



# The Grapevine

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JEFFERSON PARK NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

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## Next Meeting

The Jefferson Park Neighbor's Association meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, in the Fellowship Hall of the Jefferson Ave. Baptist Church. Park on the lower level off of Winburn Dr., and enter through the glass door. The next meeting is on April 21st. Meetings last 90 minutes on average.

## La Próxima Junta

La Asociación de Vecinos de Jefferson Park tiene reuniones cada tercer martes del mes en el salón de Fellowship de la Iglesia Bautista de Jefferson Ave. La reunión próxima será el martes, el 21 de abril. Favor de estacionarse en el nivel bajo de la iglesia por Winburn Dr. Se puede entrar por las puertas de vidrio. Las reuniones se duran aproximadamente 90 minutos.

## Jefferson Park Website

Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors to check out the JPNA website. [www.jeffersonpark.org](http://www.jeffersonpark.org)

# Jefferson Park: The Cleanest In-Town Neighborhood?

Shannon Wheatley

Hello neighbors! My name is Shannon and I've lived on Constance Street with my lovely wife Mary since 2007. We moved here from Birmingham where we lived in a great in-town neighborhood called "Highland Park," which is similar to the "Virginia Highland" area here in Atlanta, go figure. We would walk for hours each day, always exploring new streets, admiring the houses and unique architecture, enjoying well kept yards, and relearning areas we had forgotten. That's when I really fell in love with in-town neighborhoods. I just love the convenience, the character, the homes, the history, the parks, and the personalities of the people who choose to live in-town.

Anyhow, Mary, Riley, and I love to walk in the evenings and try to as often as possible, especially since spring is just around the corner with longer days to boot. Some where along the line I decided it was a good idea to pick up trash as we walk (my wife does joke that I have "hippie tendencies"). It just seemed

to make sense, given that I was carrying a few grocery bags to clean up after the dog (like everyone should!), I figured might as well fill them all the way up. It started as just picking up the big stuff by hand. Bottles, fast food bags, and the like. No worries, I just washed my hands when I got home. However, I have since graduated to using an extended picker-upper thing that I found. It makes it easier to pick up the little stuff like cigarette butts and gum wrappers while maintaining a walking pace.

I have been picking up trash around the neighborhood on a regular basis for almost a year now. It is rare that I don't fill up at least two grocery bags by the time we make it home, and I've never come back empty-handed. I get comments fairly regularly from people working in their yards, going for walks, or enjoying an evening on the front porch. Most of the time it is just a "thanks for doing that," which is nice. But sometimes people feel the need to make some excuse as to why they're

not picking up trash too. Whatever the comment, I always reply the same "No problem, I'm just hoping it will catch on."

Picking up trash is not a big deal because I know some of it does not end up in the gutter or sidewalks on purpose. However, some of it does land on the ground on purpose! I think littering is a good indicator of a person's character. Those who litter have no consideration for other people and would rather pawn off their problem to someone else than deal with it as they should.

Jefferson Park is a unique neighborhood that has a lot of great people living in it. We have an active neighborhood association concerned about community safety, beautification, block parties, yard sales, and holiday celebrations. I do not expect anyone to be fanatical about picking up trash but I would like to cross paths with someone else picking up trash one day. If you are out there

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# President's Article

Clay Davis

Hi, neighbors! I'd just like to remind anyone interested in serving on the tour of homes board to get in touch with the chair, Shelly Davis, at [jeffersonparktourofhomes@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersonparktourofhomes@gmail.com). We need homes, sponsors, volunteers, and people interested in rounding up and organizing all of those. If you've already contacted Shelly, thanks for stepping up and she'll be getting in touch with you very soon! We're looking at a fall tour this year, and the dates will be confirmed soon.

Also, the first progressive dinner of the year has been tentatively scheduled for June 6. If you're interested in volunteering your home or otherwise participating, please contact Alex Soto at [amsoto77@gmail.com](mailto:amsoto77@gmail.com).

