Community Review

East Lake
Where the Sun Rises First in Atlanta

East Lake Neighbors Community Association

www.EastLake.org
A Letter from the ELNCA President

Dear Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education,

Welcome to East Lake, where the sun shines first in Atlanta. As you make the difficult decisions of school redistricting, we want you to have a full picture of our community. You are aware of our concerns regarding keeping our community together, that we must have a local middle school, Coan, and that we need to remain in the Grady cluster. We would like to provide you with information about East Lake and what we are about.

East Lake is a community that is rich in history, from the Civil War, to the Civil Rights movement to today. East Lake began with the historic home of Cornel Robert A. Alston, called Meadow View. The East Lake Golf Club was the original home of the Atlanta Athletic Club created by Asa Candler. Civil Rights Leader Hosea Williams called East Lake home. East Lake has played a significant role in shaping Atlanta. While the in 1970s and 1980s the neighborhood went through a very difficult period, East Lake has become a prime example of how a community can come together to revive from adversity and become vibrant and relevant again.

Today East Lake consists of 1,300 homes and over 4,000 residents making a community that cares about the future. Through dedication from residents and partnerships with leaders in the business community we have a strong story to tell. Through commitment from residents of East Lake there are multiple examples of how we are an organized, inclusive and effective community.

We are an engaged and committed community that cultivates a culture of inclusion and education for all. Education is in everything that we do. As our population of school age children continues to grow, we need to ensure that the options for education are as vibrant as our future.

Please take into consideration our commitment to the future as your decisions will impact our children and community.

With Regards,

Katherine “Kat” Lindholm

President, East Lake Neighbors Community Association
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History

East Lake is one of Atlanta's more historic neighborhoods. Located on the trendy but family-oriented east side, East Lake is conveniently located 4.5 miles (7.2 km) from downtown Atlanta. With its 1910 to 1940s bungalows, cottages and convenience to local eateries, shops and transit (MARTA), East Lake has enjoyed a rebirth in recent years.

East Lake is on part of a plantation owned by Civil War Col. Robert A. Alston, whose home, known as Meadow Nook, still stands across from the East Lake Golf Course. This antebellum home was built in 1856 for his South Carolina bride, and was occupied, but not destroyed, during the American Civil War. It is the second oldest home in Atlanta, and one of the few that Union General William T. Sherman and his troops did not burn.

In 1892, the East Lake Land Company was chartered and land was acquired and divided up into lots. A.C. Bruce was president of the East Lake Land Company and was instrumental in getting a street car line built down a right of way (now East Lake Drive), which started running cars every 20 minutes in 1893. This helped to increase the demand for the small cottage lots, many of which were bought by Atlantans, around the lake to escape the city during the summer months. By the recession of 1896 it became a failed development. The large covered pavilion and beach served as an amusement park, during the years up to 1900.

In 1899 Asa Candler, who was then building Coca-Cola into a national icon, started using agents to secretly buy up the land around the lake and surrounding area. The Atlanta Athletic Club (AAC) began looking for land to build a country location in 1902, and was stirred by Mr. Atkinson (one of Candler's Agents) to buy 280 acres (1.1 km²). In 1904 the Atlanta Athletic Club at East Lake opened. A street line from Atlanta through Kirkwood, served the location. The Pavilion was removed in 1907 to make way for the first clubhouse. The first clubhouse and golf course were not completed til 1908. Golf was not the primary recreation at that time. Lawn bowling, tennis, boating and wading were all the craze. East Lake was incorporated as a town in 1908, with Thomas Paine as the first mayor.

In 1912, an auto road was constructed from Ponce de Leon Avenue to the gates of East Lake Country Club, making East Lake even more accessible. By 1916, a $10,000 school building had been erected on Fourth Avenue, making East Lake the perfect suburban neighborhood. According to an Atlanta Journal-Constitution article in May, 1916, demand for East Lake homes was "almost to boom proportions." In 1928, East Lake was annexed into the City of Atlanta.

