

Five Questions

A snapshot of questions for leaders in the Clifton community



Jim Durrett, executive director of the Livable Communities Coalition

CCP: What is the mission of the Livable Communities Coalition (LCC) and what are some local projects we might recognize?

Jim Durrett: Our mission is to promote quality growth in the metro Atlanta region and our work is supported by a diverse membership, including representatives from business, environmental groups, local governments, development and planning companies.

The LCC is unique because we help communities implement their quality growth plans. For instance, DeKalb County asked if we might help encourage revitalization and redevelopment along the Memorial Drive corridor, a very important but distressed area. It's exciting—we are laying the groundwork for catalytic quality growth development there.

CCP: What are some specific ways Atlanta can improve the way we grow?

Durrett: First, we should encourage higher-density mixed-use development

near job centers, activity centers, town centers and major transportation corridors. Take advantage of existing infrastructure and services.

Second, integrate transportation investments with good land-use decisions.

Third, we should increase housing choices, especially close to job centers—I mean choice in terms of price point, type of housing, and being able to rent as well as own. Lastly, we need to reevaluate models for growth in areas outside of our urban core. The reality is that the lion's share of growth is going to be, for the foreseeable future, outward.

CCP: Why does your work matter to the average citizen?

Durrett: Because thoughtfully planned communities lead directly to a better quality of life. Does traffic congestion add to your quality of life? Of course not. Does additional growth make our traffic congestion even worse? That depends on how the growth occurs. Decisions that we make today will

impact our quality of life for years to come. Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent actions.

CCP: The Clifton Community Partnership (CCP) is focused on transportation choices; pedestrian-friendly streetscapes; housing for life and work; and activity centers. What impact does your work have on the Clifton communities in these areas?

Durrett: It sounds like we are focused on the same things. What you have been doing to address Emory Village is consistent with our principles. Perhaps we can find a role to play to help in the Clifton Community Partnership, as well.

CCP: Which livable community in Atlanta would you prefer to move to, if you had your choice?

Durrett: Sometimes I wish I had stayed in Virginia-Highland where I rented 20 years ago but Inman Park Village intrigues me for its location, retail/residential mix and design.



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EMORY UNIVERSITY

Community Update

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Cliff arrives



There's a new character on the streets of DeKalb County. In August, Emory announced the expansion and new look of its shuttle bus network called Cliff. The expanded shuttle service was created to provide Emory students, employees and members of the greater Clifton Road community with another means of traveling without using a car.

The ultimate goal: reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles near Emory.

The 59-bus fleet is branded with a new, colorful Cliff logo. Cliff is named for the Clifton community.

"Cliff represents an improved shuttle network that is more responsive to the transportation patterns around Emory and one that will be more efficient to operate," said

Laura Ray, associate vice president for transportation and parking for Emory University. "We are introducing updated campus routes and will continue to expand them based on ridership demands."

As the largest employer in DeKalb County and one of the largest private employers in metro Atlanta, Emory is committed to exploring creative alternatives that reduce single occupancy traffic. Cliff is free to non-Emory community riders, too.

Cliff routes and schedules can be found at www.ridecliff.org.

Cliff joins a varied list of transit options for those who want to get around without their car, including Flexcar, vanpooling, carpooling and MARTA subsidy programs. More information on these programs can be found at www.epcs.emory.edu/alltransp/index.html.

Emory Village Updates

The composition of shops in Emory Village is changing. Several stores closed over the summer. Stuart Medin, a major property owner in Emory Village, provided an update.

Openings

- The former Cedar Tree space is now leased to a restaurant slated to open in October. The yet-to-be-named tenant will offer an all-day breakfast, in addition to lunch and dinner menus.

- There is interest in the former Park Bench site and the landlord is seeking an appropriate, full-service restaurant for this space.

Temporary Closings

- Panera Bread, which has been operating very successfully in Emory Village, closed recently for extensive interior renovations. They are expected to reopen in spring 2007.

Permanent Closings

- Caribou Coffee is permanently closed but several other coffee houses are interested in opening in the vacated space.

- Cold Stone Creamery closed over the summer and negotiations continue to bring another ice cream or dessert business to the former Cold Stone Creamery space. A new tenant should be named in September.

Community Update



Emory keeps it green



The proposed-purchase 1.2 acre lot at will provide a natural green space linking Emory Village and Druid Hills .

Emory University recently announced plans to purchase a key parcel of residential property near the point where Emory University, Emory Village and the Druid Hills community converge. Plans will then be developed to preserve the strategically-located lot as green space. To signify a community partnership, Emory invited the Druid Hills Civic Association to partner in this purchase and conversion into public space.

The 1.2 acre site is located at 1164 Clifton Road, at the corner of Oxford and Clifton Roads and was the longtime home of Drs. William and Madeline Burbank. The Burbank's, both prominent aquatic biologists, cared deeply for both Druid Hills and Emory University. Emory plans to work collaboratively with the Druid Hills Civic Association, the Clifton Community Partnership, and DeKalb County on the best use of the site as a park-like area.

“A natural site will significantly enhance the Emory Village experience and preserve green space for a key gateway into the Village and Emory.”

