



NEWSLETTER

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Our Community Is Growing: Get Involved In Planning!

We are growing! Orlando is expected to grow in population by nearly 50% in the next 20 years. The current City projections are that we will add over 100,000 residents by the year 2027. That is like adding a city about the size of West Palm Beach to Orlando.

The City's Planning Department is now conducting an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) to address this growth. This process is required by the State of Florida. It is completed every 7 years and is designed to look ahead for at least the next 20 years.

The EAR is to identify new goals and policies that the City will need over the next 20 years and to review existing goals and policies to see if they are still relevant. The City has identified six topic areas so far that are particularly important for our future quality of life.

- Affordable and Attainable Housing
- Community Venues
- Downtown Transportation
- Southwest Orlando and International Drive Transportation
- Neighborhood Compatibility and Infill Development
- Parks and Recreation

This list is not exclusive. There may be other issues identified by the public.

A key issue for College Park is the topic of Neighborhood Compatibility and Infill Development. This has two pieces: one is the compatibility of large-scale developments and/or mixed-use or commercial development with adjacent neighborhoods; the other is the compatibility of new single or multi-family developments within the heart of neighborhoods. Some issues for this topic include:

----Should the City require developers of large-scale and/or mixed use or commercial developments to present drafts of their plans to affected communities before beginning the formal Municipal Planning Board process at City Hall?

----Should developers be required to contribute more to public improvements (e.g. green space or other community beautification)?

----What should the transitions be between large-scale developments (e.g. on main roads) and adjacent residential streets? Who should have a say in approving those transitions?

----Is enough parking required with large-scale private development? Are more public parking garages needed?

April 2007

----Do we need more traffic and other improvements to keep the residential feel of our neighborhood streets?

----How high and large should new homes be at a maximum within established neighborhoods?

----Do we like duplexes fronting the street or are other designs more compatible with the neighborhood (e.g. tandem housing)?

----Does the sidewalk policy of the City of Orlando need further revisions or clarifications?

----Is the planning and permitting process clear and "user-friendly" to individuals?

----How do we ensure that actual development complies with approved plans?

These are just a few examples of issues that arise frequently in public discussions. There are many more possible issues. All have pros and cons.

As previously announced by the College Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA), the Planning Department hosted three public meetings recently to discuss these topic areas. The CPNA President, Leza Tellam, along with Vice President, Bob Carr, and the EHS Task Force Head, Kathleen Skambis, attended the last meeting hosted by the Planning Dept at City Hall on April 19th. There were other neighborhood association leaders and active City residents there but the overall attendance was, unfortunately, quite low.

We have an opportunity to comment on the EAR now. This is YOUR opportunity to make your voice heard and to provide comments on these and other issues to the City.

The draft EAR will be presented at City Hall, Overlook Room (9th Floor) on Tuesday, June 5 at 7pm. It will then be presented to the Municipal Planning Board on Tuesday, June 19 at 8:30 am at City Hall, Council Chambers (2d Floor). The changes that result from the EAR process will affect College Park and provide policy also for changes along Edgewater Drive and other areas of our community. As previously announced, we expect a more detailed planning process for Edgewater Drive to begin this year also. CPNA has requested details of the public process from the City of Orlando and will keep you posted as we know more. For more information or to make a comment on the EAR, please contact Elisabeth Holler at elisabeth.holler@cityoforlando.net or (407) 246-3408. Information is also available on-line at www.cityoforlando.net/planning/cityplanning/cpgm.htm.

Please do not hesitate to contact CPNA also with comments and questions at (407)872-7725 or president@collegeparkorlando.org. Don't let this chance pass and not speak up! This is your community's future.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

College Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
Monday, May 7, 7:00 pm – All Are Welcome
College Park Community Center
Speaker, Lynx

Edgewater High School Renovation

By David Rose

Planning for Edgewater High School continues on a rocky road with the outcome still far from certain. The Edgewater High School Renovation Task Force has now turned its focus to the land facing Edgewater Drive and to the possible relocation of the high school outside of College Park just proposed as we go to press. The conceptual plan that OCPS presented to the public on March 22nd showed that frontage being used for commercial purposes. There was a strong consensus at the meeting that the property should be used as either EHS campus or with a use that was compatible with and complimentary to a public high school.

