



CLIFTON COMMUNITY partnership Update



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Marathon Rolls through Clifton Community

Get your lungs ready and grab your noisemakers because the ING Marathon is almost here!

The marathon is sponsored by Emory's



Center for Rehabilitation Medicine (CRM) and will take place on Sunday, March 21. Just as in years past, the Druid Hills Civic Association will be sponsoring a cheer zone at Emory's main entrance (North Decatur Road and Dowman Drive). At the 16th mile of the race, Clifton Community residents will don their orange apparel to cheer their friends and neighbors along the course.

CRM is one of the first dedicated rehabilitation centers in Georgia and focuses on providing high quality care while supporting continued efforts for teaching and research, as well as developing a partnership with the community to promote wellness and healthy living.

Progress Made to Lullwater Roundabout

Since last fall, the appearance of the Lullwater Roundabout – the gateway to Emory Village – has received a much needed face-lift because local landscape company, In Bloom, adopted the maintenance and development of the roundabout.

The roundabout enhancements are being funded by DeKalb County, who are working closely with the neighborhood and have established a plan to alleviate the large vehicle drive through problem. Last month, In Bloom installed:

(Continued on page two)

Mellon Foundation Grant Strengthens Humanities at Emory

Emore University recently received a grant of \$2.4 million from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the reassessment, reconfiguration and strengthening of the humanities across the University.

Emory is anticipating hiring a new generation in the humanities who will have both deep training in the humanities and broad training in other areas.

As an example, Earl Lewis, Emory's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, cites the interdisciplinary collaborations surrounding February's opening of the Salman Rushdie archive, much of which was born digital material.

At the core of the program will be the recruitment of a cohort of junior and mid-career faculty across the humanities, says Claire Sterk, senior vice provost for academic affairs. These new faculty will form the core of a "Society of Fellows" who will work to help guide how humanities departments and faculty can export principles of humanistic inquiry across the university. They also will seek opportunities for transformation of the humanities themselves at Emory.

Graduate students also will be included as Student Fellows in the program, their involvement serving as a bridge to the next generation of faculty.

While science research at other universities has begun to move toward research in the humanities, "one of the things that's unique about Emory's approach is that we're proposing bringing the humanities into science research, including the health sciences," says Sterk.

The program will start small, bringing in a cohort of two to four people and building from there. Recruitment, says Sterk, will start immediately.

Lewis says he sees the program building on three broad areas: digital scholarship, mind/brain neuroscience and humanities in the age of the human genome. "It's becoming impossible to talk about what it means to be human and recognizing DNA analysis without inserting humanities scholars into the conversation with life scientists," he says.

Faculty already involved in the program expect its reach to be felt across the University, says Sterk, especially in Emory and Oxford colleges and at Candler School of Theology.

Sterk says refocusing the humanities could have multiple impacts on higher education and help define the future role of the liberal arts at a research university. "Emory will have wonderful opportunities to show how research scholarship in the humanities really contributes to the common good," she says.

Emory Named Tree Campus USA University

Emorey University was recently honored by the Arbor Day Foundation as a 2009 Tree Campus USA University for its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. Emory is the fifth university in Georgia to be named a Tree Campus USA University.

“Emory takes pride in a campus with natural beauty of open spaces, and we are pleased to be presented with this award,” said Robert Hascall, Emory’s Vice President of Campus Services, “The University’s No Net Loss of Forest Canopy policy is more stringent than DeKalb County’s; and as an early adopter of tree preservation, Emory has an established and comprehensive management plan for our natural environments.”

“Emory will benefit from the exceptional tree-care practices on campus as it works with tree-care professionals in the community to improve the tree canopy in Atlanta,” said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

Tree Campus USA, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors college and universities and the leaders of the campus and surrounding communities for promoting healthy urban forest management and engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship.

Emory University met the required five core standards of tree care and community engagement in order to receive Tree Campus USA status. Those standards are establishing a campus tree advisory committee; evidence of a campus tree-care plan; verification of dedicated annual expenditures on the campus tree-care plan; involvement in an Arbor Day observance; and the institution of a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body.

The Arbor Day Foundation launched Tree Campus USA in the fall 2008 by planting trees at nine college campuses throughout the United States. More information about Tree Campus USA program is available at www.arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA.



The Impact of Universities on Communities

Last month, Emory’s President Jim Wagner spoke to the Atlanta Rotary Club about the role of universities and how they impact communities in which they exist. Below are some excerpts from the speech. For the full text, visit (CCP website link).

