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Cabbagetown NEIGHBOR

Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association
Volume XXXII • Issue Number Twelve • December 2023

Nearly twenty-five years ago, the idea for the Beltline was described by Ryan Gravel in his now-famous Georgia Tech thesis. The fundamental basis of the concept was relieving Atlanta's increasingly traffic-choked roads by repurposing abandoned or underutilized intown rail lines into a transit and trail corridor. Four years later, the then-chair of the Transportation Committee of the Atlanta City Council, Cathy Woolard, heard about the idea and gave it the political support necessary to move it forward.

To be clear: the Atlanta Beltline vision that's been sold to the public for over two decades was built upon light rail transit at its core.

By 2005, the process of engaging the intown neighborhoods adjacent to the Beltline was underway, as was the fundraising to propel the vision of the project. Much work was done to create the financial mechanisms to acquire the land and begin to assemble the twenty-two mile loop.

YES! TRAINS ON 'OUR BELTLINE'



**BRANDON
SUTTON**

On a sunny October day as I left for a walk to get Revolution Doughnuts, I noticed a sign outside the back gate of the Stacks on Tennelle with the hyperbolic headline "TRAINS?! ON OUR BELTLINE?!" Those same signs, hanging off adult bodies, would make their way into Chomp and Stomp a couple of weeks later. So, what's the story here? Let's review, shall we?

As construction commenced on the early segments of the trail, including the Eastside trail closest to Cabbagetown, the corridor was prepped for future light rail transit. One only needs to look at the bridges over North Avenue to see evidence of this preparation.

Zoning changes that allowed more density along the corridor have resulted in thousands of new housing units in the immediate area around Cabbagetown. Increased development along transit corridors makes perfect sense, but saturating intown neighborhoods with more car-centric development is a recipe for more gridlock. I give you the Krog tunnel as exhibit A.

Funding for transit has historically been challenging in Georgia, and in 2012, a ballot initiative to expand transit across the state failed, leaving the city with fewer options for funding the Atlanta Beltline and other in-demand transit projects. Not to be deterred, the city proposed its own transit referendum in 2016, and MARTA provided a list of potential mass transit projects that would be possible with the tax revenue generated by the tax. Light rail transit on the Atlanta Beltline was top of the list of potential projects championed by MARTA, and it was often included in the headlines of press mentions in advance of the November 2016 vote and in articles celebrating its subsequent passage. *Continued on page twelve.*



Cabbagetown NEIGHBOR

Cabbagetown Neighbor is a monthly newspaper produced by the Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association (CNIA), a non-profit organization. This publication is supported by advertisers. Please submit news articles, announcements, photos, and advertisements to: newsletter@cabbagetown.com.

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The Cabbagetown Neighbor is distributed – each month – during the week before the CNIA meeting (the second Tuesday of each month) to the residents and businesses of Cabbagetown. If you have any delivery problems, please let us know at:

ctowndelivery@gmail.com

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Join the Cabbagetown online community at:

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Visit the official Cabbagetown website at:

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Advertising with the *Cabbagetown Neighbor* is an inexpensive way to reach over 700 homes in Cabbagetown, which includes the residences of *The Fulton Cotton Mill Lofts* and *The Stacks Lofts*. It is also a great way to support the CNIA and the publication of this newspaper. Visit our website at www.cabbagetown.com or write the editor at newsletter@cabbagetown.com for more info.

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1/8 Page 3.75" x 2.25"	\$25	\$70	\$135	\$255
1/4 Page 3.75" x 4.875"	\$50	\$140	\$270	\$510
1/2 Page Horz. 7.5" x 4.875"	\$100	\$280	\$540	\$1,020
1/2 Page Vert. 3.75" x 9.875"	\$100	\$280	\$540	\$1,020
Full Page 7.75" x 9.875"	\$160	\$450	\$870	\$1,680

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Classified ads of 25 words or less and announcements
are free of charge to Cabbagetown residents.

CNIA President's Letter



**MARINANGELES
GUTIERREZ
RIVERA**

What a joyous year we've shared! There was the fantastical Prom night, our Spring Yard Sale with goodies all around, the Georgia Historical Society's reveal of the Historical State Marker at the Mill, then Cabbagetown Winter Olympics giving Savannah St bragging rights...

...but wait, there was more! The 52nd Cabbagetown Reunion, a Caftans & Cocktail night like no other, amazing evening concerts at the Brookshire Amphitheater, New Neighbor Parties in

both the Spring and Fall, good times in the park for Movie Nights, many BINGOS! at the Community Center, a rainy yet cozy Tour of Homes, incredible artistry through our annual Forward Warrior! and quarterly Stacks Squares, the #EndTheException Mural that joined a movement, a Crawl-O-Ween under a full moon, the 20th Chomp & Stomp that brought all the boogie, and ...

*There's still one more special evening to close out the year:
The Holiday Crawl! Saturday, December 16th.
Gather your recipes and we'll see you there.
cabbagetown.com/crawl*

As winter weather rolls in, please consider extending a hand to those who may need it. Your Neighbor, Marina

Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association (CNIA) Meeting Agenda

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 2023 at 6:30p
Meeting to be held at the Cabbagetown Community Center (177 Estoria Street). Find this month's links & materials at www.Cabbagetown.com/agenda

6:30p: Neighbor Meet & Greet with drinks & food

7p: Meeting Begins

I. Welcome!

II. Review & Approval of November Minutes

III. Atlanta Police Department Updates

IV. City of Atlanta: Council Person, Liliana Bakhtiari's Office

- Pearl Street Traffic Calming Project Updates
- Watershed's Krog Tunnel Phase II Updates
- City Updates

V. President/Vice President Report: Marinangeles Gutierrez

- Transportation Committee Updates
- 2024 CNIA Membership Campaign: Open Positions include Communications Chair, Transportation Committee Chair, and other Member At-Large positions.
- New Neighbor? Get connected, cabbagetown.com/membership

VI. Financial Report: Jack Cunningham, Treasurer

VII. Chair Reports:

- Upcoming Cabbagetown Events:

Amanda Bisgaard, Hospitality Chair

- Historic Preservation & Land Use Updates:

Jake Elsas/ Anya Warren , HPLU Chairs

- NPU-N Updates:

John Dirga, NPU N Representative

- Cabbagetown Initiative (CI) Updates: Todd Gandee, CI President

- Cabbagetown Park - Amphitheatre Park Pride Grant

- Wylie Street Safety & Tree Work

- Folks Needed! Volunteer Today

VIII. New Business

IX. Old Business

~8:30p: Adjourn

poetry contest

Spring 2024

WordsOnWylie@gmail.com

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN? ARE YOU A SAGITTARIUS? WISHING THESE CABBAGEHEADS A VERY MERRY BIRTHDAY!

Micah Coleman, Vanessa Rogers, Alvalhalla Vontillius, Nina Caltabiano Elsas, Damian Domingo, Gabriela Audano-Garcia David Goodrowe, Michael Cox, Josh Griffin, Justin "Long Hair" Perry, Marinangeles Gutierrez, Spencer Reeves Meridith Mason-Ward, Virginia Harris, Amanda Morgan-King, Michael Ennis, Suzanne Denham Mason, Jack Richard Sobel Sommer Melody, Lynne Splinter, Susan Bogan Nelson, Sean Tokish, Will Perry, Richard Henry, Cyndi "SinJin" Carpentieri Jared Barber, Zack Gruczkowski, Lisa Myers, Jennifer Wallin, Rw Strothers, Ali Weeks, Jenny Blase Chris "Preacher" McGinness, Walker Oxley, Kim Rydarowski, Ann Brady, Shellie "Shoulders" Marino, Donnell "Big D" Graham Adam Meehan, Melissa Brinson-Sikorski, and Ann-Marie DeChant.

CNIA: General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, 7p. Meeting conducted by Marinangeles Gutierrez Rivera. Minutes by Lucy Perkins.
Location: Cabbagetown Community Center.