The AAC moved from Atlanta in 1966, selling both its East Lake and downtown Atlanta properties and purchasing its current site in northern Fulton County (now Johns Creek). A new club soon bought the property, establishing what is now known as East Lake Golf Club.

During the 1970s, a notorious public housing project, East Lake Meadows, was built at the former site of the second course at East Lake, west of Second Avenue. A violent crime wave took over the development, and the community saw crime rise, as quality of life and housing
values declined. In 1995 a private group led by developer and former resident Tom Cousins entered into a partnership with the City of Atlanta to raze the Meadows and rebuild a new mixed income development, the Villages of East Lake. With the Meadows demolition, crime began to rapidly decline, and the community began a renaissance as the 20th century ended.

Sparked by an already active community association established in 1975, residents protected and preserved the neighborhood during the tumultuous 1960s, 70s, and 80s. As a result, in the late 1990s the neighborhood began to attract young urbanites who eagerly bought the charming homes and changed the residential character of the area, subjecting East Lake to a dramatic property value inflation of 230%.

Present Day

Today, East Lake is home to the PGA Fed EX Cup and is one of Atlanta’s vibrant family communities.

Geography

East Lake is bordered by:

- Knox St./Pharr Rd. and the Decatur neighborhood of Oakhurst to the north;
- 1st St. and the Atlanta neighborhood of Kirkwood to the west; also, the Villages at East Lake on the west side of East Lake are a separate neighborhood;
- Candler Road and the Belvedere Park CDP in unincorporated DeKalb County to the east
- Glenwood Ave. and the Candler McAfee CDP in unincorporated DeKalb County to the south

Famous Residents

Many famous people have been forefront in East Lake's history, including Asa Candler, golfers Bobby Jones and Alexa Stirling, and Johnny Weissmuller, winner of 5 Olympic gold medals and the first movie Tarzan, who swam at East Lake. Accomplished amateur golfers Watts Gunn, Charlie Yates, and Tommy Barnes have been residents, along with GA Tech Coach Alexander and Coach Bobby Dodd. Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd. Civil Rights activist Hosea Williams was a resident of East Lake.

Golf

East Lake is home to two golf courses. The East Lake Golf Club, the home course of golf legend Bobby Jones, is the site of PGA's annual Tour Championship. It was reconstructed in 1995 by noted golf course architect Rees Jones.

The Charlie Yates Golf Course is adjacent to the East Lake Golf Club and is open to the public. It was designed by Rees Jones in 1998.

East Lake is also home to First Tee East Lake.
The ELNCA was founded by a group of concerned residents who wanted to better their community, increase communication between neighbors, and speak about issues that were affecting their lives. We now have a large membership that is comprised of a diverse group of individuals with different races, religions, and lifestyles.

We hold monthly meetings and encourage all future residents and businesses to attend. At these meetings we socialize, discuss issues of general concern, and vote on questions that require the neighborhood's attention. Some subjects are regularly discussed, such as ongoing issues related to taxes, crime, and zoning. Also, there may be other issues that come up less frequently such as elections, improvements to public property, and social events. Anyone who wishes to bring an issue before the ELNCA membership at a meeting should contact the ELNCA President and describe the issue that they would like to present.

But the ELNCA does much more than just hold meetings. We participate on your behalf at the NPU-O, publish the East Lake Sun, and conduct events in the neighborhood.

The Structure of the ELNCA

A Board of Directors, made up of 12 residents, governs the ELNCA. Each of the 12 Directors serves a 3-year term and their terms are staggered. Therefore, the membership elects 4 new board members every year. Furthermore, there are three Officer positions - President, Vice-President, and Secretary - that the membership must elect from among the Directors, each of which serves a one-year term. Reelection is possible and there are no term limits. Elections are held in accordance with the ELNCA By-laws. Basically, any ELNCA member in good standing can vote.

