#### Membership **Application Enclosed**

A Quarterly Publication of the Northcrest Civic Association

#### Letter from the President ~ by Ingrid Nuss

It is been a busy couple of months and your **Northcrest Civic Association(NCA)** has been hard at work. In addition to working to establish the new civic association, we have been attending county planning meetings about the new Kroger and the new Pleasantdale Ellementary School, reinstating the **Northcrest Civic Association's 4th of July parade**, and putting out the **Northcrest News** on a quarterly basis. Thanks to some really talented and committed board members, we have hit the ground running and hope to continue to increase the civic association's role as the voice of our community. A special thanks to our past president and Community Affairs Chair **Chuck Hunt** who has sacrificed many evenings in order to attend meetings for the county along with **John Eaton** and **Jim Taylor**, who have also provided tech support, and **Sheryl Nelson**, who has helped create our new brand along with signs, posters, and the newsletter, and our VP and Social Committee Chair, **Deb Knott** who has worked tirelessly on each and every Northcrest Civic Association event. The recent 4th of July parade would have never happened without her hard work and perseverance, It is people like this that make living in Northcrest so great. So please, support your Northcrest Civic Association by becoming a member today.



We are proud to report that we are growing fast and hope to recruit each of you to join us! Your membership fees go to support events like the parade, our upcoming summer party, our Fall Fest, and our exclusive members only holiday party! (See the enclose Membership Form).

#### **Calendar of Events**

Saturday, July 23, 5-10p.m. STEEL DREAMIN' BLOCK PARTY sponsored by the **Northcrest Civic Association** Come out and get your 'Buffett' on!

Tuesday, Sept 13, 7-10p.m. Hoe N' Hope Garden Club Covered Dish

**Location: TBD** 

Be sure to check out the **Northcrest Civic Assocation's** new website for the latest news

www.northcrestcivicassociation.com

and join our Facebook page for all the fun photos and videos from the 4th of July Parade and other events.

https://www.facebook.com/ northcrestcivicassociation/

# Steel Dreamin'

#### **Northcrest Civic Asssociation Summer Block Party!**

Neighbors, Michael and Keren Barr...and their Steel Dreamin' Caribbean Steel Drum Band...will help Northcrest gets its "Buffett" on!

When: Saturday, July 23rd, 5- 10PM

Where: Corner of Northlake Drive & Lori Lane

**Who:** All Northcrest Neighbors from Lynnray to Northcrest Road and everyone in between! Children welcome!

See Page 13 for all the details!



#### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

#### **Pleasantdale Elementary School Update**

It has been a while since we've had a substantive update on the **Pleasantdale Elementary School**, and as it stands right now, there still isn't a whole lot to add. In summary, we can say that things are in a holding pattern on the part of the school district. **North-crest** neighbors have been assured by our county commissioner that nothing will proceed without the input of Northcrest neighbors.

On June 9, **Chuck Hunt** and **Jim Taylor** from **Northcrest Civic Association** had a productive meeting at the school with principal **Terri Brown** and media specialist **Martha Wheeling**. The meeting was primarily an update from the civic association on its efforts and what the group has learned so far. Everyone looked over the proposed site plans and learned a lot from discussing their concerns.

Brown and Wheeling naturally had a great deal of insight into school operations and shared a few ideas about how to keep children safer with traffic flow and placement of bus lanes. School staff are generally happy with the plan, but realized it is just a proposal at this point and have not heard more than Northcrest neighbors. All agreed it was time to arrange regular meeting with the district and Brown has made the request to start as early as mid July.

With still no word on those meeting yet this summer, the assumption at this point is that the district is working on larger problems. The school district must acquire the land they need to situate the new school building closer to Pleasantdale Road and build adequate access. From what we understand, the offer made by the school district to the parks and recreation division was inadequate. It is the civic association's guess that this is the reason construction originally scheduled to start this summer has not begun.

Looking at the site maps, the new building is clearly going to be an improvement over the existing site. However, there are a couple of things that are likely to be of significant concern to some neighbors.

This school is going to be a lot bigger. While it is set back from the neighborhood a bit, and it appears that they have been as creative as possible positioning the main building on the land in about the best spot they really could, it could make some neighbors on Northwoods, Hidden Acres and Northlake Way feel a bit closer to the school.

All at the meeting agreed that the main entrance comes a little close to the Northlake Drive dead end. Northcrest residents would likely want to hear more about how that area is being handled and have some assurances that it will not be left in such a manner as to allow vehicles to hop a curb and pass through. As the dead end is not functional except for parking, an initial thought is that perhaps the county could step in and help turn the dead end into green space, or repave Northlake Dr. into Northlake Way as a curve.

At the end of Northwoods, there is a bridge that leads to a trail going up into the park. The wooded area back there is quite beautiful and ecologically unique in the opinion of many neighbors. From the proposed site plan, it would appear that sadly this area transfers from park to school property and would be cleared. There are ecological concerns in general. Construction runoff into the creek and any negative effects to wildlife are paramount among these.

After chatting through construction topics, the group agreed much

more information is needed and that nothing appeared to be happening soon. The remainder of the time was spent discussing how Northcrest neighbors can better support Pleasantdale Elementary School.

Roughly 60 percent of the area zoned for the school is the North-crest neighborhood. Yet only a few students from the neighborhood attend the school. With the growing number of families moving in, the number of eligible students is increasing, creating a clear turnover problem for home buying in **Northcrest**. Hunt and Taylor offered to work with the **Northcrest Civic Association** school committee to continue to find ways for **Northcrest** to help the school and vice versa.

As updates become available, they will be made available on a special **Nextdoor.com group**.

#### **UPS Noise Abatement Update**

~ LaToya Johnson

The community along with Commissioner Jester's office met with UPS on May 11, 2016 at the Embry Hills Library to determine mitigation actions. Those in attendance were: LaToya Johnson, Tandra Bailey, David King, DJ Fort, Mark Ostrowski, Phillip King, Marty Martin, Tiffany Bailey, Sheryl Nelson, Chuck Hunt, Nancy Jester (Dekalb County), Jeff Breedlove (Dekalb County), Mark Green (UPS), and Frank Morris (UPS).

The following list of actions is the initial corrective measures UPS is taking to mitigate noise and light pollution. The tentative completion dates for the projects are supplied as well.

