



March 2014

A Monthly Publication by the Atlanta City Council Office of Communications

Atlanta City Council President Ceasar C. Mitchell Participates in Crime & Safety Panel

As part of Atlanta City Council President Ceasar Mitchell's commitment to building and sustaining safe communities, the Council President served on a panel, hosted by Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves, to address public safety concerns and identify solutions during a crime and safety forum in South West Atlanta.



tunity to ask questions about recent crime issues in the community. City and county leaders discussed crime prevention strategies and identify sustainable solutions of how the public, law enforcement, courts and lawmakers can best address the safety problems.

The crime and safety summit comes following reports of several break-ins and home invasions in metro Atlanta.

The forum was in the Fellowship Hall of Cascade United Methodist Church on March 6.

A host of city and county leaders participated on the panel with the city council president, including:

-Chief George Turner, Atlanta Police Department

-Chief Judge Gail S. Tusan, Superior Court of Fulton County

-Chief Judge Bradley J. Boyd, Fulton County Associate Juvenile Court

-Paul L. Howard, Jr., Fulton County District Attorney

-Chief Cassandra Jones, Fulton County Police Department

-Chief of Police Felipe Usury, Fulton County Schools

Community members had the oppor-

“Our citizens deserve safe neighborhoods and I will work with other leaders and community members to eliminate safety issues that threaten our quality of life. We will not tolerate senseless attacks in our communities,” Mitchell said.

Love Your Block Program Announces Spring 2014 Grant Application Deadline

In 2014, the Love Your Block program will support an additional 25 neighborhood groups throughout Atlanta.

The program is a city-initiated partnership with the Atlanta Community ToolBank, the Neighborhood Fund, and Hands On Atlanta that awards up to \$1,000 in mini-grants to neighborhood organizations and resident do-gooders who want to beautify their community by building gardens, removing graffiti, clearing litter, planting trees, creating innovative open spaces, etc.

Through the generous support of The Home Depot Foundation, the UPS Foundation, and Cities of Service, Atlanta resident groups are eligible for mini-grants to improve their communities in the following ways:

- Creating Public Spaces: community gardens, pocket parks, green spaces, or playing fields
- Enhancing Parks: bench seating, garden beds, picnic areas, shrub / flower plantings



Love Your Block.



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- Providing Exterior Maintenance: painting, landscaping, physical improvements, etc. of a low-income resident or veteran's homes in order to resolve housing code violations
- Streetscaping: planting trees & flowers along curbs / entry-ways, sprucing up neighborhood signs
- Graffiti and Litter Removal: tire dumping, recycling waste, swapping graffiti for murals, etc.
- Sprucing up of Pathways: mulching / clearing overgrowth on trails, creating safe school "walking" bus routes

To apply, visit <http://iamatlanta.org/content/love-your-block>

Completed applications can be sent to loveyourblock@atlantaga.gov or via mail / in-person to City Hall (ATTN Chief Service Officer: 55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 2400, Atlanta GA 30303).

Deadlines/Qaulifications

All awarded grantees must attend a mandatory orientation and submit an end-of-grant report. Applications will be accepted and awarded following these deadlines:

Spring 2014 Round

- Application Deadline: Friday, March 28, 2014 by 5 p.m.
- Grants will be Awarded: Mid-April 2014
- Project Completion and Report Submission: August 14, 2014

*If you love
Atlanta, then it's time to
"Love Your Block."*

Microsoft and McDonalds Executives Volunteer with Atlanta City Councilmember Kwanza Hall as Part of the Year of Boulevard Initiative

More than 300 McDonald's executives from across the country joined Atlanta City Councilmember Kwanza Hall, Hands on Atlanta, the Fourth Ward West and Fourth Ward Alliance neighborhood associations on 17 corporate community service projects in the north Boulevard corridor area on March 11. The weather was perfect, enthusiasm was sky high, and the projects made a huge difference in the community.



The event occurred at the heels of another community day of service performed on March 3 by hundreds of Microsoft executives as part of the corporation's fifth annual community outreach initiative in the City of Atlanta.

During the two events, volunteers committed themselves throughout District 2 but particularly along the Boulevard corridor, one of Atlanta's most underserved neighborhoods. Inspired by Hall's Year of Boulevard initiative, their volunteer efforts focused on interacting with local residents on the Boulevard corridor and experiencing the area's historic landmarks.

