



# EAST LAKE SUN

Summer 2014

WHERE THE SUN SHINES FIRST IN ATLANTA

Volume 24, No.1

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

## President's Address

From Tracy Gould Sheinin

[president@eastlake.org](mailto:president@eastlake.org)

Happy 2014 East Lake!

I hope you're all enjoying this beautiful Spring in East Lake. Just as the blooms start popping so does the neighborhood, which is one of my favorite things about living here. We had a super fun, if belated, Easter Egg Hunt in East Lake Park sponsored by Uncle Maddio's Pizza. The kids had a blast collecting more than 1000 stuffed eggs in a fraction of the time it took to put them out. It was so nice to see several new faces and, of course, the Easter Bunny! Also now and ongoing is the Community Learning Garden, the Urban Farm, the Farmers Market (which has moved to Tuesday evenings), and Wind Down Wednesdays.

As we move forward with traditional and new activities, we've now got a blueprint to guide us in our community work. For the past year and a half, a volunteer team worked to create a future vision for East Lake as seen through the community's eyes. We talked with representatives from the groups working in the neighborhood, including Neighbor In Need, the East Lake Foundation, the Villages of East Lake, the East Lake Schools Coalition, NPU-O, the East Lake Easy Goers and many more. We connected with our schools and houses of worship. We created a way for neighbors to share their thoughts directly and we hosted three group sessions to brainstorm, categorize and

prioritize ideas. Six areas of interest emerged: Community Engagement, Education, Health and Nutrition, Safety, Seniors, and Children and Youth.

Out of all this work came a Community Action Plan (CAP) that includes specific tasks, who's going to lead them and by when. The plan is a working document in that we anticipate new ideas will emerge and that those ideas, too, will turn into action. Additionally, some actions are ongoing, such as the Tri-Jurisdictional Safety Task Force between the Atlanta Police Department, DeKalb Sheriff's Department and Decatur Police Department. Others are one-time events, such as launching an updated website or producing an accurate map of East Lake boundaries. Please visit East Lake's website ([www.eastlake.org](http://www.eastlake.org)) for a copy of the CAP.

Another useful document that came out of the Visioning process was a Resource Guide, which lists our community's organizations, recreation outlets, schools, houses of worship and businesses. Just like the CAP, we anticipate this information will grow and change over time. So please let us know what ideas and resources you want to see included by emailing [eastlakevisioning@gmail.com](mailto:eastlakevisioning@gmail.com).

Thank you for your input and happy Spring!

Tracy Gould Sheinin

ELNCA President

# East Lake Officers

East Lake Neighbors Community Association | P.O. Box 170190, Atlanta, Georgia 30317 | [www.eastlake.org](http://www.eastlake.org)

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## ELNCA MEMBERSHIP DUES:

\$10 per year

## NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT O (NPU-O):

Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.  
 Branham Recreation Center, 2051 Delano Dr., NE

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## State of Education

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One of the areas of priority that emerged from the Visioning Project is education. We've got a lot happening on the education front in East Lake right now, some amazingly positive and some big challenges.

It's hard to miss the beautiful new Drew Charter Senior Academy being constructed at 2nd Avenue and Memorial Drive. It's scheduled to open this summer and will house students in 6th through 10th grades in the 2014-15 school year. An additional grade will be opened in each of the following two years: 11th grade in the 2015-16 school year and 12th grade in 2016-17.

Drew Charter Senior Academy will be state of the art, with expansive wifi coverage, laptops for all students and a "genius bar" where they can get the computers serviced. The facility features a beautiful indoor theater, outdoor amphitheatre and running track, all of which will be open to the community for special events and exercise.

Maynard H. Jackson High School is another spectacular piece of the area's educational renaissance. After being temporarily housed at Coan Middle School, the International Baccalaureate World School recently reopened to a stunning \$40 million renovation that includes a new media center, rooftop garden, gym, performing arts spaces, athletic fields and more.

Toomer Elementary has had a successful second year after merging with East Lake Elementary. The first year held some challenges, but things have smoothed out, allowing teachers and faculty to focus on the small school, family-feel approach they champion. Toomer is our traditional elementary school, housing 18 pre-K

through 5th grade classrooms and boasts that 68% of faculty holds advanced degrees, with 11 years of teaching on average. Oh, and they're in their seventh year of full immersion Mandarin Chinese instruction. Wow!

On the middle school front, we are again experiencing change. Just recently, the Atlanta Public School Board of Education (BOE) voted to merge Coan into King Middle School, effectively closing Coan. The joined middle school population will be housed at Coan for the next two school years while King is renovated and then it will relocate to King. Both schools have been underpopulated for some time, which created a multitude of problems; the BOE felt this was the best solution. What it means for East Lake is that our traditional school students and their families will face relocation from East Lake Elementary where they are now, back to Coan and then to King in two years. They will not be able to walk to school after they move to King and we will have another empty school building (in addition to East Lake Elementary) on this side of town. We hope that the combined student body will bring all the support services every successful school enjoys, as well as robust athletics programming and strong community support.