- LED lighting scheduled completion is second week of July (upper lot just above the lower lot)
- Landscaping and tree planting second week of July (lower lot behind David King's house on Summitridge)
- Lowering of the shifter units warning beepers (lowering to 87 decibels) scheduled completion June 6th. **RESULT: Neighbors** report that the reduction of the decibel level on the beepers allows the community to sleep peacefully at night. The noise is rarely heard inside the homes or backyards.
- Shifter and driver training is an annual certification on going training-this is to deal with the honking, crashing, and scraping (the dinosaur noise)

Please reach out to **Mark Green** at **magreen@ups.com** to express how the above actions are impacting your home. We will meet with them again once all work is complete around the end of July.

#### **Chevron SLUP**

The owners of the old Chevron station at the corner of Chamblee Tucker Rd. and Northcrest Rd. received all required Board approvals in December. The development "SLUP's" approved by the Board, noted that the new building is to be designed to include Mid-Century Modern design elements, with design subject to review by Commissioner Jester. For more information visit the NCA web site page: http://northcrestcivicassociation.com/blogs/community-affairs/whats-happening-at-the-chevron-station. (**Krogers** Update con't on p6).

#### **ARTIST CORNER**

#### Stephanie Gladden ~ Debora Knott

Northcrest News doesn't have to look very hard for talent in our neighborhood. I personally met Stephanie at the neighborhood Bunco game. When the ladies found out she was a cartoonist, we promptly asked her to design a "Bunco Babes" logo! And she enthusiastically took on the challenge to design a cartoon for this period's Newsletter. Hope you enjoy her original Northcrest cartoon below. Thanks so much Stephanie!

Both Stephanie and her husband, John Miller, work for Turner Broadcasting. John studied film at the University of Texas and works for Turner Classic Movies where he is a writer/content producer (we are saving John's story for a future issue of Northcrest News). Stephanie is currently employed by the Cartoon Network as a character artist. Although she has worked in cartoon production and style guides, she now supports promotions and licensing creating promotional materials for the Cartoon Network's many shows. Stephanie says she likes that her days are "unpredictable". She could be designing posters, life-size cutouts or even giant inflatables. Her role helps relieve the pressure of CN animators who can spend up to nine months producing one show!

Stephanie graduated from the Atlanta College of Art, now known as SCAD (Savannah College of Arts and Design, in '91 and she has been drawing professionally ever since. Her first art job was working as an animator for Stone Mountain Lasers where she met John. She also storyboarded for Disney TV's Pepper Ann series. She started drawing comics in '93 and has drawn for many licensed books over the

years, including The Simpsons, Ren & Stimpy, Looney Tunes, The Powerpuff Girls and Tom & Jerry. Her comics work also pops up in such places as Jim Ottavini's Dignifying Science, Peter Bagge's Sweatshop and Paul Dini's Jingle Belle.

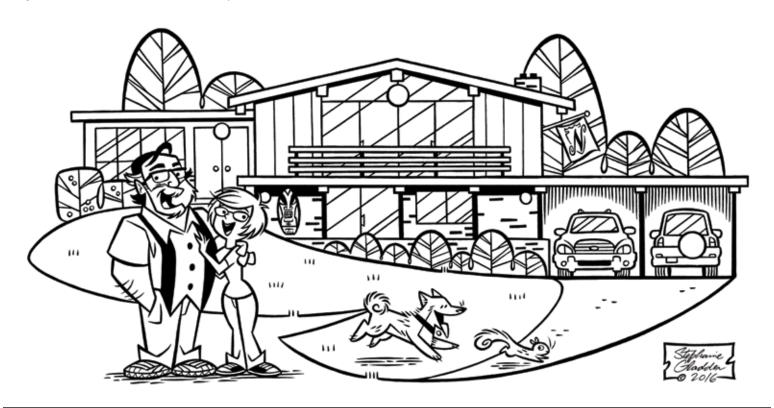
In '98 she started writing and drawing her own creator-owned comic books. She created her own funny animal comic characters which she publishes as 'Hopster's Tracks'. In '02, she created Cricket & Plato. She is currently drawing her first webcomics venture Girls of Monster Paradise!

Stephanie participates in smaller illustration projects as well. She enjoys working with small colleges and minor league baseball teams helping them design mascots to represent their team spirit. One of Stephanie's favorite personal projects was Drawlloween...an online challenge in which artists created a Halloween-themed piece of art every day in October.

Stephanie and John have lived in **Northcrest** for 20 years. John discovered and fell in love with Northcrest's MCM design and their Lynnray home, and convinced Stephanie this was the place to live. At first, Stephanie could not imagine herself living in a MCM home, but now she cannot picture herself not living in one. Stephanie was working on "The Simpsons" while saving for a down payment for a home, and likes to call her **Northcrest** home "The House that Bart Bought".

One of Stephanie's favorite cartoonists is Steve Ditko of Spider-Man fame. They corresponded once and Mr. Ditko congratulated her on "a long, productive, rewarding career of her choice". Stephanie says "work is fun, but is not without its long hours and challenges". She knows she is fortunate to have been able to work on her art since college.

**Northcrest** is lucky to have Stephanie as a neighbor.



#### Northcrest Hoe N' Hope Garden Club ~ by Debora Knott, Roxanne Ellis

Since the beginning of the **Hoe'n'Hope Garden Club**, it has depended on its membership to volunteer and be leaders in the neighborhood. We are pleased to have three members who all joined the club in the 60s and have continued to work and inspire the next generation of gardeners. It is our hope that you enjoy their **Northcrest** History lesson, but also recognize their talents and contributions to our neighborhood. All are talented and personable, but most of all their common thread is public service.



Nancy Page ~ by Debora Knott

Nancy is a long time **Northcrest** neighbor, and **Garden Club** member... and she served as **Hoe N' Hope Garden Club President** for several years.

Nancy and her husband John fell in love with each other in high school in Wilmington, North Carolina. They fell in love with their **Northcrest** home in 1969. Nancy and John were married for 46 years! They were stationed in San Diego for John's stint in the Navy and loved their time on Coronado Island. The first of Nancy's three daughters was born 9 months after John's shore leave along with 9 other babies from the same ship!

Nancy has a proud history as an educator and graduated from UNC - Greensboro and her husband Jim was a graduate of the University of GA. While her children were small, she taught at the Embry Hills Methodist Church Pre-School for six years where her own children could participate. Nancy taught elementary education in the DeKalb School District for more than Thirty years. When she retired she continued to tutor children at Pleasantdale Elementary. Her husband John had a long and distinguished career at Lockheed Martin.