Becoming a member of the ELNCA in good standing is a fairly painless process. First, you have to pay your dues of $10.00 to our Treasurer. Then you just have to show up and sign in at two monthly meetings during the year. That is it!

ELNCA Meetings

ELNCA meets to socialize, discuss issues of general concern, and vote on questions that require the neighborhood's attention on the second Monday of every month (except June and December) at Drew Charter School, located at 301 East Lake Blvd SE, Atlanta, GA 30317; (right next to the East Lake YMCA) Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and run anywhere from one to two hours, depending on the number of issues to be discussed. We encourage anyone considering moving into or doing business in the neighborhood to attend.
If you would like to request that you be added to the agenda, please contact the ELNCA President explaining who you are and describing the issue that you would like to present to the membership. Under the rules of the City of Atlanta, any East Lake resident or business with a zoning issue must present their case to the ELNCA before they can present it to the Neighborhood Planning Unit O (and to the Zoning Review Board and City Council thereafter).

We do not have meetings in June and December because we have special events those months. In June, we have our ELNCA Picnic in East Lake Park where you and your family can come out and play games, eat, or just enjoy the fantastic Georgia weather. In December, we have our ELNCA Holiday Party where we get together to revel in the spirit of the holidays.
East Lake has a very strong sense of community. The residents of East Lake have formed a number of organizations dedicated to community building. We also work towards strengthening ties with neighboring communities by working on joint efforts.

**Organizations:**

ELF Market

Neighbor in Need

East Lake Schools Coalition

East Lake Security Patrol

East Lake Garden Club

East Lake Community Garden

East Lake Parks Committee
Who We Are: www.ELFMarket.org

The East Lake Farmers Market (ELF Market), a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in 2009 to expand local access to fresh fruits and vegetables in an under-served area of Atlanta. The ELF Market is a producers market that exists to build community, strengthen our in-town economy, and encourage healthy lifestyles by making wholesome, locally-sourced food accessible to all neighbors. We support independent farmers and healthy growing practices. We actively promote healthy eating, food literacy, community-building and the work of other non-profits which, like ELF Market, also seek to serve the distressed and less prosperous in our community.

Our Mission:

None
The ELF Market exists to strengthen the local economy and encourage healthy lifestyles by promoting products and programs from local farmers, businesses and artisans. We pursue vendor practices, programs and partnerships that have environmental, social and economic integrity.

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ELF Market Strives to:

None
• Provide education and community outreach to market patrons and the local community about the benefits of local food
• Provide a Public Health Intern to develop outreach programs to positively impact the community’s health, with special attention and emphasis to low income and senior residents of East Lake
• Support local non-profit organizations who work in the East Lake neighborhood and use their resources to reduce hunger, provide shelter, educate and improve the quality of life for our less fortunate neighbors
• Provide a safe, family-friendly gathering place for residents of East Lake and surrounding neighborhoods
• Provide access to healthy food to low income residents by accepting SNAP/EBT cards and doubling the value of these dollars via a Georgia Organics and Wholesome Wave grant
• Bring positive community activity to an area formerly known for drugs and crime
Neighbors helping neighbors in need! In East Lake, Kirkwood and Edgewood communities in Atlanta.

www.NeighborInNeed.org

Since the autumn of 2007, news headlines not only around the nation but right here in the Atlanta area have been an indicator of how this recession has been impacting senior citizens. Yet even in the best of times, many of your longtime neighbors struggle with the rising costs of city taxes, home maintenance, heating and cooling and the ever-rising health care costs associated with growing older. Many have seen their 401(k) funds decimated and their home’s value drop markedly as well. The bottom line: cost-of-living increases are often impossible to meet for your elderly neighbors on fixed incomes.

An age of uncertainty - Seniors living on a fixed income face hard choices as costs soar for groceries, gas and medicine. No relief is in sight.