1. Welcome - Amanda Bisgaard representing

2. Review and Approval of October Minutes. Minutes approved!

3. Atlanta Police Department Updates - Lt Butler

We live in the safest part of the city. Crime is trending down. Kia and Hyundai updates are preventing thefts. As always, come by the precinct for anti-theft help. Most vehicle break-ins are on Bill Kennedy - don't leave your cars running to warm them up - easy target. Don't leave guns or bags in the car. Smash and grab only takes 10-15 seconds.

4. City of Atlanta Council Person - Council Person Liliana Bakhtiari, Patrick Husbands representing

a. Tour through the park with watershed

b. Communicating with GDOT for updates. Bike lanes from Grant to Pearl but not until 2025 or later; must preserve Oakland. I-20 and Moreland will be updated but might cause issues because they can't happen at the same time. New legislation - paint on road must accompany new stop signs. Storm drain grates - Legislation to prevent bike accidents. New fire equipment to help with shortages (new truck). Watershed had to alter Krog Tunnel 2.0 plans. Plans were submitted to CSX and waiting. Councilmember having a townhall on Wednesday Nov 29th at Turner Monumental Church in Kirkwood.

Pearl Street Traffic Calming Project Updates

Q: Can we also get a curb cut and crosswalk at intersection on Tye and Wylie? A: We will follow up on request that was submitted a year and a half ago.

Q: Do you have information on what is holding that up? It's hindering our grant usage. A: We will find out from watershed what changed and what was denied to see what is holding that up.

Q: Greenery blocking right away on Tye and Gaskill - hard to see and park. A: request submitted to code enforcement - much growth coming from property owner. Lately overgrowth issues have taken awhile to get resolved. We will check with Georgia Power as well.

Q: Traffic Light at Blvd and Edgewood - the right turn only lane should be the straight lane and the left lane should be a left turn lane. A: The city is going to tackle it but not until the Blvd/Monroe street project which will be awhile.

Q: Pearl street traffic calming? A: We don't have an update yet. Will find out later this week.

Q: Two people experiencing homelessness and holding their belongings on the streets here - can we help in any way? A: Send information and we will forward to Denise at *Partners for Home*.

5. NPU-N Updates - John Dirga, Cabbagetown Representative

Property crime is up but not violent crime. Liliana has standing meetings with DOT - we will stay on them. Cocktails with councilmember happened on the 9th - follow on social media to find regular meet-ups. *City Design Studio* is doing a project on LGBTQ+ - finding historic locations and possibly legal protection

for the areas. Find out more on the department of city planning website. Holiday meetings have been updated. Nov 30th is the next one. Better Atlanta Transit will be making a presentation. (group that thinks light rail on the beltline is a misuse of resources).

Beltline Rail Now - is trying to connect communities via the beltline. Join transportation committee to give input! info@caggabetown.com. Reynoldstown upset at a beltline overlay ordinance that says you have to have street level windows - **Girl Diver** took it to court. Grant for Wylie street calming. We could apply but we can't because we haven't spent on the money on the last one (Krog holding us up). Little Five Points started a B.I.D. as opposed to C.I.D. (community improvement district) to get tax assessments on apartment complexes as well as private property and security. Moving towards lighting and security for the moreland ave area. Payments for **Stack Squares 12** - Murals on Carroll Street are application based - taking applications. Connections to neighborhood is great! All levels! Round of applause to Bakhtiari for new lease on Community Center. Three year lease - longest that the city does. No longer month-to-month. More things than just administrative use. We can legally rent it out! Finalizing rent and changing access. Fixing bathrooms and such before we can rent it out. **Park Pride Grant** - walk through with watershed - they don't think the flooding is their problem. Councilmember has our back. Capital improvements from park pride grant - fixing amphitheater and electricity, building a platform, and dredging the pond behind it. We can use this opportunity to over fundraise and fix more things in the park. Please donate so we can fix lots of other park things!

Q: When does transportation meet? A: First Thurs of every month.

6. Vice-President Report - Amanda Bisgaard

a. Transportation Committee Updates. Reynoldstown bikers want bike parking - new app that allows you to report when there is or isn't bike parking - please use! <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/df4e2ae9a8024bb198b0117decba8d52/?draft=true> Bike lane on Memorial. There is an opportunity if you want to write a letter in support of that effort. If you would like to borrow from the committee's letter please go here: cabbagetown.com/transportation-committee. Stop sign requests and traffic calming requests- Gaskill and Tye , Memorial and Tye. Pearl street traffic calming but also two additional stop signs requested.

Motion to approve Gaskill and Tye stop sign. No opposed - passes!

Q: Can we get a stop sign on Herald and Pearl? A: Send to Marina to bring to transportation committee. CNIA Membership Campaign: Open Positions include Communications Chair, Transportation Committee Chair, and other Member At-Large positions. If interested, email or talk to us.

7. Financial Report - Jack Cunningham, Treasurer

a. Budget Update. Limited events but receipts owed for Crawl-O-Ween - sponsored by CNIA to see what involvement was. If you have comments or feedback please share: CNIAtreasurer@cabbagetown.com. Hospitality committee has sent ideas for next year. *Continued on page 8.*

BIG NEWS: A C'TOWN MUSEUM!

By Kyle F. Bidlack

2023 was a crazy-busy year for The Patch Works Art & History Center. Grant writing, historic markers, community events, Olympic Games, committee work, walking tours, articles, and more digital content... to name a few.

And now we get word from Nina & Jake Elsas, that 2024 will be their biggest year yet. They are setting their eyes on building a brand new brick and mortar museum, which will probably be built very close to all of us. If you'd like to donate (please!), go here: <https://www.gagives.org/organization/Patch-Works-Art-And-History-Center>

The Cabbagetown Neighbor reached out to Patch Works regarding the possible location for the museum. Jake said "we would LOVE to start talking about museum locations, but... well... it's honestly a bit too soon. There are discussions that still need to be finalized. But the rendering that's being made could apply in all of the spaces we've identified. Suffice it to say, we are very serious about this. This ain't no idealistic fantasy that'll never come to fruition... it WILL happen!"



This will be a "monumentally" heavy lift! If Cabbageheads come together on this, it WILL be one helluva crown for one helluva 'hood! To donate, simply aim the camera of your smart phone at this QR code and tap the screen.