Nancy is proud of her mother's accomplishments; Edith Winningham acquired the first Master Degree in Political Science in NC, and taught on the College level for 20 years at the UNC-Charlotte. There is a building on campus named after her mother the "Winningham Building." Her mother was a great influence on Nancy's own passion for teaching.

Nancy lost her beloved husband when he was just 64, right before her own retirement. It is obvious, she still misses him to this day. She has 3 accomplished daughters that enjoyed growing up in Northcrest...and five grandchildren. One daughter followed in her footsteps as a teacher and now school administrator. Although Nancy had a stroke in in 2014, after working hard in rehab, she is back in her home and doing great. Her son-in- law (a contractor) remodeled and updated her home during her convalescence. Nancy's grandson lives with her now and keeps her company! She is grateful to be able stay in her beloved home and neighborhood.

Nancy enjoys Garden Club social time, and attends all the meetings. She recently participated in the history night for the National Historic Registry. She is also blessed to have great friends in the neighborhood and her church that take her to play Bridge 3 days a week. I recently got to see her out socializing at the Archwood Block Party!

I thank Nancy for taking the time to talk to me about her life, career, family and love of **Northcrest.** Nancy and John loved the "modern style" and owned a MCM house in Huntley Hills prior to Northcrest. The last thing we talked about is her excitement to see so many young families moving into the neighborhood who will be the next Northcrest generation. Nancy is a Northcrest treasure.

#### **Bebe Forehand** ~ by Roxanne Ellis

My husband and I were drawn to the Northcrest neighborhood by his fond childhood memories of playing with Vicki and Didi, the daughters of Bebe Forehand; their house was affectionately called the "Brady Bunch" house.

Bebe moved into the house at 3368 **Regalwood Drive** in 1961. The home was one of three in the neighborhood designed by Walter Tally and was purchased for \$29,500. In 1962 Bebe married her second husband Roy Forehand. Roy was an architect and made several significant changes to the home including floor to ceiling windows and a dramatic rock fireplace. Roy Forehand also designed the **Northcrest Swim and Tennis Club** for the neighborhood. Some of Bebe's fondest memories are of the throngs of children playing in and out of each other's homes. Everyone knew each other. The women watched each other's kids while sharing coffee and catching up on events. There was a true sense of community, a neighborhood trait which has endured.

After her divorce from Roy, Bebe enjoyed an exciting career with Tiffany's and retired after 24 years working for the company. She was active in Community Theater from 1962 through the late 90s.

As a survivor of the Holocaust, Bebe has always felt a responsibility to share her experience of those challenging years and especially to educating young people with her firsthand knowledge. She has spent the last 30 years speaking to churches, schools and other organizations about the year she and her family spent living in the attic of friends who sheltered them in her home country of Belgium during those dark, turbulent times.

Bebe is a remarkable woman who faces life challenges with courage and a sense of humor. She has treated us with the kindness and interest of a mother, and my husband and I feel fortunate to have her in our lives. Bebe lost her beloved daughter Didi last year to after a long battle with cancer. In lieu of flowers, Bebe requested the Hoe'n'Hope Garden Club plant a dogwood tree at the Northcrest Swim and Tennis Club. The garden club honored this request gladly, and members watch over it with loving care.

We love you Bebe! Roxanne, Mich and don't forget your furry friend, Charlie.

#### **Elly Benson** ~ by Debora Knott

Elly and Edward moved to **Northcrest** in 1965. Elly wanted a modern ranch...and they purchased the first house they saw on Bowling Green. Edward was an architect and was in total agreement. At one time 3 architects lived on Bowling Green alone. Elly and Edward loved the wrap-around floor to ceiling windows and sliding doors. When they moved in, Bowling Green ended at the **Northcrest Swim and Tennis Club**. The children on their side of the street (south) went to Warren Elementary and the children in the other side (north )went to Pleasantdale Elementary. As a pure coincidence, Nancy Page taught Elly's son Mark. **P&H** (the architects who built **Northcrest**) was just starting to build the split levels on Beachhill.

Edward and Elly were charter members of the **Northcrest Swim** and **Tennis Club**; Elly continues to be a member and supports the pool to this day. Elly's son Mark swam on the swim team and her daughter Diane loved hanging at the pool with friends. They also enjoyed boating on Lake Lanier with their Bowling Green neighbors.

Elly has an impressive resume. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Michigan with a degree in science. ...a funny story was when it was time to graduate the administration told Elly "you don't have enough credits in the humanities". Elly was a math and science girl and excelled at her studies – since she took German classes for fun they agreed she could graduate!

After graduation Elly worked at Cornell Aeronautics performing wind tunnel experiments. Edward left college to serve in the security branch of the Army during the Korean War; his specialty was Morse code interception... Cold War Style. Elly spent 3 years in Germany and continued her studies at the University of Heidelberg. After his service, Edward and Elly returned to the states. Edward finished his architectural studies at the University of Cincinnati and Elly secured a job with General Electric as a Nuclear energy researcher.

They enjoyed **Northcrest**, their kids and life was good. Then Mark, their 13 year old son, was diagnosed with bone cancer. Their lives were turned upside down and cancer treatment meant long trips to St. Jude's for experimental treatments. Elly spent many years as a caregiver and companion for Mark. He beat the odds for survival and worked at General Electric for several years. Finally, treatment took its toll and in 2002 Mark lost his battle to cancer. Six months later Elly's husband passed just a few months short of their 50-year anniversary.

Elly's **Northcrest** friends reached out and invited her to **Garden Club** and she started to reach out to friends and neighbors. Elly is blessed with a loving daughter, Diane. and two wonderful grand-

daughters; Danielle and Shelley. She is also blessed with a furry blessing named Buddy the cocker spaniel.

Elly thanks the St. Jude's organization for the years of amazing treatment and support for her son Mark and her family.

It has been my personal pleasure to hear Elly's story and report it you all. I am honored to call her my friend and fellow **Hoe N' Hope Garden Club** member.

# Northcrest's Hoe N' Hope Garden Club recognized



Northcrest's Hoe N' Hope Garden Club recently received recognition from the DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs for a 53% increase in membership numbers. Out of the 26 Garden Clubs within the Federation, the Hoe N' Hope Garden Club had the largest increase in membership. The Hoe N' Hope Garden Club has been meeting since 1963 and currently has over 40 official members!