—Chicago Tribune, May 2008

We are faced with hard choices, what trade-offs must our elderly neighbors make in the twilight years of their lives when a sudden home repair is needed? Do they pay their taxes or replace crumbling plumbing?

Do they keep paying for their medicine or do they fix that leaky roof that if left unattended will soon destroy the value of their only real asset? In many cases, the cost of upkeep forces an elderly homeowner to sell their home. It is just plain wrong that after being good neighbors, paying off their homes and paying taxes in their communities, the cost of a home repair would force an elderly homeowner to sell their property!

Our older neighbors worked and paid taxes to make these communities the wonderful places they are today, and that’s one reason why we work to eliminate such trade-offs and help them stay in their homes. The kinds of trade-offs our elderly neighbors have faced in recent years are unacceptable to us.

Who are we? Neighbor in Need is a non-profit corporation that helps low-income elderly neighbors in East Lake, Kirkwood and Edgewood communities in Atlanta make emergency home repairs.

Neighbor In Need works to bridge the gap between what an elderly homeowner can afford to pay in necessary home repairs and what the actual repair would cost so they can avoid the slippery slope leading to the loss of their home that these sudden expenses can cause.

Dear Kyle,

Even though I am writing this addressed to you as President of Neighbor In Need, please know that it is meant for every person responsible for, and/or involved in any way with the project on my house. ...
www.EastlakeSchools.com

OUR MISSION: To strengthen the East Lake neighborhood through the promotion of community involvement and enrollment in our neighborhood schools.

Programs available to all East Lake children:

Thanks to the generosity of the East Lake Foundation all East Lake children and children in the 30317 zip code regardless of the school they attend are eligible for the following programs.

- **The First Tee of East Lake** a year-round program that provides golf instruction, equipment, tournament play opportunities and mentoring **at no cost to East Lake youth, age 5-18**. The program promotes character development and strong values - confidence, honesty and responsibility – while developing golf skills. Participants learn how to transfer those skills to life beyond the course, which encourages them to complete their education and pursue their career aspirations.

- **CREW TeensTM**: an after school academic support program that helps East Lake teens achieve their potential by providing the tools for success in high school and expanding access to post secondary education. CREW (Creating Responsible, Educated, Working) Teens incorporates community service and leadership training with academic tutoring, SAT preparation and help with college applications and financial aid **at no cost** for high school students who completed 8th grade at Drew Charter School or live in the East Lake community.

- **East Lake Summer Day Camp**: a best-in-class seven-week program that serves more than 180 children ages 6 to 14 years old. The camp is delivered in partnership with the East Lake Family YMCA, The Villages of East Lake and Drew Charter School. Summer camp activities include a balance of fitness, academic enrichment and character development.

**Play Groups**

The ELSC is pleased to support community playgroups. Playgroups are a great way to meet other parents and for children to better aquatint themselves with future classmates, making the transition to school easier. In addition to playgroups the ELSC will coordinate a number of fun outing for children and their parents.
East Lake Security Patrol (ELSP)

The East Lake Security Patrol is a community-based, non-profit organization promoting sustained safety and security in East Lake. The patrol is operated by a volunteer board and funded by residents and businesses in East Lake.

Although a separate entity from the East Lake Neighbors Community Association (ELNCA), the two organizations work collaboratively toward the same goal of making our community a safer place to live.

About the East Lake Security Patrol (ELSP)

The ELSP was formed in January 2007 by a small group of East Lake residents who decided it was time to be proactive about crime in our community.

This was due to the fact that the territory in Zone 6 was recently increased, nearly doubling it in size. As a result, there are now fewer officers to protect the larger Zone.