—Bryan Cooke, executive director of the CCP

Plans for the site should be finalized early next year.

The hope is that maintaining the property in its natural state will provide a suitable transition between the homes in Druid Hills

and nearby shops and restaurants.

The land sits on Peavine Creek and overlooks the Druid Hills Golf Course.

“A natural site will significantly enhance the Emory Village experience and preserve green space for a key gateway into the Village and Emory,” said Bryan Cooke, executive director, Clifton Community Partnership.

“This is a unique opportunity to work with our neighborhood partners as we honor long-time residents, add to our green space and provide a beautiful buffer between residential and commercial land uses.”

According to Bruce MacGregor, president of the Druid Hills Civic Association,

“the green space use is consistent with the desires and lifelong practices of Bill and Madeline Burbank and acknowledges their contributions to both Emory and to Druid Hills. The planning and development likewise acknowledge and further the contributions of Emory and the Druid Hills Civic Association to our common home in Druid Hills.”

New Cooke in the kitchen

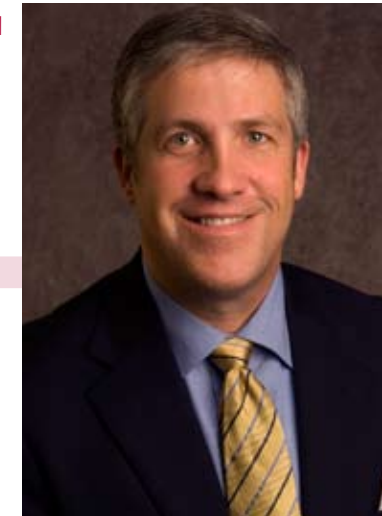
Bryan Cooke was recently hired by Emory University to serve as executive director of the Clifton Community Partnership (CCP). Cooke comes to Emory with over 15 years of experience in the private sector, running multi-year, multi-million dollar projects. Cooke has lived in Druid Hills since 1991 and earned his MBA from Emory's Goizueta Business School in 2002.

Describe your role as executive director.

I look at the project from both a day to day and year to year aspect, both strategically and tactically. I also help to move the project along in the most cost effective and time efficient manner. I have to think in terms of short term, near term and long term as it relates to the betterment of the University and the Clifton community at large. Additionally, I help focus the work and energies of the Clifton Community Advisory Group.

Talk about some of the changes that will take place within the community thanks to the CCP.

Our goals are aggressive, yet achievable. CCP success will be noted by a community that offers multiple entertainment, dining and retail options for residents and visitors in the community. The Clifton community will offer housing options to households with a wider range of incomes within a short distance of employers. We also hope to enhance physical changes within streetscapes by designing and implementing wider sidewalks and pedestrian safe intersections. Ultimately, we want to engage our community to help build an infrastructure that not only shifts focus away from the single occupant vehicle, but also provides a framework for this fantastic community to grow stronger and be an outdoor, people-oriented place.



Bryan Cooke, executive director of the Clifton Community Partnership

How does this partnership align with overall goals of University?

In 2005, Emory University President James Wagner announced the University's strategic plan, which was the result of a rigorous 18 month journey of self examination. A major University-wide theme of that plan is “Creating Community and Engaging Society,” which requires Emory “to be the best place for faculty and staff to work, raise families and provide a community environment where all can realize their full potential.” Combined with Emory's well developed environmental sustainability initiatives, this strong statement mandates that Emory provide a leadership role in the smart growth and evolution of the entire community, not just students, faculty and staff.

How is Emory working with the Clifton community? How open are the communication lines?

At every point along our path, we strive to partner with our community members which include residents, visitors, students and employees of multiple institutions in the area. We will use multiple channels for this communication such as the CCP website (www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org), the Clifton Community Advisory Group, branded emails, printed communications and face-to-face community meetings.

For more information about the CCP and other subjects mentioned above please visit www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.

Emory buys American Cancer Society building

Going down Clifton Road you will see noticeable changes almost weekly to the street and its landmarks. More changes are in the offing as the American Cancer Society (ACS) prepares to leave its space on Clifton Road and Emory University purchases the building. The ACS announced in early August that it is relocating its national home office on Clifton Road, along with its regional south Atlantic division in Lenox Park, to a larger space in downtown Atlanta.

The four-acre property is located directly next to the Emory Inn and in front of the Emory Conference Center. “The purchase of this building and associated property is not included in our current Campus Master Plan because its availability on the market represents an unexpected opportunity,” said Mike Mandl, Emory's executive vice president for finance and administration.

Emory plans to use the building for office space, academic program space, and to house Emory's critical healthcare and administrative application servers and storage.

“This badly-needed, high quality office and meeting space will help to support the academic and administrative improvements we project throughout the University over the next decade. It is totally consistent with our strategic vision of building a more vibrant and cohesive Emory campus as part of the greater Clifton community,” Mandl added.

It will also include a food venue to provide employees at Emory, the CDC and elsewhere along Clifton Road with a place to step out for lunch without stepping into their cars.

Under the terms of the University's purchase agreement, ACS will occupy the building until June 2007 when their move is complete.