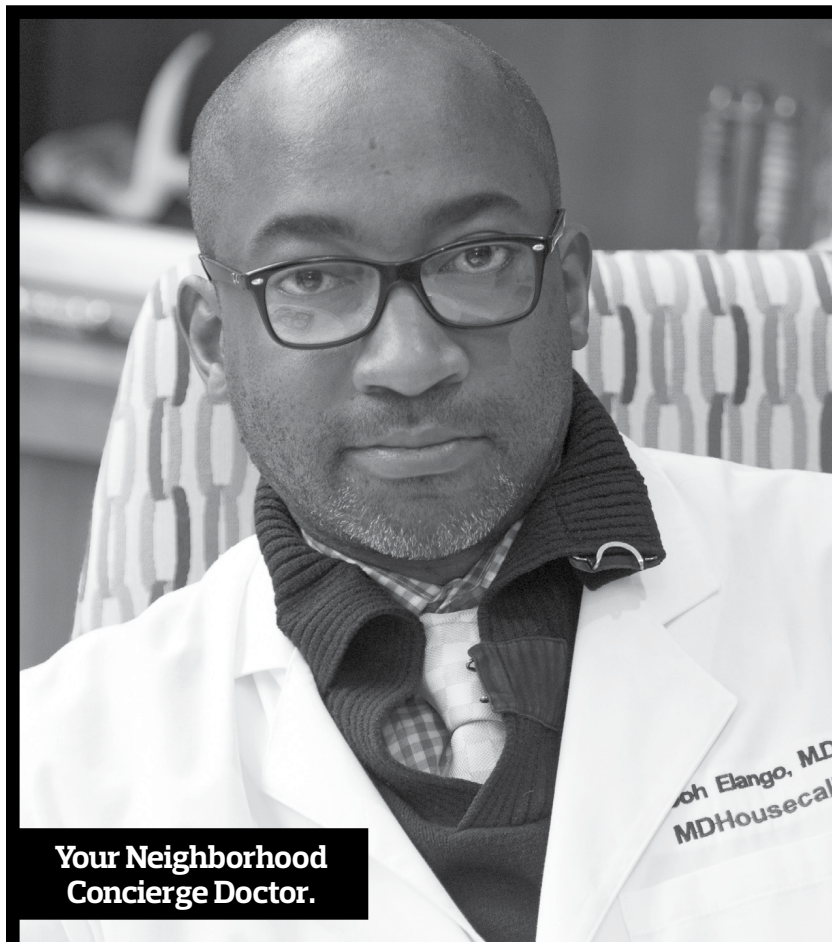


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CABBAGETOWN

...HOLIDAY...
CRAWL

DECEMBER 16



5:30-10:00PM

APPETIZERS- 5:30PM

141 Pearl St

SOUPS AND SALADS- 6:30PM

215 Estoria St.

ENTREES- 7:30PM

177 Estoria St.

DESSERTS- 9:00PM

700 Gaskill St.

NIGHTCAPS AT MILTOWN ARMS TAVERN



\$35 ENTRY, \$10 IF YOU BRING A DISH
RSVP AT CABBAGETOWN.COM/CRAWL



C'town Chows: 8 Crazy Nights & Bites



STACY
and **JAKE**

'Tis the season to be jolly, Cabbageheads!

The holidays are upon us, and we thought we'd shine a light (or eight) on some Hanukkah traditions, dishes & treats we enjoy to celebrate the Jewish holiday. This year, Hanukkah starts on Dec. 7 at nightfall and ends on Dec. 15 at nightfall. **From potato latkes and jelly-filled donuts to dreidels and gelt, let's dig in!**

As many people may be familiar with, potato latkes (also known as potato pancakes) are a staple Hanukkah food. We won't spend time detailing the "why" behind eating latkes on Hanukkah, but Google has a great explanation. Crispy golden brown edges with a Waffle House-esque onion & potato center, latkes are the ultimate comfort food. They're often accompanied by applesauce or sour cream, and most people have a strong opinion on using one or the other.



Photo by Stacy

Jake is hell-bent on only dipping latkes in applesauce, while Stacy likes a sour cream & applesauce combo. As much as we'd like to pay homage to my Buba's homemade latkes, no one has time for that. So, we typically stock up on the frozen potato latkes from Trader Joe's. A quick pop in the air fryer and you'd never know the difference! You can also check out **The General Muir**

in Emory Point (a New York Jewish-style deli) for freshly made potato latkes, and of course, matzoh ball soup.

For a little something sweet, we also traditionally eat jelly-filled donuts (also known as sufganiyot). Similarly to the reason we eat latkes (if you haven't Googled it yet, do that!), the donuts represent the oil that miraculously burned to light the ancient menorah for eight days instead of just one. The donuts are typically filled with a strawberry or raspberry jelly but can also be filled with custard or any filling of your choosing! They're then dusted on top with sweet powdered sugar. **Revolution Donuts** often serves these seasonal delights during Hanukkah, so we highly recommend giving it a try.

Another fun Hanukkah tradition perfect for the whole family is playing a game of Dreidel. If you've never played, a dreidel is essentially a four-sided spinner toy (traditionally made of clay) which has a different Hebrew letter on each side representing what to do. There's a pot of gelt (chocolate coins), and you can either win nothing, win half, win it all, or give up all your stash. Again, Google will have much more detailed instructions rather than this half-assed explanation.

Anyway, playing dreidel can also be a fun adult-only drinking game to spice things up. L'chaim! From personal experience, there are barely any stores in Atlanta to purchase dreidels and gelt, so your best bet is to order from Amazon. If you know of any local businesses that sell Hanukkah goodies, let your fellow Jewish pals know!

If you want to add a Hanukkah movie to your holiday movie-thon roster this year, check out Eight Crazy Nights - a musical comedy animated film by Adam Sandler, taking inspiration from Sandler's song, "The Hanukkah Song," which he famously performed on SNL's Weekend Update sketch.

From our family to yours, we're wishing you a season filled with love, acceptance, peace, health, happiness and of course, delicious eats. **Drop us a line at stacy.spector22@gmail.com for where we should check out next!**

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CABBAGETOWN**

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CABBAGETOWN NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION: Meeting Minutes

Continued from page four.

If you want to get involved or have ideas please send them along.

8. Committee Reports

a. Cabbagetown Initiative (CI)- Todd Gandee, CI President, Barry representing. Chomp was great! Break after chomp, meeting coming in December. Numbers are back since Covid. Estimating about no more than the permit allowed.

b. Upcoming C'town Events - Amanda Bisgaard, Hospitality Chair Halloween was great. Holiday Crawl December 16th - we have a volunteer for final house!

c. Historic Preservation and Land Use Committee - Jacob Elsas/Any Warren, Co-Chairs

Architect present! - Additions and modifications to 127 Short street. Minor addition on back and renovation of basement. Minimal changes are being made. HPLU was presented to - it was discussed. Overwhelmingly liked as is except the French Doors on the back. There has never been consistency about whether to approve or not - split vote. Need the neighborhood to discuss how they feel about French Doors in the guidelines. Q: Can we send out a survey? A: Eventually - it could be a variance. Technically they're not allowed because they're not specified. HPLU will write a letter saying what happened at each meeting to the UDC which will help with their decision. Motion to approve the plans as presented. 16 yeses, 3 opposed, 2 abstains. Motion approved.

9. New Business

Solicitation for *Patchworks Art History Center* Nov. 28th *Giving Tuesday* - big day for nonprofits. Campaign on *Georgia Gives* and info on the website if anyone is interested in donating or getting the word out. If we can get people to donate from a certain time frame they can get Georgia Gives to give \$1000 more dollars. So... 8p on the 28th - donate! This year, Patchworks would like to build a new museum.

10. Old Business

11. Motion to end meeting. *Seconded! Meeting over 8:14p*

DON'T MISS CABBAGETOWN'S WORLD FAMOUS

HOLIDAY CRAWL

SATURDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 16TH

MARINA SAYS "GATHER YOUR RECIPES AND WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!"

FOR MORE INFORMATION, BE SURE TO CHECK OUT PAGE SIX.

ENGEL&VÖLKERS

Happy Holidays

To all my Cabbagetown neighbors! Sending you warm wishes this holiday season!

Your Neighbor and Cabbagetown Expert, James Robbins

James Robbins, Engel & Völkers Atlanta
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Should the new year bring about a change in address for you? Scan below for an in depth market analysis of homes in Cabbagetown.



SECRETS OF ASH

A Book Review

by Kyle F. Bidlack

If you've been around Atlanta for a few years, you'll recognize the author's name. Josh Green is an award-winning journalist, fiction author, and editor whose work has appeared in *Atlanta*, *Garden & Gun*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and *The Los Angeles Review*. His first book, *Dirtyville Rhapsodies*, was hailed by *Men's Health* as a "Best Book for the Beach" and was named a top 10 book of the year by *Atlanta*.



Josh's latest novel is called Secrets of Ash, and if you're like me, this book will cure what ails ya. Long ago, I fell in love with Hemingway's storytelling. Read all his books till there weren't any more to read. Then started looking for other authors like Hemingway. I thought Tom Clancy came close for a while, but then realized he didn't.

When Josh tells a story, his words can be celebratory, mournful, informative, and inquisitive, all at the same time. Josh pinballs from storyline to storyline in a way that is in tune with life's darts and turns.