**Garden Club** meetings typically consist of a speaker, who present on a wide variety of topics, anywhere from native plants, pruning, beekeeping, Japanese ikebana flower arranging, to even self-defense classes. While the speakers are always informative, there's still plenty of time during the meetings for socializing. Also during the meetings, **Garden Club** business is discussed, such as the **Tour of Homes** planning and community outreach.

**Garden Club** meetings will be starting up again in early September. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for the evening **Tuesday**, **September 13th**. The location is To Be Determined. Please come join us! For more information about meetings or to discuss anything gardening related, join the Garden Club Facebook group. Search for **"Northcrest Hoe N' Hope Garden Club"** on Facebook and ask to join! https://www.facebook.com/groups/517135195034389/

If you'd like to sponsor an upcoming edition of **Northcrest News** and advertise your business or organization to Northcrest neighbors, please contact Debora Knott for a media kit: **vicepresident@northcrestcivicassociation.com** 

#### Northcrest Ads 1959 ~ by John Eaton

When I began researching the history of Northcrest there was one topic that eluded me, the advertising that Walter, Howard and Paul did to lure new home buyers into Northcrest. Thankfully the graduate students putting together the historic nomination came through with the following ads, all from the Atlanta Journal Constitution beginning in 1959 and ending in 1965. This is part one of two parts featuring newspaper advertisements.

The first advertisement is a "SNEAK PREVIEW" ad from the AJC, May 31, 1959:



#### NORTHCREST \$19,750 - \$21,500 Contemporary Tri-Level

First 50 of 350 wooded lots. 1,800 sq. ft. finished, 300 sq. ft utility area. 100x180 lots. Choice of 3 or 4 bedrooms, den, fireplace, carpet, single or double carport, patio G-E kitchen, 2 ½ baths. With the P&H Realty Co and Howard and Paul's numbers.

I'm sure that this preview ad by the builders was an attempt to bring excited new homeowners to the area but it's not a very slick ad, and is more factual than marketing oriented. They made up for that in the next ad...

#### "Northcrest Home of Leisure Living" is from AJC, August 23, 1959:



**See This Completely Furnished Model Home with Doraville Realty Company** – I'm not sure of the relationship but there seems to be either several companies involved or the builders owned several different entities. The marketing emphasis is around Leisure Living with the G-E oven being managed quite nicely, thank you very much, by a happy homeowner wife making a delicious feast.

Note the sample home that is featured is currently for sale and can be found just east of the creek on the corner of Regalwoods and Summitridge.

#### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS** (con't from p2)

#### Approval of the New Kroger!

The rezoning application requested for the relocation of Kroger to the site now occupied by the former Motel 6 was approved by the Board of Commissioners in June. Also approved by the Board was the provision allowing a fuel island. So all Board actions required by Kroger to proceed with their plans to build the new store, and for the shopping center owner to reconfigure the entire site, have been completed. The Northcrest Civic Association has not spoken with any representatives of the center or Kroger regarding plans or a time frame for relocating existing businesses, although we have heard via previous community meetings that some of the businesses will be relocating to the buildings at the east edge of the property overlooking the current Kroger parking lot.

#### From Commissioner Jester:

"I am pleased to share with you that your DeKalb Board of Commissioners (BOC) has voted to approve our new Kroger at Embry Hills. The community support and involvement in the process were key factors in earning a unanimous vote from the BOC. It was a privilege for me to work for you to get this project approved by the Commission.

I look forward to the ribbon cutting cutting on our new Kroger in the near future and am excited about the new jobs and new shopping opportunities for DeKalb County."

There's an ongoing discussion regarding this topic on Next-Door here: https://northcrestdoraville.nextdoor.com/news\_feed/?post=27836662 or visit the NCA web site page: http://northcrestcivicassociation.com/blogs/community-affairs/the-latest-on-the-new-kroger.

#### **Wildlife Sanctuary Feeding Tips**

~ by Sigrira Savitski



In a previous issue I shared how my husband and I created a wildlife sanctuary certified by the **National Wildlife Federation** and the **Atlanta Audubon Society**. One of the requirements for a sanctuary is providing food and water. Whether you are planning to have your garden officially certified or not, it is

rewarding and enjoyable to feed birds, squirrels and chipmunks. Offering water is a great way to begin. I recommend a traditional shallow dish pedestal birdbath and a small dish (like the kind used under plant pots) next to it which is easier for chipmunks to reach and for birds that like to be on the ground. It is best if the birdbath is not too deep (ideally less than 2" deep in the middle). Birds will avoid deep water and it is also dangerous for young birds. If you have a deep birdbath you can use pebbles or rocks on the bottom to make it shallower. Water should be freshened daily and the bath scrubbed regularly so that it doesn't grow algae or become slippery. If you don't have a birdbath, a large clay saucer on a tree stump or small outdoor table will work too. The important thing is to have it elevated off the ground so that the birds feel safe from predators. Other garden animals will also benefit from the drinking water.

Bees and butterflies also need water, but you may want to provide special extra small shallow water dishes with pine straw pieces on top to avoid bees drowning. I have rescued many bees that fell into the birdbath. All you have to do to rescue a drowning bee is extend a small twig or leaf or anything they can grab onto and then once they are holding on put it down safely on the ground. Once their wings are dry they will fly away.

It may take birds a few weeks to discover the new water and food source; be patient, they will find it. Once you start, consistency is vital since they will be depending on it for survival. It is better not to feed and water than to do it sporadically. Squirrels and chipmunks will also find the food. I do not recommend the feeders that are marketed as being "squirrel proof," many of these have mechanisms that could harm the squirrels. I have found that providing food in different types of feeders and on different levels keeps everyone happy, and the squirrels, chipmunks and birds eat side by side peacefully. I only put out food in the morning and not too much, so that it is all gone before nightfall. Ideally there are also be natural food sources in the garden, such as native berries, and the seed is only a supplement.

I offer a black sunflower wild bird mix which I put on a covered hanging feeder, a small dish on the ground and a handful directly on the ground. To clarify, by "ground," I mean on a flagstone path. It is unhealthy for the birds if the seeds are on the dirt, as they will become moldy and this could sicken or kill birds that feed on the ground like towhees and mourning doves. The Audubon society will not certify if feeders have seeds that are falling directly unto the dirt/grass. I sweep away the seed husks from the path every day. If you don't want to sweep pre-shelled (waste-free) seed is available too. I also provide suet in a hanging suet cage, and I use

the spicy kind which mammals do not like, so the suet is for birds only. Woodpeckers especially love suet, but I have seen most of the other birds enjoying it too. I offer thistle seed in a thistle (nyjer) seed feeder, and this is another one that mammals don't eat, so it is mainly for finches - cardinals like it too. Pieces of slightly old or bruised (not moldy) fruit are always a welcome meal; I cut it into small pieces they can carry away easily. Finally, I make sugar water for the hummingbirds, which I replace every 3 days in the summer. This is another really important step, since they can get very ill from old sugar water if it creates mold, which happens often in the heat. Sugar water can either be homemade easily or store bought. It should be replaced every couple of days when it is hot out; it hanging it in the shade helps if that is possible.