“... Universities have had a positive impact in their communities and have, at the same time, developed internally in positive ways. We are no longer operating in that old monastic mode, isolating ourselves from the outside world and from each other. We are becoming more of a ‘Uni-Versity,’ rather than a ‘Multi-versity’ of independent silos operating in competition. We embrace collaborations and partnerships as keys to interdisciplinary work and means to leverage potential. The internal spirit of partnership spreads beyond the campus as well, as the growing number of strategic partnerships indicates. Georgia Tech and Emory enjoy a distinctive partnership in biomedical engineering, now considered to be number two in the country and just last year having launched a joint Ph.D. degree program with Peking University in Beijing, China. Other partnerships in global safe water, predictive health, biomedical informatics promise the possibility of similar distinction. Other teaching and research agreements engage Emory with Agnes Scott, Georgia State, University of Georgia, Morehouse Medical, and MCG.

And the results? According to data compiled by ARCHE (Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education) and published most recently just in May of 2008, our Atlanta area colleges and universities have performed remarkably as economic engines. They have employed over 55,000 people; expending annually nearly \$6 billion in operations, and \$1 billion for research -- all of which places Atlanta among the top 10 cities in each of these economic categories...”

(Roundabout continued from front page)

- A three-foot strip around the periphery of the roundabout of stone pavers which have been planted with lirioppe, making the pavers invisible. In Bloom opted to use pervious pavers in lieu of concrete to decrease the impervious area and increase green space;
- Internal boulders to discourage vehicular traffic;
- New perennials and annuals to provide additional color; and
- Existing plant material in the area of the stone pavers was transplanted.

The Druid Hills Civic Association has committed \$500 annually for seasonal color and In Bloom is planning two seasonal color plantings in the future. There are also plans to install battery powered irrigation to the center island this spring.

Commendations for Emory Staff

Kent Alexander, senior vice president and general counsel, received special recognition by the Georgia General Assembly as a founder of Hands On Atlanta. Alexander and other founders were commended with a resolution in the state House of Representatives and invited to appear before that legislative body.

Susan Cruse, senior vice president of development and alumni relations, has been selected as a “2010 Most Powerful and Influential Woman of Georgia” by the National

Diversity Council. Cruse will receive the award at the



EMORY
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National Women’s Conference on April 30.

Emory’s President Jim Wagner was named one of the “100 Most Influential Georgians: Georgia’s Power List,” by Georgia Trend magazine. Wagner was cited for his leadership of the University in a challenging economic environment, noting Emory was named one of the top universities to work for by both The Chronicle of Higher Education and The Scientist magazine.

Betty Willis, senior associate vice president for governmental and community affairs and executive director of the Clifton Community Partnership, was named one of the “100 Most Influential Georgians: Georgia’s Notables,” by Georgia Trend magazine.

Planners Seek Input for LCI

Development planners in North Druid Hills are seeking community input on how to improve traffic and vital junctions within the area.

The North Druid Hills Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) study area is located in Atlanta with several major transportation facilities traversing the area, including I-85; North Druid Hills, Briarcliff,



and Clairmont roads. Since North Druid Hills Road serves multiple transportation purposes, traffic congestion is a major concern for both commuters and residents. Currently, planned improvements in various stages of completion are being implemented in the area including key intersection improvements, signal timing improvements and traffic control upgrades.

The area is also facing intense redevelopment pressure and has been the focus of several recently proposed areas pushing mixed use developments which include residential, retail, office, and/or hotel uses at various levels and mixes. Certain properties ready for redevelopment are long-established residential and tight-knit religious communities. This LCI will result in a master plan that brings all varied stakeholders together to form a unified vision for transportation and land use for the ultimate enhancement of the North Druid Hills area.

Four community-wide public engagement activities are planned to meet the objectives of the study; three meetings have already occurred. The kick-off meeting in October announced the study and its goals to interested media and community members and detailed future opportunities for public input. This meeting set the stage for the identification of issues and opportunities. To learn about the study and to provide your input, visit the LCI website at www.northdruidhillslci.com.

Exploring Transit Connections for W. DeKalb

The Clifton Corridor is one of the largest activity centers in metro Atlanta without convenient access to the interstate system

or MARTA rail connections. These conditions have created high levels of traffic congestion on a limited number of roadways.