Most folks seem to agree that this book is downright impossible to put down at certain points. Hemingway taught lots of good lessons and painted a ton of great scenes. I had forgotten a few of them. Josh Green reminded me.

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for someone special? Look no further. C'town even gets a cameo. *Secrets of Ash* is available at most book outlets (for \$16.95) including Bookshop.org and Amazon.com

Here's the official write-up: *Secrets of Ash* is a riveting, fast-paced, and suspenseful novel of fraternal love and dark memories, told from the alternating points of view of two brothers who cross a lifetime, and a rugged mountain, to come to terms with themselves and each other.

After a checkered boyhood spent under a domineering father in a well-to-do Atlanta 'hood, brothers Chase and Jack Lumpkin take separate paths. Older brother Jack – always his brother's protector – becomes a national sports radio host, with all the trappings of success that come to the voice of Atlanta's own "Morning Madness with Bachelor Jack."

Chase, always the rebel, joins the Army and finds himself in Afghanistan. After sustaining wounds and receiving a Purple Heart, he returns to Georgia, where he retreats into the mountains of Ash County, a deeply troubled man, suffering from PTSD and a gnawing conscience about a murder committed during the haze of war.

Meanwhile, Bachelor Jack falls victim to his own excesses. When an on-air interview with an NFL coach nearly ends in a brawl, he swears off his A-List lifestyle, takes a leave of absence, and heads to the high country to visit his brother.

But Chase is not home in his rustic cabin – he's in more trouble than they could ever have imagined.

PAGE 9 NEWS

Cabbagetown has its fair share of weirdness and funk. But step outside of our friendly confines, and things get even weirder and funkier. Don't believe us? Read on...

Florida Woman

In West Palm Beach, Florida, on Nov. 9, Kelly Jacobson was heartbroken after officers led away her pet pig, Pork Chop, during an eviction. WPTV reported that animal care and control officers actually had to drag the pig, as he weighs 400 pounds and can't really walk. They plan to gain custody of Pork Chop and get him the dietary care he needs. Jacobson has been cited twice before for neglecting his needs, but she said she would "do whatever I have to do to make him better. I need him."

Florida Man

Rudy Wilcox, 45, of Clearwater, Florida, was "observed defecating on a deceased opossum" on Nov. 15, according to *The Smoking Gun*. Officers with the Clearwater Police Department said he was in "full view of the motoring public during busy traffic times." While Wilcox denied the accusation, officers found "physical evidence" to support the charges. Just one question: What would have happened if the opossum were only playing possum?! Wilcox was jailed.

Move over, Mountain Dew

When a game warden pulled over a pickup truck near Lubbock, Texas, on Nov. 8, the driver and passenger obligingly waited with a deputy while the Texas Parks and Wildlife officer searched the vehicle, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported. At one point, the driver asked for permission to retrieve a burrito and 44-ounce drink from the cab, telling the officer that he "did not have any drugs or anything in the vehicle." Ah, but how about that big drink? When the officer removed the lid from the cup, he found an orange bag inside with 5 grams of methamphetamine. The driver was taken into custody.

Santa's Naughty List

Henry Meade, 40, was busy spreading the Christmas spirit on Nov. 11 in Tazewell, Tennessee, Fox59-TV reported. Meade was operating "Santa's Train," a riding lawn mower pulling a cart with children and families, at the town's Christmas Tractor Parade. But visitors thought Meade was acting erratically and reported him to police. He subsequently failed a sobriety test, and officers found a syringe, meth and other narcotics in his possession. He was charged with possession and driving under the influence.

Florida Woman, Part Deux

It was always Sara Fazekas' dream to have sex in public, and so she did, on Nov. 10 in Dunedin, Florida, the *New York Post* reported. Fazekas, 55, and Robert Clarke, 60, weren't a bit shy about fulfilling her lifelong goal. The police report said the couple were "fully nude on top of one another" on a causeway, even as adults and children looked on. One witness said they were "going to town," but Clarke, a registered sex offender, told police he had no remorse and that "children should be at home and not at the causeway." He was held on \$50,000 bond; Fazekas was charged with exposing herself.

TENDING TO OUR TREES



JOHN DIRGA

Cabbagetown Initiative (CI) has been working with CSX Transportation to address safety issues along Tonnelle and Wylie Street. After careful consultation with private contractors and public policy experts (including Davey Tree Service, Boutte Tree Inc, Trees Atlanta, and the City of Atlanta Arborist), we have agreed on the most responsible course of action. You may have noticed some trees marked for removal. We do not take these considerations lightly, and there are several

professionally recommended steps ahead to ensure a healthy and attractive tree cover for many years to come.

Wherever possible, replacement trees will grow to honor their forebears. Many of us work incredibly hard to make Wylie Street into a restful, welcoming environment, and we appreciate your trust and support in this difficult decision. Most importantly, your continued support is needed to ensure completion of the many crucial steps required to ensure the continued health of existing trees, including addressing soil compaction, erosion, root girdling, treatable disease, and canopy management.

Residents are cautioned to exercise patience while we implement the strategy most likely to succeed. Also, it takes a really long time for a tree to thrive. Rejoice in the knowledge that we too adore this little strip of land as much as our beloved public parks. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, solutions, and offers to better assist.

*More details: cabbagetown.com/wip
Questions? info@cabbagetown.com*

If one looks closely, the 1987 planting pattern (especially where it integrates with the sidewalk curves) is illuminated, and the presence of weed trees becomes easy to recognize. Several are growing too close to the sidewalk or wall, and risk becoming destructive, or otherwise interfere with overall health of the planned root system.

Barry Hestermann (CI Parks Committee) & John Dirga (CI Wall Committee, NPU Representative) collaborated with CSX Transportation's Craig Camuso (SVP Governmental Affairs - Southeast) concerning this important pedestrian safety and sidewalk integrity project along Wylie Street. While this parcel is CSX private property, it includes a public pathway adjacent vehicular right of way. Your questions and concerns are valuable. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, solutions, and offers to assist.

GENTLEMEN

Please remember to remove your hats when indoors, and please hold doors open for ladies when entering or exiting a building or vehicle.

Top of the Charts

By Kyle F. Bidlack

What is Cabbagetown listening to? Good question.

Here's November's hottest songs on the *Milltown Tavern* juke box.

- 1 CREED WITH ARMS WIDE OPEN
- 2 CREED HIGHER
- 3 DROWNING POOL BODIES
- 4 THE LUMINEERS CLASSY GIRLS
- 5 PEARL JAM ALIVE
- 6 SUBLIME SANTERIA
- 7 ALABAMA SHAKES DON'T WANNA FIGHT
- 8 DEFTONES CHANGE
- 9 KAVINSKY NIGHTCALL
- 10 THE 1975 CHOCOLATE
- 11 HAIM THE WIRE
- 12 ALIEN ANT FARM SMOOTH CRIMINAL
- 13 PUDDLE OF MUDD BLURRY
- 14 AWOLNATION SAIL
- 15 RUSTED ROOT SEND ME ON MY WAY

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CAMELLIA SEASON HAS BEGUN!



**ARTY
SCHRONCE**

*Camellia season begins for us in September when the tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*) starts to bloom.* Its flowers are small compared to most other camellias, but they are a pure white and are crowned with a large mass of golden stamens which is almost as large and showy as the petals. This is the source of tea. Yes, tea is made from the buds and young leaves of this species of camellia, and you can grow it in your garden. It's worth growing for novelty and history, but it is an attractive plant as well. There is a pink variety, but I prefer the white.

Tea-oil camellia (*Camellia oleifera*), like the tea plant, is not regularly seen in landscapes or in the nursery trade but it is worth seeking and planting. The seeds of the tea-oil camellia (the *oleifera* in its botanical name means oil-bearing) are the source of a cooking oil in Asia. I wonder if we can't start growing this as a crop in America. It is the most cold hardy of the camellias, and very easy to grow from seeds of which it produces many – it seems every flower produces a pod with several large seeds. Its flowers are white, though there is a variety blushed with pink. It begins blooming in October. I regularly use branches of this camellia in flower arrangements for church.