The School Board held a meeting on Thursday the 26th to discuss the idea of moving Edgewater High School to 100 acres at the southwest corner of John Young Parkway and Princeton. They say that while a substantial portion of the property is wetlands, there is enough dry land to build a high school. We are attempting to gather more information about this. Technically, no binding vote was taken at this meeting. However, we are concerned that there might be momentum building in favor of moving the school, and sometimes things get unofficially decided by the Board at workshops. I will be reporting more on this meeting and its outcome at the May 7 CPNA meeting.

The Task Force is following up on that meeting and the public's concern. One of the possible uses that is under consideration is a YMCA. There are already two schools in Orange County with YMCA's on campus, Lake Nona Elementary and the new Apopka High School. The exciting thing about pairing schools and YMCA's is that not only can the YMCA provide services to the students at the school but to the student's entire family. This creates an opportunity to make not just the YMCA but the school itself a hub of family activity. At Lake Nona where the concept has been in place for a few years already it is clear that the synergy is not just theory but works in the real world.

There are also other shared uses that might work for the site. Some that have been suggested are a public library, municipal swimming pool, municipal tennis courts, and many others. If you have any ideas on how to utilize this opportunity to strengthen not only Edgewater High School but the larger community as well please drop me a note. I will make sure that the Task Force becomes aware of your ideas. I may be reached at David.Rose@Realtor.com or (407) 423-7878. I will be reporting on all of this at the May 7 CPNA meeting.

College Park Historic Update

A number of items to note this month: First, Jodi Rubin has taken over leadership of the Historical Committee from Grace Hagedorn. Grace has been the leader in recording College Park's history for as long as anyone can remember. Grace will still be there in the background, but she stepped out of the chair position so she could pursue other interests.

Second, Sunday in the Park was a great event for CPNA. Historical Committee members talked to plenty of owners of older homes in College Park. Bob Kealing, with the Jack Kerouac Project of Orlando shared the Committee's table and sold his book, *Kerouac in Florida: Where the Road Ends*. CPNA also announced the theme for the 2007 Historic Homes Tour, which is "Great Additions". Call Jodi Rubin at (407) 422-5243 if you have a house that is at least 50 years old that has a great addition that complements the original architecture of your house.

Third, in the pursuit of the National Register nominations for College Park, two events occurred. The Florida National Register Review Board on March 26 recommended to the National Park Service that three non-regulatory historic districts (Lake Concord/Lake Adair and two districts abutting Lake Ivanhoe) be placed on the Register. Also, on April 4, the City's Historic Preservation Board recommended that some individual properties (including the Dann house on Greens and Warlow houses on Driver in Dubsread and 1101 W Princeton) be forwarded to the Florida National Register Review Board sometime this fall. Congratulations and thanks to Grace, Jodi, CPNA and all those people who supported those nominations. In addition, the City approved and will be forwarding a non-regulatory historic district encompassing Rosemere. Although CPNA did not formally approve this nomination, we are reaching out to key homeowners and members to notify them.

Princeton/Smith Streets Traffic Focus

The College Park Neighborhood Association was born 20 years ago out of an initiative to help protect and preserve Princeton and Smith Streets. Because of the 'Save our Streets' program, the Princeton/Smith corridor has tolerated high traffic activity surprisingly well over the last two decades. But massive developments recently approved at John Young Parkway and Princeton will bring intense traffic pressures. CPNA Board Member Miles Hardy has resigned his duties as Traffic Committee chair to focus all his efforts on our Association's original project. He will work directly with residents of the Princeton/Smith corridor and the City's Traffic Engineering Department. The first meeting with residents will be held in early May. Updates on this project will be given by Miles in this newsletter and at the monthly CPNA meetings. For further information please contact mileshardy@yahoo.com.