Projects included: replacing fencing at Truly Living Well's Wheat Street Urban Farm; joining 100 low-income seniors for light cleaning tasks and home repairs in their homes and apartments; renovating homes; and preparing boxed meals and care packages for local afterschool program students and their families.



Atlanta City Councilmember Joyce Sheperd Joins Community Residents for the Opening of South Atlanta's New Senior Living Facility



Residents of the Betmar LaVilla community can celebrate progress on the latest neighborhood development. On March 6, Atlanta City Councilmember Joyce Sheperd joined community residents for the grand opening of Betmar Village, a new 48-unit affordable senior living facility.

Located at 345 Ashwood Avenue, the site was the location of the old Lakewood Courts Apartment complex, which was often the site of crime and other public safety issues for several years.

“The Betmar LaVilla community voted to purchase the property using the Empower Zone funds years ago,” said Sheperd at the time of the Lakewood Courts demolition last spring. “This redevelopment is the literal realization of the dreams and visions of the community – it’s time for a new beginning.”



The Betmar Village Development is designed to serve low income seniors (62+ years). It includes new construction and amenities such as gated entry access, washer and dryer connections, dishwashers, energy efficient appliances, and a business center with Wi-Fi internet access. Moreover, the community will have an activities director, an outdoor gazebo and picnic area, and a community room to foster interaction among the residents.

Ceremony Commemorates the Actions of Father Thomas O'Reilly

Atlanta city officials joined the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta on March 14 to mark the 150th anniversary year of Father Thomas O'Reilly's heroic civic and ecumenical actions. A cabinet level minister from the Republic of Ireland; Paul Gleeson, Consul General of Ireland in Atlanta; and units from the Atlanta Police and Fire Departments also took part in the historic event.

The ceremony commemorated the year 1864 when Atlanta was ravaged by the Civil War. During the siege of Atlanta, Father O'Reilly, a young Catholic Priest from Ireland, ministered to soldiers of the North and South. He became a hero to both sides and to civilians of all faiths while hearing confessions, writing letters, saying Mass and performing last rites and working tirelessly.

The Union Army under the command of General William Sherman planned to burn much of Atlanta so that the city could not aid the Confederate war effort in the future. This was to be completed before Union forces left on their March to the Sea.

Father Thomas O'Reilly requested of Union General Slocum, a direct subordinate of General Sherman, and his staff that the Atlanta City Hall, the Court House, and an adjoining residential neighborhood be spared. In addition, Father requested that five of Atlanta's churches should not be destroyed. Since all these structures were wooden, a fire at one could easily spread to the others.

As a result of Father O'Reilly's actions, Atlanta City Hall, the Court House and the following churches survived: St. Philip's Episcopal (now Cathedral of St. Philip), Trinity Methodist, Second Baptist (now Second Ponce de Leon Baptist), Central Presbyterian, and Father O'Reilly's church, Immaculate Conception Catholic (now the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception).



Atlanta City Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms to Host the 2014 District 11 Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, March 25 at 6 p.m. at Ben Hill Methodist Church



Atlanta City Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms will host the 2014 District 11 Town Meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25 at Ben Hill United Methodist Church, 2099 Fairburn Road.

Constituents will have a chance to discuss issues facing their neighborhoods with Councilmember Bottoms and other top city officials. Updates also will be given on ongoing initiatives and projects across District 11.

Several departments have been invited to attend including: the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services, the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Code Enforcement-Housing Code Department, the Department of Watershed Management, the Atlanta Fire-Rescue Department, the Atlanta Police Department, the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency and more. Attendees will also have the opportunity to sign up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

"I am looking to hearing the concerns and priorities that resident define for the district," Bottoms said. "Over the past several years, we have made great strides in improving public safety and code enforcement; yet continued input from residents is vital to elevating the quality of life in our distict, improving service delivery and drafting of legislation that will result in a positive impact on residents."

Atlanta City Council President Ceasar C. Mitchell Announces the 16th Semi-Annual College Prep Series

Atlanta City Council President Ceasar C. Mitchell will host his 16th semi-annual College Prep Series (CPS) from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 29 at North Atlanta High School, 4111 Northside Parkway.