The sasanqua camellia (*Camellia sasanqua*) is the most prominent of the fall-blooming camellias. It has not gotten the attention that the Japanese camellia (*Camellia japonica*) has. The Japanese camellia, usually just referred to as "camellia," has larger flowers and many more varieties. The sasanqua camellia (sometimes simply called "sasanqua,") deserves more attention and more use. It begins blooming in October and continues into the winter depending on the variety. It tolerates more sun than the Japanese camellia, has smaller leaves and a more refined appearance. There are double-flowered varieties but the single-flowered ones are more attractive in my opinion. They can also have a pleasant fragrance.

Japanese camellia is the show dog of the camellia world. Hundreds of years of breeding and selection have yielded numerous flower forms, colors and bloom times. Its varieties can start blooming in late fall, winter or in the spring. I prefer the winter bloomers. I have had camellia blooms on Christmas day, and they should be as much a part of our holiday celebration as poinsettias.

Check out the camellia display as the Atlanta Botanical Garden or, better yet, at the garden of the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley. (Become a member if you really want to know more about camellias.) *Pike's* and *Gardenhood* are two local sources of camellias. Mail-order sources include *Camellia Forest* in Chapel Hill, NC and *Woodlanders* in Aiken, SC. There are other species of camellias and hybrids between species that are worth considering. I haven't met a camellia yet that I didn't like!

Arty Schronce is a degreed horticulturist, garden writer and lecturer whose articles and photographs have appeared in numerous newspapers and various magazines and books.

Stacks Squares

Round XIII coming soon..

cabbagetown.com/squares

ONE LAST LOOK... CRAWL-O-WEEN 2023



One of the members of "All Your Worst Fears" – Pyromaniac, delivers the worst fear of any scarecrow. Photo by Dian Huff.

\$19M FOR NEW FIRE TRUCKS

By Kyle F. Bidlack

You may have heard the news in October that Atlanta was woefully short of fire trucks. Fire stations were stretched dangerously thin and emergency response times were lengthened.

In response, the Atlanta City Council approved legislation this past month to authorize executing a master lease agreement with JP Morgan Chase Bank to provide for the City's acquisition of replacement equipment and vehicles for the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department in an amount not to exceed \$19 million. This item was an immediate consideration and sent to the mayor's office post-haste.

Also included: a resolution requesting Invest Atlanta authorize Tax Allocation District funding at \$8.7 million for Atlanta Fire Rescue Department's emergency fleet replacement purchases to include fire engines, battalion chief vehicles, and heavy apparatus.

In other City Council news, the Council approved an ordinance authorizing a donation of \$10,000 to the Atlanta Police Foundation to supplement the reward for information which results in the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the hit-and-run of Brittany Glover.

A resolution urging the Georgia General Assembly and the United States Congress to endorse policies that support economic opportunities for minority female business entrepreneurs to continue serving Atlanta's national model of minority participation.

An ordinance requiring that all video surveillance cameras procured for use in the City of Atlanta parks or any City facility are compatible with the specifications of the Atlanta Police Department's video surveillance program.

An ordinance to amend Chapter 74 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances to provide for a minimum fine of \$500 for a person or

entity guilty of the offense of the unlawful disposal of litter where the litter is disposed of in an area of 100 sq. ft. or more on private property or property open to the public within the city.

A resolution to express the Atlanta City Council support for The Carter Center's call for cease-fire in Israel and Gaza, urging swift and safe return of all hostages, to support the establishment of humanitarian corridors, and the reinstatement of essential services. This was an immediate consideration.

An ordinance authorizing the mayor, or his designee, to accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration in an amount not to exceed \$25 million for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant.

An ordinance to ratify Mayor Andre Dickens' October 2023 executive order imposing a moratorium on the acceptance of any rezoning, building permit, land disturbance permit, special-use permit, special administrative permit, subdivision, replating, or lot consolidation applications for parcels within the former Atlanta Medical Center site.

A resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Sandy Springs for the construction of the PATH 400 multi-use trail extension along State Route 400 from Loridans Drive within the city limits of Atlanta through the city limits of Sandy Springs and south of Johnson Ferry Road in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

A resolution urging the Georgia General Assembly to enhance super speeding and drunk driving laws in Atlanta. The legislation is titled Erica's Law.

YES! TRAINS ON 'OUR BELTLINE'

Continued from front page. The 2016 transit referendum passed with an overwhelming 71% of the vote. It turns out, Atlanta voters want transit and are willing to pay for it.

Much was written about the success of the transit referendum in late 2016, and people from across the city celebrated that the Atlanta Beltline finally had the funding required to deliver on one of its core promises – a dedicated transit corridor connecting intown neighborhoods. At long last, there was some wind in the sails, and we began to see how this would actually happen.

We have been paying this tax for seven years now, and the time has arrived for final planning for the first section of light rail on the Beltline, which would connect Downtown to Ponce City Market, along some of the most popular and populous areas of our city. The effort to stop light rail is leaning on some dubious claims that frankly occur to me as misleading and disingenuous. It's about the trees! It's dangerous! It's not broken, so why fix it?! And my personal favorite, 'Our Beltline.' I'm dying to know who the 'Our' is in that statement.

Our Beltline is the one that includes everyone in Atlanta, not just the people who have benefited from the success of the early segments of

trail. It's the one that connects forty-five intown neighborhoods with mobility options that aren't predicated on physical fitness and good weather. It's the one that community leaders and elected officials have championed for over 20 years. It's the one that was used as an example of transit projects that would be funded by the 2016 sales tax referendum. And it's the one that received overwhelming support during the Hulsey Yard Master Plan public engagement process in 2019.

If we want to have a debate on how to optimize the light rail line and make it the best it can be, that's a worthy discussion. If we want to ensure that the long-term transit vision for the city continues to provide opportunities to Atlantans of all economic backgrounds, let's go there. And if we want to ask the important questions about how to pay for the Atlanta we want to live in, by all means let's have that conversation.

But let us not forget that the only existing dedicated right-of-way that we already own and that has been promoted as a light rail transit corridor for over twenty years is the single most transformative opportunity we have for moving people around and connecting them to jobs and opportunities. There need be no confusion here. Yes, trains on 'Our Beltline' – just like we were promised.

Rosalynn Carter

By Kyle F. Bidlack

Cabbagetown mourns. First Lady, Eleanor Rosalynn Carter passed away on November 19th, 2023. Rosalynn used her voice to advocate passionately for mental health issues, equal rights, and worked tirelessly – with her husband – to address housing issues through Habitat for Humanity. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999.



During the 1976 election cycle, journalists dubbed Rosalynn the "steel magnolia" for having a fragile and feminine appearance that concealed a "tough as nails" interior.

Lady Ashley McCartney noted that *"we will probably never see another presidential marriage as endearing and enduring – 77 years – as Rosalynn and Jimmy's."* One of our C'town neighbors – Alessandro Marazzi-Sassoon – a local journalist, shared with a small group of friends, a poem that Jimmy wrote. Fittingly, Jimmy captured the beauty of Rosalynn, better than anyone else.

She'd smile, and birds would feel that they no longer had to sing, or it may be I failed to hear their song.

Within a crowd, I'd hope her glance might be for me, but I knew that she was shy, and wished to be alone.

I'd pay to sit behind her, blind to what was on the screen, and watch the image flicker upon her hair.

I'd glow when her diminished voice would clear the muddled thoughts, like lightening flashing in a gloomy sky.

The nothing in my soul with her aloof was changed to foolish fullness when she came to be with me.

With shyness gone and hair caressed with gray, her smile still makes the birds forget to sing and me to hear their song.

