practices and disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline.

Both leaders are excited and committed to the school, hopefully for several years to come.

Winter and spring will be a busy time for Toomer PTA. The spaghetti dinner – a huge community event open to all and our largest fundraiser – and Valentine's Day dances are in February. Toomer will also have a float at Lanta Gras this year. We are thrilled to have a larger presence at the parade, which is quickly becoming a neighborhood favorite.

The KNO transportation, education, and parks committees have continued to advocate for a PATH spur from the Trolley Trail to Edgewood Court Apartments (ECA). This appears to be dovetailing nicely with upcoming Trolley Line Trail work and renovations at ECA. Residents of ECA, parents at Toomer Elementary, and Organized Neighbors of Edgewood have all shown strong support for the project, and I will continue to try to move the project forward.

The City of Atlanta's new Chief Bicycle Officer (aka "Bike Czar") Cary Bearn, has also been instrumental in trying to rally these groups and to smooth the PATH, so to speak.

Speaking of bikes, Neil Davis, SOPO Bike Cooperative board member and Toomer parent, coordinated Toomer's 2nd Grade Bike Parade. He secured lights, T-shirts (courtesy of Kaptain Kirk Clothing), and helmets for all of Toomer's 2nd-graders. Students got to

ride and learn safety skills, and everyone learned more about alternative commuting. Participating bike shops and organizations included Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, Atlanta Department of City Planning, Aztec Cycles, Civil Bikes, Georgia Bikes, Georgia Commute Options, Relay Bikes, Safe Routes to Schools, Santa United, and Melanie Sharon with face painting.

It's been an exciting year to be a part of education in our neighborhood.

Interested in representing the happenings at Drew, King Middle, Jackson High, SoulShine, or any other form of education in the neighborhood? Please reach out to Betsy at a neighborhood meeting or Ecolli6@emory.edu



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Waste collection is delayed one day for the remainder of the week after the upcoming holidays.

Instead of the usual Thursday, Kirkwood curbside trash and recycling pickup will be on Fridays, Dec. 28 and Jan. 4.

Natural Christmas trees can be put out for collection.

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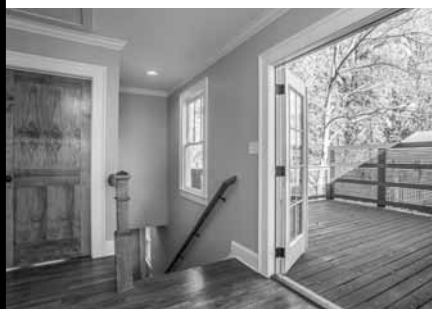
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Grant Park arts hub

continued from page 1

music school, the Adam Cole School of Music. Katherine Moore, a long-time employee of The Music Class, wanted to return to her roots as a vocal pedagogue.

Moore also had a vision for homeschool offerings in the neighborhood. "I was taking my daughter all the way to Tucker for hybrid homeschool classes," she says. "I couldn't understand why, with all the homeschoolers we have in our neighborhood, there weren't more opportunities here. Then I thought, 'Why can't we do that?'"

Other offerings one would expect from a community arts center are available at GPAA as well, including summer camps and after-school enrichment.

Cole and Moore spent the fall and winter of 2017 establishing a partnership with Park Avenue Baptist Church. The church, looking for a way to increase its community outreach, was more than happy to let them renovate space formerly occupied by the Girl Scouts. And so, with the help of their families, the two began



Songwriting Camp held at the Grant Park Academy of the Arts in July. Clockwise from upper left: Phoebe Richardson, Beckett Lamb, Co-Director Katherine Moore, Henry Hattikudur, Peter Langlois, Charlotte Langlois, and Sasha Khan.

cleaning and painting.

Since then, the third floor has hosted summer camps, masterclasses, open houses, even a family jam with special guests from local bands. Enrollment is up, and with their continued outreach, GPAA is quickly becoming known as the community's arts hub.

"Get Arts Centered" – that's our motto," Moore says. "It represents everything we are and want to do." Cole adds, "We're not interested in weeding out the kids in the neighborhood who are going to be the next great musicians. We want to teach everyone to think like musicians, because musicians think like scientists, like mathematicians, like successful business people."

neighborhoods. Rather than ask what their students can do for the arts, Cole and Moore ask what the arts can do for their students. Their answer? Increased capacity to think clearly, to engage, to take risks, and to succeed.

Music instruction, for both kids and adults, currently covers piano, voice, guitar, woodwinds, and violin, with other instruments to come. Homeschool and after-school offerings include yoga, both STEM and STEAM, magic, visual arts, and a social awareness/community service class called Camp Freedom.

They are looking for more ideas, too. "We want to know what the community needs," Moore says, "so we can bring it."



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Homeschool offerings typically take place during
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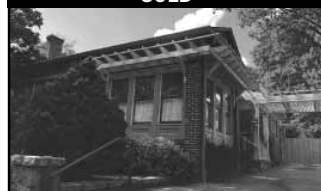
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