When deciding which type of food/feeders to get, I recommend observing which birds already frequent your garden and buying the type of food they like. Common Birds of Greater Atlanta by Jim Wilson and Anselm Atkins is a great resource to help identify birds.



Regarding placement, feeders should either be right next to a window or at quite a distance, in order to help prevent birds flying into windows. If it is right next to the window they can't build up enough speed to seriously get hurt. Either way it's a good idea to

have decals on the windows or other barriers, like hanging plants, to prevent strikes and keep birds safe.

It is so rewarding to wake up every morning and see all the birds coming to get their breakfast, and the chipmunks practically run over my toes! If in doubt, start small, maybe just one feeder and suet, or even simply fresh water can make a huge difference for our Northcrest wildlife.

Resources:

National Wildlife Federation: http://www.nwf.org/ Atlanta Audubon Society: http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/ Books: Natural Gardening for the Birds by Julie Zickefoose, Birds in your Backyard by Robert J. Dolezal, Attracting Birds to Your Backyard by Sally Roth and For the Birds by Anne Schmauss, Mary Schmauss and Geni Krolick.

## THANK YOU SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all our sponsors and advertisers in this third issue of the **Northcrest News**. Your contributions help cover the cost of our printing, distribution and other expenses. If you are interested in advertising in future issues, please contact **Debora Knott - vicepresident@northcrestcivicassociation.com.** 

## Northcrest Talent - Bands and Musicians ~ by Sandra Senn

Northcrest residents are some of the most talented and eclectic people in the Atlanta area. I am proud to live in a neighborhood with such interesting people. From the arts, sciences, engineering, computers, landscaping, law, politics, religion and philosophy – you name it, you can find someone in Northcrest that has the expertise you need, plus you can learn from them and have some interesting conversations!

Music is close to my heart and I would like to introduce you to some bands and musicians in the Northcrest neighborhood. They have been gracious enough to fill this article with information about their bands and projects, and I have compiled the information below. I encourage you to reach out to them, if you like what you see, for private parties or Northcrest social events - and of course come out if you can and support our local musicians when they play around town.

**The Northcrest News** hopes to make sharing the talents of our neighbors a regular feature! In addition, the North Civic Association would like to thank all of the neighborhood musicians who came out to march in our Fourth of July Parade!

Keren and Michael Barr - Steel Dreamin'



Keren and Michael are original members of a Caribbean Rock band called Steel Dreamin'. They live on Archwood Dr. and are both professional musicians. They are also the owners of North Georgia Band Instrument Service -www.NorthGeorgiaBand.com. Here is the link to sample Steel Dreamin' music: YouTube - SteelDreaminATL.

Michael is a percussionist with a Music Education degree from Georgia Southern University and Keren is a flautist with a Music Education degree from the University of Georgia. They both studied instrument repair at Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical at Red Wing.

Together since 2004, Steel Dreamin' plays cover tunes from the past 50 years with a "tropical twist", world music favorites and traditional island tunes with an instrumentation that includes 5 steel pans, 2 guitars, keyboard, percussion, drums and 6 vocalists. So get out your drinks with little umbrellas in them!

Steel Dreamin' members: Keren Barr, original member - double

seconds, flute & vocals, Michael Barr, original member - lead pan, percussion & vocals, Jamie Empert, 2014 - triple cellos, Joe Empert, 2014 percussion, Steve Hargrave, 2012 - sound Engineer, David Larsen, original member - bass guitar, Teri Larsen, original member - lead pan, Mike Rutt, 2008 - keyboard & vocals, Brian Stewart, 2011 - drums, percussion & vocals, Kirk Stroud, original member - guitar, trombone & vocals, Nicole Stroud, original member - double seconds & vocals

Steel Dreamin' plays large venues, outdoor festivals, neighborhood parties, civic events, fundraisers, restaurants / bars, religious ceremonies, weddings and everything in between. The band is currently working on producing recordings as well as an east coast "beach tour" ending in south Florida.

Steel Dreamin' is enjoys being involved in Northcrest Neighborhood events! A special thanks to Karen and Michael for organizing the Northcrest Marching Band! Their trio played for the Archwood Drive street party earlier this summer too!

Steel Dreamin' will be the featured band at the Northcrest Civic Association Summer Block Party on July 23rd – see the neighborhood party invite on page 13 for more details!

#### Sandra Senn - Leonard Blush

Sandra is a member of the band **Leonard Blush** which is named after an unseen and imaginary character from the Andy Griffith show, this band has shaken the roots of blues, boogie, and blues rock around town! The full band is a 4 piece rockin' blues and boogie band that puts their own spin on popular cover tunes as well as showcasing their originals.

Leonard Blush consists of:

#### **Bryan McCauley (guitar & vocals)**

Bryan picked up his brother's guitar at the age of 11. By 13 he was in a local band playing at all the local functions in rural South Carolina. He moved with his family to Virginia where he met and played with many local musicians, again thanks to his brother. After moving back to S.C. in 1974, he re-grouped with former band mates to play country/bluegrass in the area. During the next couple of years Bryan worked in studios and was accepted to GIT (Guitar Institute of Technology) in California but was unable to attend. He moved to Atlanta in 1981 to attend MBI (Music Business Institute) and, along with other students, formed a successful party band working the bar and college circuit until the late 80s. Bryan spent most of the 90s writing and working in the studio and began to form what is now Leonard Blush at the turn of the century.

#### Dave Goodson (bass & vocals)

Dave has had a long and varied musical journey. His grandfather

(an Alabama barn dance musician in the '30s & '40s) bought Dave his first instrument (guitar) when Dave was 8. He started playing his grandfather's banjo when he would visit, so "PawPaw" bought Dave one of his own. Dave picked up the bass in the '70s as a sophomore in high school while playing in the school jazz band as well as playing in a local rock band. He continued to play bass through college in school jazz bands and in various rock, country and blues bands. Along the way Dave also played tuba, euphonium, drums and tympani in various musical ensembles. For the past 15 years or so, Dave has played bass in several Atlanta area blues, R'n'B & boogie outfits, and has found a very comfortable home in Leonard Blush!