Thanks!

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ft. McPherson Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) has an opening on our board. The RAB functions to enable the local community and representatives of government agencies to meet and exchange information about Fort McPherson's environmental restoration program, prior to base closure. It provides an opportunity for the community to review progress and participate in discussions with the decision-makers.

(You may also find information at the base's BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) section: <http://www.mcpherson.army.mil/brac/default.htm>)

RAB Board members are responsible for:

- \* Providing advice on environmental restoration issues to representatives from Fort McPherson and other regulatory agencies;
- \* Holding regular meetings, publicly announced and open to the public, at convenient times and locations;
- \* Reviewing, evaluating and commenting on environmental restoration documents;
- \* Understanding project requirements;
- \* Communicating with residents, business owners, and other stakeholders within the base's proximity.

The RAB include members of the local community, Army personnel, state representatives, and employees from both the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. RABs are jointly co-chaired by an Army representative and a community representative.

The RAB meets on a regular basis and meetings are open to the public. Public participation on the RAB is strictly voluntary. The Army does not provide any form of financial compensation to community members who elect to participate.

Please see the attached Fact Sheet and the attached Bylaws for the Ft. McPherson RAB. Also attached is a membership application. Individuals interested in serving may submit the signed, completed form to the gentleman at the bottom of the third page. Applicants may either fax it, scan and email it. The next Board meeting is Tuesday, April 21.

### The Grapevine

[www.jeffersonpark.org](http://www.jeffersonpark.org)

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The Jefferson Park Neighbors Association (JPNA) is a certified 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of social activities and community awareness.

Jefferson Park is defined as the neighborhood of over 1,100 rental and privately-owned residences bordered by the Atlanta City Line to the north, Cleveland Avenue to the south, Sylvan Road to the east, and Main Street to the west. We are not a political or religious organization. Donations made to the JPNA are tax-deductible and should be directed to the Treasurer.

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The Grapevine welcomes unsolicited, politically neutral manuscripts, though we cannot guarantee their publication. All submissions are due the last day of the month before publication, to be sent to the editor's email address.

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picking up trash in our neighborhood I would like to say Thank You and keep up the good work. If you are out there and you throw even little stuff, such as cigarette butts, on the ground I would like to ask that you start to be more considerate of your neighbors, have pride in our community, and help the environment by disposing of ANY trash in a proper container.

In fact, I would like to challenge everyone in the community to make an effort to pick up around the neighborhood. It is a great way to get a little exercise, help the community, and meet some of your neighbors. Everyone benefits from a cleaner, nicer-looking neighborhood, so let's try to make Jefferson Park one of the cleanest in-town neighborhoods there is!

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# Join Us!

## Welcome Wagon

A wonderful way to get involved  
– join the Welcome Wagon!

The Welcome Wagon is a small group of Jefferson Park residents that welcomes new neighbors to the neighborhood once a month. Joining the Welcome Wagon is an easy way to make new friends and get to know your community.

In the past a few “regulars” have spent one evening a month chatting with the new neighbors, bringing coupons, flyers and general information about the community. While we will still plan to meet each new neighbor, I will also be providing additional information electronically.

Contact Info: Jennifer Brock [jennifer@raclark.com](mailto:jennifer@raclark.com) or 303-406-8082 for additional information.

**DO YOU HAVE A NEW  
NEIGHBOR? CONTACT JEN TO  
HAVE THE WELCOME WAGON  
VISIT THEM THIS MONTH!**



## EDUCATED

Ruth Flemming

“I’m in Florida.” I hear someone say that and warmth and sunshine flood my senses. This is not that kind of Florida, y’all. It’s 38 degrees, for goodness sake. I’m huddled under a comforter, a dog on each side, positioned fetus-like all three in hopes we remain thus suspended indefinitely.

The bushes outside my window are loaded with state fair lollipop-sized pink blossoms. It’s likely the wild turkey is grazing the lawn. Birds are singing. Actually, it’s just beautiful.