- ELSP hires off-duty Atlanta Police Department officers to patrol members’ homes and local businesses in unmarked cars.
- These officers have full arresting powers. They are able to stop and question suspicious characters, ask for ID's, and check for prior arrests and outstanding warrants.
- The patrol does not replace the Atlanta Police Department, but works with, and in addition to, normal police coverage.
- The police officers vary the days and hours they patrol. This is determined by weekly crime statistics analyzed by patrol volunteers in collaboration with Zone 6.
- It is important that East Lake residents continue to call 911 to report crimes and suspicious characters. This will enable the ELSP officers to put together crime patterns and gather evidence for arrests and convictions.
About Garden Club

The East Lake Garden Club was established in 2005.

Our mission is to stimulate interest in the knowledge and appreciation of gardening; to protect native trees, plants, and birds; and to promote beautification and conservation of the East Lake Community.

We love to learn about anything gardening-related! We spend time getting to know our neighbors, learning about gardening in Atlanta, and giving back to our community. We hold monthly educational meetings, usually with a guest speaker giving a 45-60 minute presentation, preceded by a half-hour of socializing and refreshments. We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Zaban Center within East Lake Park. Membership dues are $20 per year, per household.

We give back to our community in a variety of ways: through beautification projects, park clean-up and maintenance days, helping to restore a natural wetland preserve, and providing garden ‘make-overs’ for elderly neighbors.

Throughout the year we hold special events ranging from tours of local nurseries and gardens, to out-of-town trips for gardening events, to ‘hands-on’ activities such as creating hypertufa troughs and learning how to make a pond.

We also participate in our neighborhood farmers market (East Lake Farmers Market), by selling cut flower bouquets, edible flowers, gardening-related gifts, and garden club merchandise.

We are always looking for new members, so please visit us soon!
Who We Are:
Founded in July 2010, the East Lake Community Learning Garden is:

- A safe, supportive environment where neighborhood residents will grow organic produce in a small urban farm and participate in interactive workshops while learning from each other and gardening experts.

- An active educational environment, the Learning Garden will serve as an outdoor classroom for East Lake children, especially students from East Lake’s Charles R. Drew Charter & East Lake Elementary Schools.

“We are excited about the many opportunities this innovative Learning Garden presents. This summer, we will work with the East Lake Foundation to engage community stakeholders in a careful, collaborative planning process.” -Kate Chura, Executive Director of the Southeastern Horticultural Society
The ELNCA and other East Lake organizations sponsor a number of family friendly events throughout the year. Here are examples of just a few.

**Peachapalooza**

**P’s&Q’s Photography & BBQ Sale**

**Tot-O-Ween**

**ELNCA Easter Egg Hunt**

**ELSC Walking School Bus**

**ELNCA Holiday Party**

**Community Picnic**
For some people, starting a farmers market in their neighborhood just isn’t enough. No, they have to go and build the whole farm.

That’s what’s going on in East Lake. The folks who run the East Lake Farmers Market are turning the 1-acre site—at the corner of Second Avenue and Hosea Williams Drive—into an urban farm. (The market will move to a shaded lot next door.)

Imagine 75 long, raised beds, each 16 feet long and 4 feet wide, lifting plants 2 feet above the concrete surface. That’s more than a tenth of an acre of concentrated growing space. In the center of the lot stands a high-tunnel greenhouse. And toward the back, in the shade, room for growing edible mushrooms.

“I’m thinking that we’ll probably be able to feed 100, 150 people with the growing space,” says market and farm manager Lou Linzie. “That might go up, over the course of the summer.”

The Saturday market will open earlier in spring and close later in the season, operating from April 14 through Nov. 17. And across Second Avenue, the East Lake Community Learning Garden will add beds and greenhouse space, and it will install learning beds at the Villages of East Lake as well.

The ambitious project is being funded by a Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via the DeKalb County Board of Health. The market won the grant, more than
$80,000, in partnership with the Southeastern Horticulture Society, which will manage the educational aspects of the project, as it does at the community garden.

The goal is to make more good food available at affordable prices to East Lake residents. That might be done through a work share program, special pricing through the market’s weekly subscription program, or possibly a weekly farm stand at the Villages of East Lake, Linzy says.