#### Scott Paretti (sax, flute, clarinet, vocals)

Scott was born and raised in New Orleans. He started playing clarinet in 4th grade, picked up the flute in middle school and started on the alto sax in high school. While still in high school, Scott started playing in Dixieland bands and wedding bands. At the University of New Orleans, Scott played in the marching band, concert band, wind ensemble, jazz band and the All That Jazz show band. As he went through college and started gigging more, he played all the saxes. In New Orleans, Scott played with various types of bands over the years. Scott and his family moved to the Atlanta area after Hurricane Katrina. Currently, in addition to being an integral part of Leonard Blush, Scott is involved in the music ministry at North Metro Baptist Church and also plays with a few swing bands and jazz combos.

#### Sandra Senn (drums)

Sandra has been playing drums in the Atlanta area since 2006 and has been playing with Leonard Blush since January of 2011. She loves playing all types of music, but especially high energy rock and blues. She is a hard-hitting, high energy performer with solid timing and a feel for the groove, but she also has the finesse and dynamics that are so important to performances. In addition to Leonard Blush gigs around town, you can find Sandra at blues jams where she sits in with talented local performers.



**Leonard Blush** has also played at several Northcrest Swim and Tennis Club events, private parties in the 'hood and would definitely be willing to play for more events.

**Leonard Blush** is an official contestant in the **Atlanta Blues Challenge** on **Sunday August 21** at the **Hard Rock Café** in downtown Atlanta. The band would love the support of the **Northcrest** folks as they compete for a spot at the **International Blues Challenge in Memphis** in **January, 2017**!!!

## **Debbie Talasek - Paul Melancon and The New Insecurities**

Debbie Talasek, who performs under the name **Debra Tala**, is a professional musician and singer/songwriter. After 24 years of performing, touring and teaching in Los Angeles, she relocated to Atlanta and settled in Northcrest 2 years ago.



She has performed on **The Tonight Show, Austin City Limits** and **Mountain Stage** and has toured with **Circe Link and Christian Nesmith** (Michael's son), **Michelle Shocked** and Austin-based artist **Sara Hickman**. She also co-wrote an album single with Sara which charted on Billboard. She backed-up several LA artists on keyboards, harmony vocals and accordion and continues to do this in the Atlanta area. To listen to Debbie's music go to YouTube: Debra Tala - "We", "Bend Down the Branches", "Warmth of the Sun" are just a few examples of Debbie's lovely work!

Debbie currently plays keyboards and sings with the power pop/rock band **Paul Melancon** and **The New Insecurities**. They are recording a new album which will be released by year's end. They recently released a single on YouTube - **Super Rocket X-1**. **The New Insecurities** would love to play at a **Northcrest** event some day!

Upcoming shows: Debbie will also be performing with **Kenny Howes and The Wow** for a special performance of **The Beatles' Revolver** to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its release. See the Schedule of Events for performance information.

Debbie teaches piano lessons in **Northcrest** at her home studio on Northlake Trail. With over 21 years of teaching experience, she teaches the classics and also shares her knowledge of pop, rock and other genres. Debbie is accepting new students at this time. Her studio recently celebrated its first year in Atlanta with a successful recital held at nearby England Piano with children mostly from Northcrest Neighborhood performing.

#### **Paul Abrelat - The Soogs**

Paul is a member of **The Soogs**. **The Soogs** have been playing together since the early 90s when they were all young and willing to schlep their gear all over Atlanta to play any night of the week at any hour. They are older and wiser now, but still regularly play at venues in Atlanta. Last year, **The Soogs** played the inaugural Porchfest in Decatur and had a blast.

**The Soogs** have been described as "The Pixies meet the Partridge Family", blending eclectic electric guitar with layered vocal harmonies. (Cont on p10)



The Soogs are:

**Paul Abrelat (guitars and vocals)** - Paul has been playing instruments since he was in grade school and helped form the Soogs in 1991. In addition to playing guitar in The Soogs, he plays many other instruments including mandolin, banjo, bass and percussion. Paul is a Northcrest resident.

**Brian Bland (guitars and vocals)** - Brian grew up in a musical family and has been playing instruments since he could hold one. Also a founding member, Brian and his wife Laura are the songwriters of the group. Brian is a woodworker and is a professional restorer of fine antiques.

**Laura Bland (bass and vocals)** - The other half of The Soog's songwriting duo with husband Brian, Laura is also a founding member of the band. Laura is also a visual artist and collector and seller of vintage art glass and designer artifacts.

**Joe Scinta (drums)** - Joe is a relative newcomer to the Soogs, having played with the band for about a decade or so. Prior to joining The Soogs as a drummer, he was the lead guitarist for many other bands including The Underhills.

**The Soogs** play venues across Atlanta including **The Earl, Kavarna** and others and were invited to play at the inaugural Porchfest in Decatur last summer.

They are having their album release show on **August 12** at the **Avondale Towne Cinema** with opening Atlanta bands **Paul Melnacon and the New Insecurities** as well as **Kim Ware.** 

**The Soogs** have some high aspirations - to get famous and quit their day jobs- like all musicians! Just kidding, they love playing music together and plan on keeping it up as long as they can.

**The Soogs** would love to be included in a **Northcrest** social event and/or private party!

#### Juan and Carol Ramírez Hernández - The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Juan and Carol were introduced to Northcrest in the late 70's by the Diaz family who lived on Summitridge Drive. Manuel Diaz at that time, also played in the Atlanta Symphony. They raised their 2 children here, Lisa and David, and enjoy being so close to our 2 granddaughters! This photo is Carol's photo from a performance at Carnegie Hall!

#### **Carol Paine Ramírez**

Carol is a violinist who began her studies in New York with the late **Boris Koutzen**. She received her Associate of Arts degree from **Bennett College** and both her **Bachelor of Music and Master of Music** degrees from the



New England Conservatory of Music. She studied with Eric Rosenblith and Joseph Silverstein receiving numerous honors, among them the prestigious Weyerhauser Award and election to membership in Pi Kappa Lambda, a national music honorary society recognizing scholarly achievement and musicianship. While living in Boston she played with the Boston Pops Orchestra and both the Boston Ballet and Opera Companies. As an active chamber musician she is a founding member of the Atlanta Virtuosi and has performed in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, Mexico and the Principality of Monaco. Carol maintains a teaching studio in her Northcrest home. She joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 1974, and plays on a Joseph DaLaglio violin, Mantua, 1823.