The Clifton Corridor

Transportation Management Association (CCTMA) and



MARTA have created the Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative to identify opportunities for better transit service and connectivity in western DeKalb County.

The public involvement phase, also known as the Alternatives Analysis, includes collecting information from those impacted by the introduction of high-capacity transit connections between MARTA’s Lindbergh Center, Emory University and the City of Decatur.

Last month, the study team held a meeting on Emory’s campus to gather input and opinions from area stakeholders. For more information and updates on the study, visit MARTA’s project webpage at www.itsmarta.com/Clifton-Corr.aspx.

Five Questions

A snapshot of questions for leaders in the Clifton community



Pamela Papner,
President of
Virginia-Highland
Civic Association

CCP: Virginia-Highland is one of the most livable communities in America. How does the Virginia-Highland Civic Association (VHCA) fund community improvement projects?

Pamela Papner: The VHCA has two primary fundraisers to support our community. Summerfest is an art and music festival held the first weekend in June. The Va-Hi Tour of Homes, held in early December, features tours of local homes with food tastings by local restaurants. In January, we also held our first silent auction at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center to benefit the Orme Park and New Highland Park projects.

Proceeds from those events are spent on many things, including loan payments on the New Highland Park, safety initiatives like neighborhood patrols, flowers/doggie bags for local parks, year-end grants to organizations that support our community like local schools, our public library, PEDS, Trees Atlanta and others.

CCP: Where is Orme Park located and what are the plans for redevelopment?

Papner: Orme Park is tucked

inside quiet residential streets in the northwest section of Va-Hi. We began raising funds to upgrade two acres of the park, extending along Brookridge Drive from the entrance near the bridge to the entrance past the playground area. The enhancements are in line with the Master Visioning Plan approved by the VHCA and NPU-F in 2007 and will retain Orme's woodsy look and feel. This project is being performed under the auspices of the City of Atlanta Parks department, which owns the property.

CCP: What are the plans for the new park?

Papner: The VHCA recently purchased two lots adjacent to N. Highland Avenue at 1076 and 1082 St. Charles Place. These two lots are currently vacant (the site of the former public library), and the intention is to turn them into green space where the community can come together. The park is tentatively called New Highland Park.

Through our new nonprofit subsidiary, Virginia-Highland Conservation League, we've raised just over \$40,000 by selling commemorative bricks and through donations and other various fundraising activities, many sponsored by Atkins Park

neighbors. Two local residents have provided pro bono services to design the park. Plans can be viewed online at www.vahi.org.

CCP: How does your full-time job assist you with your role as president of VHCA?

Papner: I work for AT&T Mobility as executive director of international product marketing, and I have been in the wireless telecommunications field since the mid-90s. Leading a group of volunteers is quite different from work because everyone has many other priorities, no one is paid and everyone wants to feel their contribution is worthwhile. Thus, encouraging productive conversation, building consensus, efficiently executing a plan and being appreciative of everyone's contributions are the 'work' skills that have most helped me as president of VHCA.

CCP: How long have you lived in Virginia-Highland and what keeps you there?

Papner: I have lived here for about eight years. Our pedestrian-friendly village atmosphere and the community engagement are what keep me here; neighbors are very active and involved. I think that's what makes us unique.

Children's Invests \$75 Million in Research Centers

The research partnership between Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta gained strength this month when Children's announced it will invest \$75 million in eight research centers of excellence over the next five years. The funding is part of the new research focus for Children's and its academic partners

first announced in 2008.

Last November, Children's received \$30 million from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, including \$25 million to help fund a new pediatric research building on the Emory campus.

The eight research centers will build on existing strengths of physicians and research faculty at Children's, Emory, Georgia Tech and Morehouse School of Medicine. Emory faculty will hold key leadership positions in the centers, which include the Aflac Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service of Children's and seven new priority areas: immunology and vaccines, transplant immunology and immune therapeutics, technology innovation, cystic fibrosis, developmental lung biology, endothelial cell biology, and cardiovascular biology.

Who we are ...

For more detailed information on any of the articles inside the *Community Update*, please contact:

Betty Willis, executive director for Clifton Community Partnership
betty.willis@emory.edu
404.727.5312

David Payne, Emory's director of communications for campus planning and outreach
david.payne@emory.edu
404.727.0996

Kelly Gray, Emory's communications manager for campus planning and outreach
kvgray@emory.edu
404.727.9477