I am so sad. My stomach burns with it. Just within easy reach, a cup of hot coffee, untouched, is cooling to tepid for the second time. And I barely notice a simply wonderful dog standing wagging her tail.

My best friend didn’t get the job. How will he pay his rent and what will the credit card company do? Can he come back from this? And it’s K’s birthday. He’s 58, was laid off a year ago, has no promising prospects, and his son plans to start college in the fall. S., his wife, has come out of retirement, returned to work. And C., an office manager, in deference to the more pressing needs of her colleagues, has given her work to them, reduced her hours and taken on temporary work elsewhere. W. and D. have come out of retirement to bail out their faltering company. Not a single friend is not worried sick.

When is it time to start taking people in? Are we there yet? It’s so delicate this balance. Check the flag for shifts. Sail luffing? I just want to sleep. What can I do to help? After all, I have a pension. I can breathe almost easy.

Surely I must keep up the spirits, shore them up. I feel so small. And this morning there is the blog column about possible bailout of faltering public pension funds. Maybe I’m next.

Yesterday was a march and rally on the capitol steps. Florida education faces massive future-altering budget cuts. Standing back from the edge of the platform at the top of the stairs, I looked down at the crowd of eager students and worried professors. Their cold-bitten cheeks drained to pale grayed pink as the speaker, a professor, painted a picture of falling academic ranking and devalued degrees’ narrowing grad school admission prospects. The bright future dims. This is not a movie.

Earlier in the day, I had joined the crowd as a friend and supporter, had walked along with them and carried an offered sign. Frats boys and girls stood in stappy sandals on balconies observing through rosy-tinged shades the spectacle we made. Do some things just never change? Wait, is there comfort there? Forget it.

And now we’ve arrived and gathered at the foot of the steps to the legislative assembly gathered inside. It’s getting late and the state representative they’d counted on to deliver a pivotal speech has not yet arrived. The host, D., having prepared a professor / department chair to move up on the roster, commences his prep remarks.

The professor shifts feet anxiously. He’s cold and tired, having traced and retraced the night before the ways he can protect his faculty. For two days

he just can't get warm. He should be home in bed taking care of this cold. So much work to do. Why is he here? Why are he and the others the only ones here: a handful out of thousands with the same things at stake?

And then the piling on begins. One after another the business cards come out and the professor is jostled to the side of a path opened by their couriers. The other professor, the moderator, stops his speech, his attention diverted by the tugging on his sleeve, receives the cards one at a time and each time picks up his thought and attempts to restoke the momentum. The bearers - of the cards, that is - press in. Freshly groomed, coiffed, scented, coutured, camera-ready, these few politicians line up. Having been surprised by the burgeoning numbers outside and the cameras they attract, they've last-minute found for the professors the few minutes they couldn't manage a couple of days before. The clutch grows. Tempers flare at the moderator/professor as camera time dwindles and then runs out.

Later we meet up to compare notes and celebrate. Why do some speak out, show up and why do others not? How do you get someone's attention? What coalesces to tip the change? What have we learned? Ideas are exchanged and we filter out the door to our homes.

I don't have the answer. I can hardly be said to have exhausted myself with the challenge. Back home in East Point we have our own challenges and some fight and some fail and some support and some leave for good reasons, some have good intentions and most worry about what's to come. I do a little of some and more and more of the latter.

Palm trees, cold, comforter, dogs,

rosy blossoms, bird melodies, sunshine, loss, gut-burning dread. Rally, shout, stand up, sing, clap, moan, encourage, inspire. Piled-on, frozen, emboldened, broken. Push through the fear. Questions, ideas, promises, numbers, real solutions. Celebration, dedication, strategy, commiseration, fatigue. Bright futures fade; live to fight another day.

EDUCATORS, god love 'em.  
EDUCATION. EDUCATED ONE  
MORE TIME.

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Contact the JPNA editor at:  
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