Former President Carter said of his wife following her death, *"Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished."*



**CABBAGETOWN
HOLIDAY DECORATION
CONTEST**

'Tis the season to spread joy and light up our neighborhood with festive cheer! We're excited to announce the Cabbagetown Holiday Decoration Contest, and we invite you to participate and showcase your creativity.

Judging will be conducted by top secret judges between December 15th and 22nd. The top three winners will receive a special prize and bragging rights for a full year.

We can't wait to see your dazzling displays and feel the warmth of the holidays in our beloved Cabbagetown neighborhood. May your creativity shine bright and bring joy to all who visit.

Happy decorating and best of luck!

AM

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CATS OF C'TOWN: THE DON OF CABBAGETOWN

By Chelsea and Melissa

Editor's note: Dexter passed on last month and the outpouring of warm emotion was a beautiful reflection of who we are. In honour of Dexter – and all who loved him – we are re-running his "Cats of C'town" profile from our May 2022 edition.

Anyone who has ever waited for a burger outside Little's will have become acquainted with Dexter, arguably Cabbagetown's most popular resident and one of Atlanta's most famous cats. You've seen him holding court in his special "Cat Goes Here" spot, but do you really know anything about Dexter? To learn more, we spoke with Tad Porter, longtime resident of Cabbagetown and Dexter's current owner. Both Dexter and Tad live on Carroll Street – Dexter in front of Little's, and Tad, above.

Tell us a little about Dexter.

Dexter is between 15 and 17 years old. Contrary to (semi-)popular belief, Dexter is a fixed boy. He originally lived next door to *Little's* with Russell, but did not get along with Russell's girlfriend's German Shepherd. After that, he was a mostly outdoor cat, living along Carroll Street and getting lots of food and attention from neighbors and visitors. He had a friend named Dirk that also lived on Carroll Street, but they fought a lot because he would try to eat all of Dexter's food. You may have noticed a lot of black cats in the neighborhood. They could be members of Dexter's family.

How did he end up with you?

In the winter of 2016, I noticed that Dexter was coughing a little and seemed a little cold. I took him to the vet, and it turned out he had asthma, so I invited him to stay inside at night. After that, he became a nighttime indoor cat.

Tell us something we may not know about Dexter.

Dexter was once cat-napped! The story is that a visitor to the neighborhood likely thought he was a street cat and tried to take him home. They made it as far as Iswald Street, which happens to be the

location of a large colony of cats. Dexter was found stuck in a fence and had been attacked by another cat!

I took him to the vet, and at first they thought maybe he would need to have his leg amputated. It turned out to be fine, but Dexter did lose the tip of his tail in the incident. Nina Cunard helped set up a GoFundMe to raise money to pay for Dexter's medical bills.

If you see Dexter outside Little's, please do not try to take him home! He has a home and is very well fed! Since his cat-napping, he's been spending more time inside, with Tad.



Tad (left) and Dexter (right). Two wonderful souls.

ATL RANKED NO. 2 HOTTEST RENTAL MARKET IN THE NATION

By Josh Green, Urbanize Atlanta

If it seems like there's an endless construction pipeline of new rental properties in your Atlanta neighborhood, this could help explain why. Of the 150 largest U.S. cities by population in the contiguous U.S., the ATL has been ranked as the second "most desired" city among renters in November, according to a new analysis by nationwide apartment search website **RentCafe.com**.

Atlanta's rental scene has performed well in the monthly study throughout 2023, especially when the city was slotted as the No. 1 hottest rental market in April, marking the beginning of the high season. November's No. 2 ranking was three spots higher than the previous month's.

"Atlanta has ranked among the top 10 cities ever since [April] as renters have been intensely searching for apartments here all through the year," a RentCafe.com rep wrote to Urbanize Atlanta.

According to analysts, a relatively small one percent increase in Atlanta's available apartments in November is reflective of high demand. That's despite a solid decade of multifamily development growth across the city.

RentCafe.com credits Atlanta's status as "one of the South's most dynamic tech hubs" with helping set it apart.

In addition to Atlanta locals looking to switch apartments, the majority of out-of-state searches were tracked to New York City, Chicago, and Orlando, showing "significant growth in the number of favored listings and saved personalized searches," per the analysis.

For the first time, Minneapolis claimed the No. 1 spot on the renting-demand hotlist this month. Atlanta and Orlando (No. 8) were the only Southern cities to make the top ten.



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BENJAMIN: BEAUTIFUL, REBELLIOUS & RADICAL

By Gloria Crespo MacLennan, El Pais

Cabbagetown is an unusual name for a neighborhood. Situated southeast of Atlanta, it's one of the oldest parts of the city, settled by dirt-poor job-seekers from Appalachia who built the old, narrow wooden houses that are now being swallowed up by rapid gentrification. Robert Dickerson (1960-1999) lived in one of those Cabbagetown houses. Better known as Benjamin, the rebellious poet and singer-songwriter fronted the band Smoke, which is how photographer Michael Ackerman met him.

After a show, Ackerman was invited to the musician's house for an all-night party and fell asleep in one of the rooms. *"A few hours later I woke up, looked in his room and saw him asleep on the floor in front of his bed. Now, 27 years later, I try to remember how I felt seeing him laying there so fragile. I took a picture, picked him up in my arms and carried him to his bed. Then I went out into the daylight to discover Cabbagetown."*

That first photo was followed by many more, leading to a close friendship. These photographs are now part of *Smoke*, a powerful photo book from French publisher *l'axolotl* that aims to revive the romantic and Dionysian spirit of the underground poet.

Benjamin's delicate beauty has been called angelic. His raspy voice evokes the profound melancholy of Tom Waits. His soulful ballads rival the melodic masterpieces of the incomparable Nick Cave. Ackerman's book is also a tribute to old Cabbagetown, *"a neighborhood where kids build go-karts, end up in jail at a young age, and watch their parents using lots of inhalants,"* said Benjamin. It's a step back in time through Ackerman's spectral and hallucinogenic photos – dark, grainy and timeless, free of constrictions, beyond good and bad taste, beyond evil and righteousness.

Ackerman met Benjamin through filmmaker Jem Cohen, who with Peter Sillen directed the documentary Benjamin Smoke (2000). The film covers a 10-year arc, during which Ackerman frequently collaborated with the filmmakers. Many of the images included in the photo book are stills from the film. *Continues on next page.*



*Patti Smith and Benjamin Smoke.
From 'Smoke' by Michael Ackerman.*



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A NEW PHOTO BOOK EXPLORES THE AMERICAN UNDERGROUND MUSICIAN AND POET'S WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF MICHAEL ACKERMAN

Continued from previous page. At the time, Ackerman had not yet published *End Time City* (1999), the radical portrayal of the Indian city of Benares (Varanasi), the holy City of Light on the shore of the Ganges. The book that solidified Ackerman's reputation as a photographer takes a journey that oscillates between dreamlike wonder and unsettling darkness in a city where life is celebrated amid death. These same characteristics permeate *Smoke*, where tenderness intertwines with life's hardships and human existence grapples with despair.

Born in Israel, Ackerman was raised in New York and now lives in Berlin. His interest in the vulnerable side of life stems from the perspective of a perpetual outsider. He sees photography as a way to reveal truths and find meaning in the unexpected.

Smoke incorporates various elements to capture the passage of time: double exposures, dreamlike images, and personal artifacts like contact sheets and Polaroids. These visual elements, along with contributions from friends and collaborators, create a powerful portrait of Benjamin's life. Ackerman includes pages with song lyrics from Benjamin's notebook, moldy pictures from his photo albums, a blue letter and a red postcard from his friend *Cat Power* (Charlyn Marie Marshall), a drawing by *Magdalena Franczak*, as well as a hazy portrait by photographer *Adam Cohen* of a gravely ill Benjamin.