The CPS offers students a free opportunity to be exposed to college entrance exams in a simulated testing environment. Council President Mitchell is again partnering with the Princeton Review to administer the practice college entrance exams. Through the partnership, students have an opportunity to take the PRA, an assessment that will help them determine whether they would test better on the ACT or the SAT, and the Preliminary SAT (PSAT), a standardized test administered by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



The College Prep Series is sponsored by Georgia Power, Atlanta Public Schools, The Scholarship Academy, Hojeij Branded Foods, the Georgia Beverage Association, Hands on Atlanta, and Orange Business Services.



To register for testing, call 1-800-2Review (273-8439), (404) 330-6052 or register online for the PRA at <http://goo.gl/obhq9l> or for the PSAT at <http://goo.gl/znZEQ6>

The College Prep Series is offered twice a year, in the fall and spring, to help students reach their higher education goals. After each testing session students are connected with the resources needed to help improve their scores, if needed.



Atlanta City Councilmember Andre Dickens Tours the 2014 Abilities Expo at the Georgia World Congress Center

Atlanta City Councilmember Andre Dickens joined thousands of metro Atlantans with disabilities, their families, caregivers, seniors and healthcare professionals for the annual Abilities Expo on March 16 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

This year, the annual Atlanta Abilities Expo featured an impressive line-up of exhibits, workshops, events and activities to appeal to people of all ages with the full spectrum of disabilities—including physical, learning, developmental and sensory disabilities.

“The Expo provides the community of people with disabilities access to life-enhancing products, education, resources and fun,” said David Korse, president and CEO of



Abilities Expo. “Most of all, it’s a celebration of what you can do, not what you can’t.”

Attendees were able to experience cutting-edge products and services for people with a wide range of disabilities. Attendees found mobility products, devices for people with developmental disabilities, medical equipment, home accessories, essential services, low-cost daily living aids, products for people with sensory impairments and much more. A series of compelling workshops were also held to address issues such as travel, disaster planning, fitness, technology, intensive physical therapy, thriving as a parent of a child with a disability.

Atlanta City Councilmember Natalyn Archibong to Host the 13th Annual District 5 Tire Round-Up on April 26

One of Atlanta’s largest Earth Day events will take place on Saturday, April 26 at 815 Old Flat Shoals Road, S.E. from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Residents of District 5 communities from East Lake to Cabbagetown will take part in the 13th Annual Tire Round-Up.

Since 2002, District 5 residents have collected over 14,000 tires, and this year the community hopes to deliver at least 2,000 more for proper recycling.

Residents of District 5 can drop-off discarded rim-free automotive tires free of charge. Due to capacity limitations, the event is reserved for District 5 neighborhoods only.

For additional information, please contact Councilmember Natalyn Mosby Archibong at 404-330-6048.



EARTH DAY 2014

Join Atlanta City Councilmember Ivory Lee Young, Jr.,
the Department of Parks and Recreation,
the Department of Public Works, Park Pride &
Hands on Atlanta for an Earth Day Clean-Up along
Joseph E. Boone Boulevard
from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2014
For more information and to volunteer call 404-330-6046



WSB-TELEVISION JOINS ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBER CARLA SMITH FOR



ATLANTA'S LARGEST RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday, April 19, 2014

9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Turner Field (blue lot)



The event will include paper shredding, the collection of cooking grease and recycling of the following:

ELECTRONICS

- computer CPU's, laptops,
- monitors, disk drives, floppy drives,
- keyboards, modems, circuit boards
- printers, fax machines,
- typewriters
- televisions (fee required)
- microwave ovens
- stereos, speakers
- telephones, cell phones
- Copiers, scanners
- CB radios, portable radios,
- video machines, cameras, camcorders
- CD, VCR's and DVD Players and record players
- test and networking equipment
- electrical panels
- UPS/Battery Back-up
- CD Roms
- projectors
- cables and computer mouses

For a detailed list visit www.District1Atlanta.com

ecoDepot 2014 is brought to you by City Councilmember Carla Smith, Turner Field, Atlanta Recycling Solutions, City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management, City of Atlanta Department of Public Works, Iron Mountain, Live Thrive Atlanta and WSB Television.



Saturday, April 19, 2014

9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Turner Field (blue lot)



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