“There’s a significant group of people in the community who are not on food stamps, but they’re still supporting a family on less than what seems possible,” she says. “The thing I’m really excited about is, the opportunity to create a new type of consumer who can actually understand the work, time and energy that goes into growing the food that they’re eating.”

Of course, there’s nothing quite as grass-roots as a farm, and like all grass-roots programs, this one has to be built from the ground up. To that end, organizers are hosting a volunteer day on March 17. That’s right, St. Patrick’s Day. So skip the parade and do something really green: help build a farm on the once-vacant lot that is becoming the most vibrant corner in East Lake.
Urban farm to offer residents healthy options

By Bobby Tedder
btedder@neighbornewspapers.com

The East Lake Farmers Market is making significant inroads in living up to its mantra “to build community with food.”

The organization is building an urban farm at its current market location at 2nd Avenue and Hosea Williams Drive as well as upgrading the East Lake Community Learning Garden at 56 Second Ave.

Both projects come courtesy of a Communities Putting Prevention to Work program grant from the DeKalb County Board of Health and Center for Disease Control.

Market officials say encouragement of healthy lifestyles and access to produce are at the heart of the initiative.

“We use the market as a way to build community,” said market President Doug Williams. “There’s a great deal of outreach happening to try to get more people to consume fresh fruit and vegetables.”

The East Lake area has some of the highest rates of diabetes and heart disease mortality in DeKalb County, he noted.

Williams established the farmers market, a 501(c)3, three years ago at an intersection formerly known for crime and illegal drug activity.

“Our goal is to not only have high income professionals as patrons, but lower-income families as well,” Williams said, adding that families on federal food assistance programs can double their dollars there.

The new urban farm is slated to become operational later this month. It will feature 75 raised beds and a hoop-house, a greenhouse structure where crops can be grown during colder months.

Residents will be afforded opportunities to learn gardening and farming practices as well as the benefits of proper nutrition via workshops and planned volunteer days. The Saturday market will move to the farm’s adjacent grassy lot.

The Southeastern Horticultural Society, also a grant recipient, will partner with the market in bringing the urban farm concept to fruition.

The nonprofit works directly with communities to design, install and lead horticulture and environmental education programs.

“We are excited about this new endeavor with the East Lake Farmer’s Market,” Kate Chura, executive director of the society, stated in a press release.

“We will be adding a greenhouse and raised beds for the residents of the village of East Lake,” Chura added.

“These new additions will only help expand the reach of the Community Learning Garden and Urban Farm that was established in 2010 in partnership with the East Lake Foundation.”
East Lake: Jones' ancestral home

By Jerry Potter, USA TODAY

For most golf fans, Augusta National was the home of Bobby Jones, who after winning the Grand Slam in 1930 retired to create the golf course and the Masters in Augusta, 150 miles east of Atlanta.

But Jones' ancestral home in golf was in the suburb of Atlanta known as East Lake, where the Atlanta Athletic Club built a golf course that opened on July 4, 1908. Jones was 6 years old then, but his father was a member, and it was at East Lake that young Jones learned the game that made him famous.

"Every time I go in the clubhouse, I get goose bumps looking at all the Bobby Jones memorabilia," says Matt Kuchar, like Jones a former U.S. Amateur champion. "The course is a simple setup, but it's a challenge at the same time."

East Lake has had numerous changes in its 102 years, in everything from design to ownership, but it has proved to be a challenging venue for golf's best players.

It has been the host course for the Tour Championship nine times since 1998, and since 2005 it has been the permanent home of the PGA Tour's season-ending tournament that features a field of 30 elite players.

Kuchar returns this week ranked No. 1 in FedExCup points. Since the FedExCup began in 2007, it has been won by Tiger Woods ('07 and '09) and Vijay Singh ('08). Woods is the only player to win both the FedExCup and the Tour Championship, doing it in '07.