"This book is a family album with pages missing; a scrapbook of Benjamin's Cabbagetown," says a note by Cohen in *Smoke*. The musician *"has left the heterosexual world behind. He speaks in beautiful circles. . . He talks about the octopus, his otherness, his intelligence and himself. . ."* The singer-songwriter developed a fascination for drag when he was only nine. Patti Smith's *Horses* was his gospel when the 18-year-old Benjamin moved to New York and got a job sweeping floors at the legendary CBGB punk-rock club.

After returning to Georgia, he joined various bands, but didn't get much recognition until he fronted *Smoke* as an openly queer musician. In 1994, he released his debut LP, *Heaven on a Popsicle Stick*. The following year, his album *Another Reason to Fast* received critical acclaim.

Few were aware that Benjamin's lifestyle and years of drug addiction had given him AIDS and hepatitis C. His idol Patti Smith came to one of his concerts, and in 1997, she invited him and his band to come on stage. Benjamin touched the sky for the first time. He died almost two years later, one day after his 39th birthday. For his musical epitaph, Smith wrote *Death Singing*: *"Have you seen death singing / With a throat smooth as a lamb / Yet dry as a branch not snapping / He throws back his head / And he does not sing a thing mournful / Have you seen death singing."*

The book is hard to find but occasionally pops up on Amazon.com and retails for \$240.00

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KATHERINE THE GREAT



KATIE BUTLER

Cabbagetown's Katherine Dirga has run *Chomp and Stomp*, presided over CNIA and the Cabbagetown Initiative (CI), and contributed to the Cabbagetown Community Garden, among many, many other heartfelt contributions to our little corner of Atlanta.

But Cabbagetown isn't the only thing Katherine is dedicated to! Through her day job as Director for *MARTA's Art in Transit program*, Katherine helps make MARTA

more intriguing and beautiful by sourcing and placing public art (permanent and temporary visual art; live music, dance, and theater) around MARTA stations.



From left to right: Whitney Bolster, Katherine Dirga, and Katie Butler.

On October 14th, an entire community took notice when the *Atlanta Design Festival* presented an inaugural "*Design is Human*" award to Katherine.

The awards celebrate those making significant contributions to Atlanta's "*creative ecosystem, culture, and economy.*" A few of us found out about this honor and showed up to celebrate Katherine as she received her award in an evening reception at the *Design Station Tower* on the *Beltline*.

Whitney Bolster, John Dirga, and I were pleased to raise a toast to Katherine. The hosts recognized Katherine for "*Leading MARTA Artbound, championing social design with RailTalk, and enhancing the transit journey for all MARTA riders.*" **Congratulations, Katherine!**

Editor's note: One of our top readers pointed out that between the three ladies pictured in the photo above, there are two former presidents of CNIA, one former president of CI, and two former Chomp chairs (bonus math: one of them was all three). Also, under the long reign of Catherine The Great, Russia experienced a renaissance of culture and sciences, which led to the founding of many new cities, universities, and theatres... so the headline is only slightly hyperbolic.

Spelling Bee

How To Play Spelling Bee: 1) Words must include the center letter. 2) Words must contain at least four letters. 3) Letters can be used more than once. 4) Each puzzle includes at least one "panagram," which uses every letter at least once. **How many pangrams can you find?**



- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. | 15. |
| 2. | 16. |
| 3. | 17. |
| 4. | 18. |
| 5. | 19. |
| 6. | 20. |
| 7. | 21. |
| 8. | 22. |
| 9. | 23. |
| 10. | 24. |
| 11. | 25. |
| 12. | 26. |
| 13. | 27. |
| 14. | 28. |

Last month's Panagram solution: **Oxidizing**

CHOMP & STOMP



photography by Gregory Bishop

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THANK YOU NATALYN MOSBY ARCHIBONG!



Plaque presented to Natalyn Archibong during Chomp for her dedication to the Cabbagetown Community Center.
 From left to right: Tova Rose Baruch, Todd Gandee, Natalyn Mosby Archibong, Marinangeles Gutierrez Rivera, and John Dirga

DEAD SOULS COLLIDE

By Kyle F. Bidlack

ROCK-N-ROLL AIN'T DEAD! I just listened to the new *Black Swan Lane* record, and the genre is alive and kickin'. Of all the BSL albums, I believe this one is the most addictive, most filled with earworm riffs, and most "heavy rotation" worthy, ever.

Says Jack Rabid, Editor, *The BigTake-Over Magazine*, "Guitarist and singer Jack Sobel's [proprietor of Agave Restaurant] Atlanta group came into their own several LPs ago, and it's been all audacious knockouts since. *Dead Souls Collide* surpasses even 2022's *Blind* or 2021's *Hide in View*. Their kinship with '80s *Incredibles* *The Chameleons* goes beyond two Chams playing on older BSL LPS. **BLACK SWAN LANE** are worth following where'er they go."

The new album will be released world-wide on December 12th, 2023. Order your copy at: blackswanlane.com



black swan lane
 dead souls collide

BEST CHOMP EVER?

By Kyle F. Bidlack

It was absolutely glorious, wasn't it?! The day was made-to-order, and while Romp spectators might have thought the early morning temps were a bit chilly, the runners mostly agreed that it was perfect.

Most all the chili chefs agreed too. The crew at "The Spicy Boys" chili stand were glowing with pride when an anxious and waiting crowd broke into a Spicy Boys chat while they waited for the horn to sound.

R'town neighbors Stacie & Grayson Patten brought their brand new son, Bennett, to his first ever Chomp & Stomp, and we are pretty sure he was the youngest attendee.

We don't know how he does it, but our very own "doer of everything" Music Director John Dirga put together the best ever Chomp music line-up. Word on the street is Shaky Knees and Music Midtown is a wee bit jelly.

Chomp Chair Lauren Appel, along with Brandon Sheats, Kelle Fitzgerald Burns, and Nikki Farr seemed to be everywhere all at once and doing everything at the speed of sound.

We see you in this photo... really! Big thanks to everyone who made the scene, and if you did, and you agree that this was the best Chomp ever, we hope you will volunteer next year, and ensure that Chomp 2024 kicks ass!





One last look back at Chomp & Stomp 2023.

HOME GROWN CAN COOK!

By Kyle F. Bidlack

Tastingtable.com just posted their "18 Best Southern Restaurants in Atlanta" and wouldn't you know it... one of your favourite spots made the illustrious list.

Lisa & Kevin – at Home grown – have been cookin' up some of the best dishes in all the land, for years now. We all know that the entire Home grown team is top-notch at what they do. So it feels real good when outsiders confirm what we already knew.

Says Tastingtable, "*Home grown GA Restaurant sits just south of the Cabbagetown neighborhood, offering what it calls the "next-gen meat-and-three." This breakfast and lunch spot grows some, definitely not all, of the produce it utilizes on site and tries to put it all together "without clogging your arteries.*

That said, breakfast plates are formidable, like the Comfy Chicken, a fried chicken and biscuit sandwich served open-faced and topped with sausage gravy, or the Kage Fighter, a plate of pancakes, sausage patties, fried chicken and more sausage gravy. Lunch follows a similar vein, with a few iterations of fried chicken sandwiches, a country-fried steak entree, fried bologna, fried catfish, shrimp and grits, and sloppy joe, to name a few. Sides are a little fresher and lighter than some of Home grown's contemporaries. Of course, there's mac and cheese, but also sauteed cabbage, spinach, and fresh tomato slices."

YIMBY!

Cabbageheads that would like to show their support for light rail on the Atlanta Beltline can order a Beltline Rail Now! yard sign for \$8.