Schools are a critical thread in the fiber of any community, and whether or not you have school-aged children, you are affected by the tides of education. With all these goings-on in our schools, it is hard to keep up with the changes, which will hopefully be minimal in the future so we can focus on all the positive growth around us.

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# East Lake Quick News

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## East Lake Meetings

Official ELNCA meetings are held at Charles R. Drew Charter School. Meetings are conducted the second Monday of every month with exception to June and December and begin at 7:00 p.m.

ELNCA meets to socialize, discuss issues of general concern, and vote on questions that require the neighborhood's attention. Current residents are encouraged to attend as well as anyone considering moving into or doing business in the neighborhood.

## Join the East Lake Yahoo! Groups List-serve

As part of its effort to keep residents informed, ELNCA operates a Yahoo! Groups list-serve to which its members may subscribe. Through this service, subscribers can send an e-mail message and it will automatically be distributed to 900+ Subscribers. ELNCA members and non-members wishing to join the listserve may do so using the link found on EastLake.org.

## East Lake Garden Looking for Volunteers

The East Lake Community Learning Garden is always looking for volunteers! We always need help weeding the garden, mulching, cleaning up trash, and spreading some love. Come visit the animals and spend time in this lovely community space!

**Check out our Instagram: [eastlakegarden](#)**

**East Lake Community Learning Garden  
56 2nd Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30317  
(404) 828-0480**

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## Neighbor Spotlight with Jeff Johnson

### 1. How long have you lived in East Lake?

My wife and I moved to East Lake in July of 2007. We moved here shortly after I took the position as the branch manager at Wachovia across the street from The Villages of East Lake. Ironically, my wife currently holds the same position – though it is now Wells Fargo.

### 2. Where did you live previously?

We rented an apartment in Inman Park for two years before we moved to East Lake. Prior to that we both lived in Athens, GA. I grew up in Columbus, GA – where I lived from six weeks of age until I was 19, before going off to college at UGA.

### 3. What is your day job?

I am a Realtor with Harry Norman Realtors and focus my efforts within the community and nearby surrounding neighborhoods. I have recently started a program where I am happy to give a portion of my commission to partnering non-profit organizations in East Lake. Those organizations include: Sheltering Arms, The East Lake Foundation (including Drew Carter School), The YMCA, The East Lake Farmers Market, Neighbor in Need and The East Lake Security Patrol. Please feel free to contact me for additional details.

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## SAVE THE DATE: BATTLE OF ATLANTA ANNOUNCES LAST GALA KICK-OFF AT EAST LAKE GOLF CLUB

One of East Lake's and Battle of Atlanta's most popular annual events is winding down. So if you've always meant to come but missed the chance, or if you've been before and shared the fun, you will want to save Saturday, July 12th for the annual commemoration of the Battle of Atlanta at the East Lake Golf Club. This year's celebration promises to be especially festive. This is the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Atlanta and all efforts have been made so that this year's event resonates with our participants and neighborhood. Don't miss the 150th annual commemoration of the Battle of Atlanta on the battlefield in Southeast Atlanta that kicks off the last week-long series of events with a gala dinner at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 12th, at historic East Lake Golf Club. It will be an evening of great

food, history, and entertainment. Contracts are being negotiated for a traditional Southern feast, special guest appearances by historic figures like Abe Lincoln, and other live entertainment.

This is an evening you won't want to miss! Single tickets are \$65 or a table of ten for \$550. For tickets to the gala, contact Sylvia Harrison at 404.556.1942 or Marti Hagan at 404.377.5824 or by e-mail to MartiHagan@aol.com.

For additional information about the gala with more photographs from previous events, visit <http://www.batlevent.org/gala.html>. Information about other events during the weekend can be found at

<http://www.batlevent.org>



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(continued from page 4)

#### 4. What do you like best about living here?

There are several things I really like about living in East Lake.

- The overwhelming sense of community and pride is unmatched anywhere.
- I like the fact that many of the yards / lots are significantly larger than you find in many similar in-town neighborhoods.
- Also the ability to walk to the park, nearby businesses, and ultimately our kids having the option to walk to school when they are a little older.

#### 5. How do you spend your free time?

When I do have free time, I like to spend as much time as possible with my wife and two kids. My son Parker is five months old, and my daughter Lila is 3 ½. Whether it is going to the park, a simple trip to Home Depot, or watching Mickey Mouse Clubhouse - time with them is

special, and you only get a short amount of time to enjoy it.

#### 6. What do you think East Lake will be like in 5 years? 10 years?

That is a tough question. I believe some of the decisions made around education will determine what that will look like to a large extent. But I do know, regardless of what those decisions are, East Lake will increasingly become a neighborhood that is considered when someone or a family is relocating – whether that be from within metro Atlanta or other destination. There are too many wonderful people in this community that work tirelessly every day to ensure that is the case. I have met and worked with many of these individuals, and look forward to meeting many more as time goes on.