That year, Zach Johnson shot 60 in the third round, but Rick Burton, the general manager of East Lake, doubts anyone will go that low now.

"The fairways were soft and the greens were really soft," Burton says. "When you give these players soft greens and soft fairways, they'll shoot lights out."

Until the FedExCup began in '07, the Tour Championship was played in late October or early November, a time when the weather was usually dry and cool.

When the tournament was moved to September, the course had to be kept wet so the grass could withstand the higher temperatures.

Another round of changes was made after the '07 event, including new drainage systems in the fairways and the greens, and new grass on the greens. Mini-Verdi, a strain of ultra-dwarf Bermuda, was selected for the greens.

It isn't as coarse as standard Bermuda, but it is hearty enough to withstand Atlanta's summer heat.

"It's just a different golf course," Burton says. "To play well, they'll have to hit the fairway and hit the greens. If they miss fairways, they won't be able to get the ball on the greens."

Burton says that in '07, the greens putted at about 10 on the Stimpmeter. This year, they're expected to putt at about 12. In '07, Woods won at 23 under par. In '08, Camilo Villegas won at 7 under. Last year, Phil Mickelson won at 9 under.
The course will play to a par 70 of 7,319 yards. It has just two par 5s. However, it does have some oddities from past years. It's the first course in the USA to have a hole with an island green, and it's one of the few courses to finish with a par 3. "I don't see someone shooting 59," Burton says. "But anything can happen."

Herald-Tribune Sarasota

Golden named GSJGA director

Wendi Golden remembers growing up playing at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta Junior Golf Association events.

"Back then East Lake wasn't in what you would call the good side of town," she said.

How times have changed for East Lake and Golden. The 37-year-old mother of two daughters recently accepted the position as executive director of the Greater Sarasota Junior Golf Association. The upscale East Lake is now the home of the PGA Tour Championship.

"I played three different sports until I was 12," she said. "That's when my parents told me to pick a sport and stick with it."

She chose golf and it has been a big part of her life ever since.

That's the dilemma Golden faces as the new director of the GSJGA — trying to get youngsters to choose golf and hang with it.

Like everywhere else in the golf world, the numbers are down in junior programs.

Over the years, the Greater Sarasota Junior Golf Association has provided the starting blocks for such touring pros as Paul Azinger, Scott Dunlap and Joey Lamielle.

But that was before Facebook, Twitter and other social media outlets became in vogue.

"The numbers are decreasing," she said. "We would love to see some growth. I want to make sure the kids are not missing the opportunity to play in a great environment."

Golden actually plans to use the social media such as Facebook and Twitter to help attract junior golfers.

She certainly has the credentials and the experience of working with youngsters.

In 1992, Golden, then Wendi Patterson, was the American Junior Golf Association female player representative. Tiger Woods was the male rep.

After graduating from high school, she walked on at the University of Tennessee and became the No. 1 player. After one year at Tennessee, she turned pro and played on the Futures and LPGA Tours.
Recently, Golden has been the girls coach at Sarasota Christian, Braden River and Lakewood Ranch high schools.

After regaining her amateur status in 2006, she climbed to No. 1 in the 2009 women's rankings in the state of Florida.

Her next challenge is to help make the GSJGA the top priority for junior golfers.

It won't be an easy task in replacing long-time director Judy Christmas, but she is working with a great team in president Chris Souchak and a plethora of pros volunteering their time to take the kids to the next level.

PGA Tour visits Innisbrook this week

This week's Transitions Championship at Innisbrook has a decent field, despite not having Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy.

John Daly got a spot in the tournament. Other notables include major winners Louis Oosthuizen, Angel Cabrera, Lucas Glover, Charl Schwartzel and Ernie Els.

Bradenton's Domenico Geminiani posted a 3-under par 68 at Fox Hollow Golf Club in New Port Richey last Thursday that qualified the 15-year-old professional for Monday's Transitions Championship qualifier. The Monday qualifier is at Southern Hills Plantation Club in Brooksville.

