

winnona park neighbors association

# NEIGHBORS NEWS

VOLUME 1 NO. 6

WINNONA PARK NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1978

## U.D.A.G.

### FEDERAL MONEY SOUGHT FOR DOWNTOWN PARKING

At the April 19 Goals Committee meeting, City Manager Curtis Branscome requested that the Committee endorse the concept of the Parking Authority applying for an Urban Development Action Grant (U.D.A.G.) to fund the building of a parking deck by the city at a cost of \$2 million. The purpose of the Federal grant program is to stimulate private development. The City is pursuing discussions with private developers who it is said are planning an office tower on the corner of Church St. and East Ponce De Leon on the site of the old Candler Hotel. The reason the Committee could not be asked to approve a specific program was that the developers have not made a firm commitment to build.

Following in no particular order are some of the opinions stated. More parking downtown will increase traffic and force the widening of streets at the expense of the neighborhoods. Downtown needs more parking. We are placing the cart before the horse by encouraging traffic before we have adopted a transportation plan. It will improve the tax base and increase the number of job opportunities for Decaturites. We need a comprehensive urban design for Downtown before we encourage developers to build. Our city officials are wonderful. We do not want a miniature downtown Atlanta of tall buildings. The city is participating in the overall development by building the parking deck and can accordingly have a say in the design of the office building.

It was revealed that the developers do not plan to build a hotel, and that the Historical Section of the State Department of Natural Resources has no objection to the destruction of the Candler Hotel.

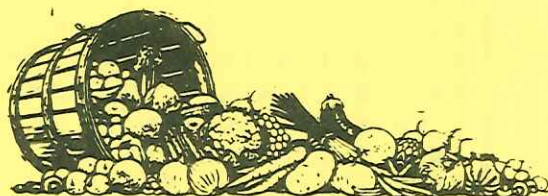
The Debate goes on. The Goals Committee approved the concept with a voice vote. The City Commission will address the issue at its meeting on Monday night, May 1 at the Renfroe Middle School. What do you want for Decatur? Call or write the Mayor, come to the City Commission Meeting, come to the WPNA meeting. After we decide on the concept do we get public input on any specific plan or application?

## Yard Sale

Don't forget the Super Yard Sale that WPNA is sponsoring Saturday, May 6, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Hopefully, this will become an annual Spring event, so that we can exchange attic and basement treasures with our neighbors.

For information and to register your sale, contact Jeanette Smith (377-2529) or Carlene Hagerman (288-6300).

## Pot Luck Planned



The Yard Sale will be followed by a pot luck supper on the school grounds at 6:00 P.M. Bring a dish and beverage to serve your family and any games that you enjoy. Cups, plates, napkins and utensils will be provided.

At 7:30 P.M., there will be a business meeting to discuss the Avery Street wrecking service issue and the U.D.A.G downtown parking lot question. Our State Legislators have been invited to come and join us for the pot luck supper, and the meeting. Each plans to attend barring unforeseen problems. Hope to see you May 6!

Betty Bellville  
Dennis Bellville  
Patty Bonner  
Ann Busby  
Carlene Duncan  
Nanch Leitch  
Mary Oetjen  
Henry Slack





# Neighbors' Exchange

WANTED TO BUY: House or lot in Winnona Park. Call John or Suzy Medlin - 296-9453.

AMWAY PRODUCTS: For a complete line of Amway cleaning and personal care products - concentrated bio-degradable, 100% money-back guarantee, call Bill and Jewel Magee, 373-2322. Let us send you a brochure and price list.

## Commission Notes

The March 13 Commission Meeting involved 14 agenda items that included a Public Hearing on C.D. Entitlement funds and a Public Hearing on the use of Revenue Sharing Funds. There were several requests from homeowners to allow late tax returns, and the Commissioners agreed to allow them. Bids were awarded to buy a police car, a pickup truck and a fire hose. More activity on the Lower Sugar Retention Basin was awarding compensation for parcels of land in the area.

At the March 20 Meeting, a beer license was issued to Shields Grocery and the first liquor license to be approved by the Commission went to the Jamaica Inn in the First National Bank Building. The Commissioners passed a series of resolutions and motions regarding the traffic problems on Superior Avenue. The plans require waiting until improvements are completed at the Scott and Clairmont intersection.

The Millage rate was set after the 78-79 budget was approved. The budget reflects a 1% increase and includes 5% employee raises, but no new programs. Some cutting was done on the Around Decatur budget. There will be three issues this year at a saving of some \$8,000.00.

The first meeting in April had only one item of business, and that was recognizing and thanking the DeKalb delegation that will create tax districts in DeKalb. It will be voted on in November General Elections as a Constitutional amendment.

April 17, the Commissioners denied the rezoning request for a parking lot on Ponce de Leon Place, placed an 11:45 P.M. deadline on beer and wine package sales and extended until 2:00 A.M. (except Sunday, when no sales are allowed) the sale of liquor by the drink.

# Avery St.

## WRECKER SERVICE INVADES AVERY STREET

The North Dekalb Wrecker Service has just recently bought land behind Atlanta Marble Manufacturing Co. on College Avenue. The wrecker service's parcel of land abuts Avery Street. North Dekalb Wrecker will build a 35 foot wide gravel driveway opening onto Avery Street directly across from several lovely homes.

Mr. English, the owner of the wrecker service says that he would rather use College Avenue but that Mr. Hires, the owner of Atlanta Marble will not let him continue to cross his property and will not sell him an easement or the property outright for use as a driveway. Mr. Hires says that this is true, he will not sell the land as he hopes to expand on his land in the future.

Assistant City Manager, Cal Horton, stated that at the City's urging Mr. English has agreed to put an 8 foot solid fence fronted by some shrubbery on the Avery Street side of his property. An olive green metal building will also be built on the Avery St. lot.

The problem began when the City Commission several years ago when none of the present members were serving changed the zoning from residential to industrial. The present series of events began when part of the Atlanta Marble Co. burned. Mr. Hires then offered to Mr. English the opportunity to buy the land he had been leasing and a connecting piece on Avery.

If you are concerned about this situation write or call city hall, the owners AND come to our meeting May 6.

## COMMISSION NOTES (CONTINUED)

The Summer recreation program was announced. Plans are for day camp program at Glen Lake and supervised playgrounds at McCoy and Ebster. Fees for pools will not be increased. Several residents from Winnona Park spoke to the Commissioners about the property being developed on Avery near College. Mrs. Chrichton explained that the property is zoned light industrial and that the wrecker service plans to erect a building and park cars along Avery Street. Several neighbors spoke about the noise, the 24 hour operation, health hazards, as well as encroachment of business deep into the neighborhood. Mayor Chrichton stated the City stopped the grading until the owner can meet the drainage and erosion requirements. She also mentioned the City can require the owner to erect a fence and plant shrubs, but could not deny the owner access to his property from Avery Street. Mr. Branscombe added that he will be talking further with the owner about the neighborhood concerns.