Sunday In The Park Wrap Up

Sunday In The Park is the largest and longest running community event in Orlando. We have made numerous improvements over the last few years that have resulted in record ride ticket sales, sponsorships, attendees and many new vendors. To put it succinctly we had another fabulous day this year.

We have many people to thank for this year's excellent event. Thank you to our emcee, Pat Duggins of WMFE 90.7, member supported radio, and to Susan Barnes. The entertainment, including several performances by local school children, was fabulous. Thank you to the Central Florida Plein Air Artists for donation of oil painting of Kerouac House by Mary J. Gray and for participating for the first time as a vendor at Sunday in the Park. We will be hanging the painting on exhibit at the College Park Community Center. Limited edition prints are available \$20 unframed or \$40 framed thru Central Florida Plein Air Artists. Contact Mary J. Gray at maryjgray@cfl.rr.com. For more information on the CFPAA, see www.cfpaa.org. Support our local artists! We are looking forward to hosting CFPAA at next year's Sunday in the Park event too.

Thank you to all our endless volunteers including Board Members, many CPNA members and other friends of our great community.

Most importantly thank you to our sponsors. Without you we would never have been able to fund such a successful event.

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Sunday In The Park Poster

Thank you to Steven Bach the artist who donated his now famous painting of College Park for our Sunday In The Park poster. Stephen is a studio painter who resides in Orlando and works at the McRae Art Studios. Raised locally, Stephen attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and majored in painting and illustration. In 1999, after a career in commercial design and illustration, he began painting landscapes in oil. His web site may be viewed at www.stephenbach.com. We have Sunday In The Park posters available unframed for \$5. Please call (407) 872-7725.

Coalition For The Homeless Fundraiser

The Coalition for the Homeless will be holding its annual Hearts of Gold fundraiser on Thursday, June 7th at Hard Rock Live at Universal Studios, starting at 6:00 in the evening. Cocktails, Hors d' oeuvres and a silent auction will be followed by a live musical performance by the Little River Band ("Lonesome Loser" and "Take It Easy on Me"). Individual tickets are available starting at \$200 and sponsorships are available starting at \$2,500. If interested, please contact Debbie Melton at the Coalition: (407) 426-1265 or by e-mail at meltond@cflhomeless.org.

Orange County Community Meetings

Orange County will soon decide whether a new performing arts center, new arena/events center, and renovated Citrus Bowl will be built for our community.

Orange County Commissioners are conducting Town Meetings to garner input from you and your neighbors regarding our three proposed community venues. The next meeting is:

Monday, May 7
Commissioner Teresa Jacobs
Board of County Commissioners Chambers,
201 S. Rosalind Avenue (first floor), Orlando
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

How To Report Graffiti

Recently there has been some new graffiti noticed near I-4 and Princeton. If you notice graffiti here is how to report the sighting. File a report on the city's graffiti hotline or registered the report by email. Either call (407) 246-2752 or go to www.cityoforlando.kob and complete the form. They have altered the web site so that they can accept photo images. The focus on removing graffiti is a key platform in the City's prevention on crime and they have put some resources and energy into responding quickly to these types of requests.

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Please send this form with your dues to: **CPNA P.O. BOX 540859 Orlando, FL 32854-0859**

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Email will only be used for CPNA purposes, including distribution of monthly newsletter and community information.

Check here if you do not have email. Using email helps us save CPNA funds.

Enclosed is my check / cash for \$_____ for the 2007-2008 CPNA budget year.

As a CPNA member, I would like to supplement my dues with a contribution of \$_____.

Dues are \$20 a family or \$15 for Seniors (65 and over) for membership through September 2008.

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