“Please take a look at Jeff’s advertisement on page 7, for contact information.”



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## **The Shoal Creek Class at Turning Sun School, and Our Relationship with the East Lake Community Learning Garden by Whitney Hansen**

For Turning Sun's inaugural year at our East Lake location, my co-teacher and I developed a central question to guide our year long class project: How do children grow when they develop a deep relationship with a local community space? We began by researching place-based education and locally rooted learning. Through this lens we quickly discovered the East Lake Community Learning Garden. My co-teacher and I had never visited the Garden, despite living within walking distance. After one visit, we knew it was the right community space for Turning Sun families to explore and connect with. Khari Diop (president of the Garden) and Deneah Lopes (director of animal relations) visited our school, bringing Django, a goat, and Cinderella, a chicken. We made books about the animals and talked about them during morning meetings. For our first field trip to the Garden, families walked together from our school. We shared morning

meeting, greeted the chickens in the coop, and listened as Khari read a book. Visits to the school and Garden have been ongoing. The children have made "pupcakes" for Peri the dog, presented Khari with a "Local Community Hero" cape, and won the ELF Market Collard Green Cook-Off (amateur division).

We have reached the end of our year. To celebrate the deep relationship that has grown between Turning Sun families and the Garden, we will hold a classroom festival. The children are planning the decorations, making decisions for what we sell at our classroom ELF Market table, and creating a Peri-sized dog house for the classroom. The school is now also a part of the Garden advisory committee. As educators, we are inspired by their love for this wonderful community space and plan to continue growing and deepening our relationship over time.

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## Community Resources & Organizations

### EDUCATION & RECREATION

Toomer Elementary School  
Dr. Nicole Jones, Principal  
65 Rogers Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30317  
[www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/1631](http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/1631)  
(404) 802-3450

Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School  
Paul W. Brown  
545 Hill Street  
Atlanta, GA 30312  
(404) 802-5400

Maynard Jackson High School  
Stephanie Johnson, Principal  
801 Glenwood Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30312  
[www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/3508](http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/3508)  
(404) 802-5200

Charles R. Drew Charter School  
Don Doran, Principal  
301 E. Lake Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30317  
[www.drewcharterschool.org](http://www.drewcharterschool.org)  
(404) 687-0001

Turning Sun School of East Lake  
Jennifer Sherrock, Director  
2500 Hosea L. Williams Dr., Atlanta, GA 30317  
[www.turningsun.com](http://www.turningsun.com)  
(404) 228-1797

Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Center  
LaSandra White, Director  
350 E. Lake Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30317  
[www.shelteringarmsforkids.com](http://www.shelteringarmsforkids.com)  
(404) 737-6430

East Lake Early Learning Academy  
Jervonia Melton, Director  
275 E. Lake Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30317  
[Jervonia.elela@hotmail.com](mailto:Jervonia.elela@hotmail.com)  
(404) 373-6561

Atlanta Speech School  
Comer Yates, Director  
cyates@atlspch.org  
(404) 233-5332

Charlie Yates Golf Course  
Jeremy Storey, Manager  
10 Lakeside Village Dr., SE, Atlanta, GA 30317  
www.charlieyatesgolfcourse.com/  
(404) 373-4655

Tour Championship by Coca-Cola  
Tom Clarke, Director  
www.eastlakefoundation.org/tour-championship  
(404) 378-8687

Zaban Recreational Center  
Debra Murray, Director  
241 Daniel Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30317  
(404) 371-5012

Southeastern Horticultural Society  
Kate Chura, Executive Director  
kchura@sehort.org  
(404) 351-6051

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

East Lake Neighbors Community Association  
Tracy Gould Sheinin, President  
tracy@claritymediation.net

East Lake Development Corporation  
Jeremy Hudgens, President  
jhudgeons@yahoo.com

East Lake Security Patrol  
Luana Slaughter, President  
lkslaughter@bellsouth.net

East Lake Farmers Market  
Adamaah Grayse, Manager  
vendors@elfmarket.org

EL Community Learning Garden  
Khari Diop, Environmental Coordinator  
kdiop@sehort.org

East Lake Foundation  
Danny Shoy, President  
dshoy@elfoundation.org  
(404)974-4511

East Lake YMCA  
R.C. Pruitt, Executive Director  
rcpruitt@ymcaatlanta.org  
(404) 373-6561

East Lake Easy Goers  
Freddie Reese, President  
F18reese@yahoo.com

East Lake Golf Club  
Rick Burton, General Manager  
rburton@eastlakegolfclub.com  
(404) 373-5277

## RESIDENTIAL & FAITH BASED

The Villages of East Lake  
Jennifer McCrary, Resident Services Manager  
jmccrary@eastlakefoundation.org  
(404) 373-9598

East Lake Towers  
Gloria Brown, President Resident Group  
gbrown@connectedliving.net

Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
Rev. Eddie Bright  
resj@bellsouth.net  
<http://www.mountzionbapt.org>  
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