Carol's favorite books lately have been **Stradivari's Genius** by Tony Faber and **Founding Mothers** by Cokie Roberts. She loves to make pastry and enjoys canning and organic gardening; Carol loves meeting neighbors with the same interests. She feels that her biggest accomplishments have been to have a wonderful son and daughter and to have played **Verklarte Nacht** with the **Atlanta Virtuosi** at Mozarteum. Carol feels that her biggest challenge was climbing the cliffs of Monaco on a cane while touring with the **Buckhead Youth Orchestra** after she had a knee replacement. Her goal is to record her husband Juan's compositions – specifically the trio combination of tenor, violin and guitar – a real family project!

#### Juan R. Ramírez Hernández

Juan is a violinist with the **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**, a celebrated composer and Founder and Artistic Director of the **Atlanta Virtuosi Foundation, Inc**. Under the auspices of this **Foundation**, he founded the **Buckhead Youth Orchestra** and **Casa de la Cultura-Atlanta**, both in residence at **Covenant Presbyterian Church**. This season marks his 14th year as Artistic Director and Conductor of the **Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra**.

He began his studies in Mexico with **Ivo Valenti** and **Vladimir Vulfman**. His studies with **Henryk Szeryng** began at the age of fourteen and continued as **Mr. Szeryng** became Juan's principal mentor in Mexico, the U.S. and Europe. While in Boston attending the **New England Conservatory of Music**, Mr. Ramírez was privileged to study with **Joseph Silverstein** while under the tutelage of the eminent pedagogue and conductor, **Leon Barzin**.

He has performed and conducted in numerous countries throughout Europe and Asia as well as in Israel and Mexico. He has won numerous awards and honors along the way, including the **Serge Koussevitzky** and **Leonard Bernstein Awards**, the **Loridans Arts Award** and the **Governor's Award in the Humanities**.

The distinguished composer-conductor **Gunther Schuller** stated his "unqualified faith in Mr. Ramírez as a violinist and a musical leader of great artistic integrity" and noted that "whatever he undertakes is touched by quality." In 2004, Mr. Ramírez was named **Lexus Leader of the Arts** by WABE Public Radio of Atlanta and WPBA Television for "his outstanding contributions, his pursuit of excellence in music and for his initiating and serving several community music organizations in the arts community".

Known throughout the state as a music advocator and educator, Juan founded **Music for Success!** - an educational program under the patronage of the **Atlanta Virtuosi Foundation** in partnership with metro Atlanta educational institutions – which provides string training by professional musicians to young elementary and middle school children of many backgrounds. Juan generously volunteers his time and knowledge to Atlanta area schools and beyond. This year he returned to conduct the **Honors Orchestra** sponsored by the **South Carolina Music Educators Association**.

Juan has served on the **Board of Directors of the Sphinx Organization** and the **Oglethorpe University Museum of Art**, and recently received the **World Chamber of Commerce Cultural International Hero Award**. He holds the title of "**Presidential Professor"** at the University of Michigan, the highest honor "given to visiting artists and scholars, recognizing distinguished individuals for their extraordinary achievements."

Juan's compositions have been performed at the **1993 Cultural Olympiad**, for Prince Albert of Monaco and premiered by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Upcoming events include guest conductor of the **Guanajuato Symphony Orchestra**, the Mexican premiere of his "Suite Latina" by the Vega Quartet in San Miguel de Allende and a new commission by the **Camarada Chamber Ensemble of San Diego.** 

#### **Susan Kraft - About Time**

Susan plays with a jazz quartet called **About Time** which is sometimes a duo. She plays piano and does vocals. **Terry Foster** is the band's leader. Here is the band's website: http://www.abouttimeforjazz.com/.



**About Time** is usually booked for cocktail parties, weddings, senior centers and receptions. They occasionally play at restaurants. **About Time** members enjoy playing anywhere that some mellow music and a touch of class is appreciated. The band usually plays standard jazz and Latin tunes from the 1930s-1960s era (swing, Latin, bop) and a few pop covers.

Susan assures us that the quartet she plays with and the jazz duo

that she does with **Terry Foster** would be interested in playing for social events based on availability, circumstances, etc.

#### Mark your calendar and support Northcrest Musicians - something for everyone!

#### **Keren and Michael Barr - Steel Dreamin**

www.steeldreamin'.com or FB SteelDreamin' Saturday, July 23rd right here in Northcrest on Northlake Drive at the **Northcrest Civic Association Steel Dreamin' Summer Block Party** – see invitation on page 13!

#### Sandra Senn - Leonard Blush

www.leonardblush/reverbnation.com or FB at Leonard Blush Leonard Blush often plays at Shorty's Pizza in Tucker – check their webpage.

Saturday, July 23rd at Moonshadow Tavern in Tucker at 9:00 pm Saturday, August 13 at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge – check their webpage.

Leonard Blush is an official contestant in the Atlanta Blues Challenge and would love Northcresters to come out! Sunday, August 21 at the Hard Rock Café in downtown Atlanta - 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm www.atlantabluessociety.com Check the website or FB page for more details.

## Debbie Talasek - Paul Melancon and The New Insecurities

www.paulmelancon.com or www.pianowithdebbie.com Friday, August 5, 7:30 pm at Avondale Towne Cinema. Debbie will play with **Kenny Howes** and **The Wow** for a special performance of The Beatles' Revolver to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its release. Come out for a great night of Beatles fun! Debbie will play a with the New Insecurities at The Soogs' record release show Friday, August 12, 7:30 pm. at Avondale Towne Cinema.

#### **Paul Abrelat - The Soogs**

RSVP for their album "Bully" release show on FB The Soogs. Friday, August 12, 7:30 pm at the Avondale Towne Cinema. Playing with opening Atlanta bands **Paul Melnacon and the New Insecurities** and **Kim Ware**.

## Juan and Carol Ramirez - Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

www.atlantasymphony.org

Atlanta Virtuosi Foundation -- www.atlantavirtuosi.org Come out and support the ASO's end of summer family friendly programming at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater. Check the ASO website for a full list of programming. Saturday, September 10, 8:00 pm – Star Wars and More – The Music of John Williams.

#### Susan Kraft - About time

www.abouttimeforjazz.com Check the website for programming.