The only PGA Tour stop on the west coast of Florida begins Thursday on the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor.
Freddy Styles

A native of Georgia, Freddie is a committed abstractionist, although references to nature have been at the center of his paintings and collages throughout his long career. He is an avid gardener, and the distinction between this passion and his passion for making art is blurred - each symbiotically informing the other.

For the past several years, Freddie Styles has been creating works of uncommon and resonating beauty. In a truly unique process, Styles presses layers of crinkled and then inked fax paper (the old-fashioned coated type) onto gessoed paper. The height of the paper mount and the strips of fax paper create a vertical armature on which to build his compositions. Metallic inks are applied as well, which create another layer of depth to the works. Styles’ process informs his work, and the outcome of each piece is unpredictable. In other words, the artist is both controlling and relinquishing control of his materials, and this conceptual stance is his departure point.

His forms are reminiscent of organic vegetation, but his interpretation of the organic world stripped down to its essential vascular structure is not meant to be literal. Styles has achieved a unique method of reflecting nature’s forms, textures, patterns, and colors, revealing a window to a more spiritual world and instilling his audience with a new appreciation.

Freddie Styles is a graduate of Morris Brown College and lives in Atlanta. He has served as an artist-in-residence at Clark Atlanta University, Clayton State University, and Spelman College. In the past, Styles received several purchase awards from the Atlanta Life Insurance Company. In 2001 he was awarded a King Baudouin Foundation Cultural Exchange Program grant through the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta to work and study in Belgium. His work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions including African American Abstraction at City Hall Gallery East in Atlanta, and Evolving, a solo show at the Airport Atrium Gallery at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Museum group exhibitions include the High Museum in Atlanta, GA, and the Telfair Museum of Art in Savannah, GA. His work can be found in public and private collections that include Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Atlanta, GA; Spelman College Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Clark Atlanta University Art Museum, and the Paul Jones Collection, Atlanta, GA.
Sam Hagan, one of the Southeast's finest tenors, didn't actually plan to be a professional singer. Until recently, he was a full-time biology and chemistry teacher at Atlanta Metropolitan College, and he is an avid gardener and home-renovator. But all that frequently took a back seat to a very busy and demanding career as a soloist, not only in his hometown of Atlanta but around the Southeast and the world.

Hagan has performed as a featured soloist with some of America's best orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and the Flagstaff Festival Orchestras, and at the world-famous Spoleto (Charleston) Festival under such noted conductors as James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Skitch Henderson, Louis Lane, and, on many occasions, with Robert Shaw. He has studied with Metropolitan Opera baritone Timothy Nolen and Patricia Heuermann, former director of Hofstra University’s opera program in New York He has been featured in concert in England, Europe (where he served as cantor for a mass at St. Peter’s Basilica), Canada, and Mexico. He twice sang for Pope John Paul II, and he sang at the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter.

Some of his roles in opera include Ferrando in Mozart’s *Cosi fan Tutte*, Pinkerton in Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, Alfredo in Strauss’s *Die Fledermaus*, Rudolfo in Puccini’s *La Boheme*, Sportin’ Life in Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess* in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra production with Robert Shaw and as -Robbins in the Grammy-award winning Cleveland Symphony Orchestra production and recording with Lorin Maazel, and the title role of Offenbach’s *Tales of Hoffmann*. He has performed numerous works of J. S. Bach and others including the Christmas Oratorio, the Passions of St. Matthew and St. John, several masses and requiems by Mozart and numerous works by Handel, including *The Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*.

In Atlanta, Hagan is a member of The 3 Inspirational Tenors, a popular trio that offers sacred and secular inspirational classics on concert stages, in churches, at conventions, and for organizations celebrating special occasions. He is staff cantor at St. Jude Catholic Church in Sandy Springs (Atlanta, GA).