# Northcrest Civic Association 4th of July Parade - A view from the rear!

~ by David Masse



Wow! What a 4th! The Northcrest Civic Association put on the 1st annual Northcrest 4th of July Parade. Wow! Didn't they put together a heck of a parade?

The Northcrest Marching Band

kicked it off in high gear with patriotic songs such as "This Land is Your Land" (by Woody Guthrie) and "Yankee Doodle" (version generally attributed

to Dr. Richard Shuckburgh; more information at https://en.wikipedia. org/wiki/Yankee\_Doodle). They marched the entire route without missing a beat. There were classic cars, bikes, walkers, scooters and even a skater.

My view was from the rear, the last ride, a borrowed golf cart from our neighbors Ann and Justin. They were so kind as to let me use it for the parade. My mission was to have fun and provide support to any who needed it. Colleen and Susan rode with me. Susan said in her 43 years living in **Northcrest** she had never had more fun. I could not believe the crowds, the enthusiastic marchers and the electricity in the air. Everyone focused on getting to the **Northcrest Swim and Tennis Club** and those 130 thirty delicious donuts, hot coffee, excited kids, happy dogs, great prizes and lots and lots of fun.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this event a big success. A special thank you to the **Northcrest Civic Association Social Committee**: Debora Knott, Sheryl Nelson and Ingrid Nuss - and the **Northcrest Civic Association Board**. Great job ladies, you get a big thumbs up!

A big thank you to **Keren Barr** and the **Northcrest Matching Band**! Thanks to the **Northcrest Mamas** and all the decorated strollers and wagons. Thanks to the **antique cars** and **spectators**! Thanks to **Northcrest Swim and Tennis Club**!

Can't wait for the NCA Steel Dreamin' Block Party July 23.

(Visit the **NCA FB** page to see videos and all the fun photos from the parade:

https://www.facebook.com/northcrestcivicassociation/)

#### Some Tips on Planning a Block Party

~ by Melanie Marks and Peter West



Peter West and Melanie Marks organized the first Northcrest Summer Block Party for this year! Melanie was kind enough to share best practices and few great photos of Archwood Neighbors getting to know each other while enjoying food, fun and music!

#### Some tips to help plan a block party:

#### For the planning...

- It takes only one person to kick it off, but it takes several neighbors planning together to make it work. Pour some drinks, come up with a plan and split up to-dos.
- Pick a part of the street that's flat for the main location. Confirm that the neighbors are ok with having their driveways blocked during the party
- You will need a permit to block the street. It's totally easy to get visit the Tucker Police Station (next to Walmart) and fill out a simple form. This needs to be done more than 3 weeks in advance
- Think about a contingency plan for weather issues (perhaps in someone's house?)
- Print out invites with all details and a way to RSVP.

- Ask each household to bring a side dish, drinks and chairs to sit on
- Designate one or two families to provide the grilled food. Don't
- Pick a house (or two) for bathrooms that is close to the center of the activity and put out a sign directing people

#### For the Block Party itself...

- Bring out a BBQ and grill hamburgers/ hot dogs/veggie burgers (don't forget the vegetarian option)
- You will need lots of folding tables for the food, etc.
- Don't forget trash cans!
- Lawn games are always a big hit bocce ball, crochet, corn hole, etc.
- Music sets the mood bring out a boom box and play summer music.
- Have a sign-in sheet to collect everyone's house number, name, email and phone number. It's great to keep this con nection after the event.
   Someone will need to assemble after the party and email to everyone.
- Name tags are a great ice breaker. I suggest writing your name and house number. A courtesy notice to sur rounding neighbors on social media is always appreciated.
- Have fun getting to know your neighbors!

# Steel Dreamin'

#### Northcrest Civic Association Summer Block Party!

Neighbors, Michael and Keren Barr...and their Steel Dreamin' Caribbean Steel Drum Band... will help Northcrest gets its "Buffett" on!

When: Saturday, July 23rd, 5 - 10PM

Where: Corner of Northlake Drive & Lori Lane

**Who:** All Northcrest Neighbors from Lynnray to Northcrest Road and everyone in between! Children welcome!

#### **SCHEDULEOF EVENTS:**

#### 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Set up your "Jimmy Buffet" Inspired Table/Party Area -- be inspired Northcrest Parrotheads!

Prizes for the most inspired Parrothead Party area and costumes. Bring beach chairs, blankets, and folding tables!

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Kids Events - Special 'Parakeet' (Buffett for little Parrotheads) activities sponsored by the Northcrest Mamas.

#### 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Dinner's on - "Cheese Burgers in Paradise" and hot dogs too! **The Atlanta Burger Truck** will be serving grilled all-natural "CheeseBurgers in Paradise" & homemade sides. Check out menu and prices - www.theatlantaburgertruck.com

**Hoe 'N Hope Garden Club** Bake Sale - Donations accepted.

#### 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

NCA update - Membership drive

Northcrest Civic Association - The first cold drink is on us... stop by our table for a complementary drink coupon for each family member! BYO! Margaritas! or alcoholic beverages of your choice.

Join the Northcrest Civic Association (\$20 membership dues) and receive a chance to win a signed Northcrest Original Stephanie Gladden Cartoon - see Newsletter. Already a member, tickets are \$5 per chance! All proceeds support future NCA neighborhood events.

**7:00 PM** - Dance Party's on featuring our neighbors Keren and Michael Barr's band -- Steel Dreamin'

**8:00 PM** - Prizes-- Winner of Parrothead Party Area and Costumes, Membership Prize Drawing

#### 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Dance Party Continues

10:00 PM - Help us cleanup and keep Northcrest beautiful!

Extra Parking at the Pleasantdale Elementary School





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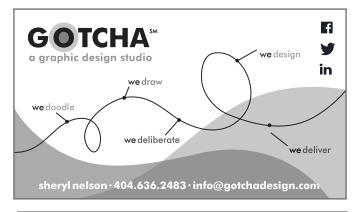
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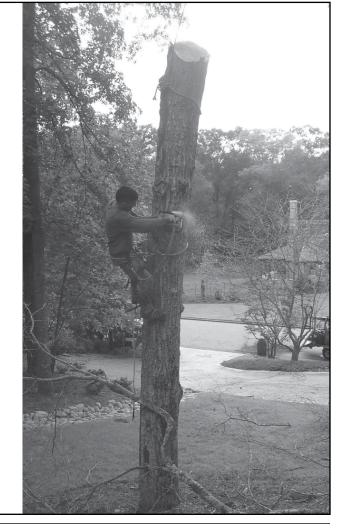
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