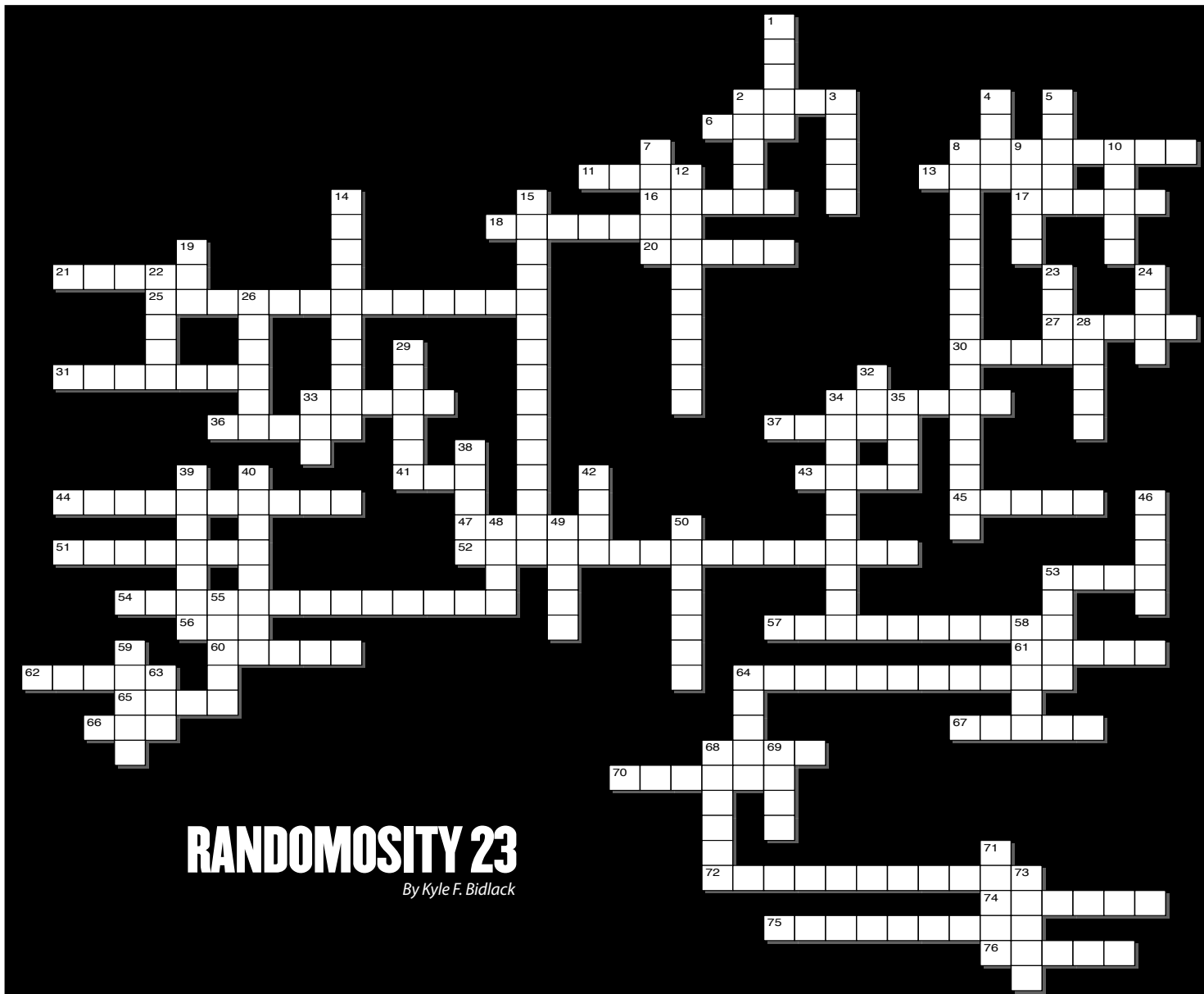


ORDERING IS SUPER EASY!
Just aim the camera of your smart phone at this QR code, then touch the screen.



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RAILNOW!**

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RANDOMOSITY 23

By Kyle F. Bidlack

ACROSS

- 2) Amenity on an intl flight.
- 6) Nothing.
- 8) Southern-most roadway in Ctown.
- 11) Heaviest flying bird in N. America.
- 13) Brick or stone worker.
- 16) Life of ____ (carefree existence).
- 17) Knowledge-loving sorts.
- 18) Digital currency.
- 20) Genre with robots and aliens.
- 21) First word of a state in New England.
- 25) The human body makes around 200 billion of them per day.
- 27) Lambs and rams.
- 30) "Te quiero ____" ("I love you very much").
- 31) Closest pals.
- 33) Evergreen tree with sweet-smelling wood.
- 34) Pac-Man's pursuers.
- 36) "Any ____ is good ____" (dubious advice).
- 37) Full of caffeinated energy.
- 41) Popular girl's name that's a palindrome.

- 43) What fills both blanks in the phrase "____ in one's p____".
- 44) longtime cereal brand with a fruit in its name.
- 45) "If A>B and B>C, then A>C," e.g.
- 47) Namesake of a philosophical razor.
- 51) Another Cabbagetown exists here.
- 52) What Margaret Mitchell, Kenny Rogers, & Bobby Jones have in common.
- 53) Bottom-heavy fruit.
- 54) He is the King of Ctown.
- 56) What X means on a clock.
- 57) The cause for many Thanksgiving naps in Ctown.
- 60) Historical object.
- 61) Punctuation for a pause.
- 62) Sound from a smoke alarm or a cricket.
- 64) Northern-most roadway in Cabbagetown.
- 65) Gross.
- 66) Rap's Lil ____ X.

- 67) Feature of a Southern accent.
 - 68) ____Chance.
 - 70) Ctown's most famous cat.
 - 72) Eastern-most roadway in Cabbagetown.
 - 74) Retro type of phone.
 - 75) Western-most roadway in Cabbagetown.
 - 76) When tripled, "I'll skip the boring part".
- DOWN**
- 1) Popular spreadsheet program.
 - 2) Chop into small pieces.
 - 3) Like getting the Wordle on your first guess.
 - 4) They're usually closed in the middle of the night.
 - 5) You again?
 - 7) Home to the Louvre (and Barb from Milltown).
 - 8) She wrote "Gone With The Wind."
 - 9) Its days are numbered.
 - 10) Where 75% of the world's wild tigers live.
 - 12) Moron.

- 14) 1985 adventure film starring a young Sean Astin & Josh Brolin.
- 15) Is completely unaware of the modern world.
- 19) "____ whillikers!"
- 22) Start of a fantasy football season.
- 23) What your brain might feel like after a long day.
- 24) "____ Forgettin'" (Michael McDonald hit).
- 26) Scenic stretch of California's coast.
- 28) Greeting heard on Gaskill St.
- 29) Cuban dance with a repetitive name.
- 32) Most common word in English, according to Oxford.
- 33) A railroad company.
- 34) Sister Louisa.
- 35) Vegas calculations.
- 38) Internet company with a purple logo.
- 39) Triangular flag awarded to a baseball team.
- 40) What you need when you're on E.

- 42) Most popular U.S. girls' name of the 2010s, according to the Social Security Administration.
- 46) Like foxes, pandas and chinchillas.
- 48) What shouting is often written in.
- 49) Wonderland girl.
- 50) What film composers and soccer strikers have in common.
- 53) ____ grigio (wine).
- 55) Passionately brainy.
- 58) Amtrak express train.
- 59) Drug testing stage.
- 63) Alternatives to Macs.
- 64) Loudest animal on earth, with songs of over 180 decibels.
- 68) Oscar winner Meryl____.
- 69) Fe, on the periodic table.
- 71) Start of a December holiday greeting.
- 73) Only five-letter day of the week?

NOT ALL DOOM & GLOOM

Excerpt from *New York Times* by David Gelles

There's no shortage of reasons to be alarmed by climate change these days. This year is almost certain to be the hottest in recorded history. Extreme weather is wreaking havoc around the globe. Fossil fuel production and emissions are still rising, and world leaders are not moving fast enough.

But take a moment to imagine: What if we actually succeed in addressing the climate crisis, and emerge into a new, more bountiful, more prosperous future?

While there's plenty of bad news to go around, it's not unreasonable to imagine that enduring progress is within reach.

Practically every day, there are encouraging new signs that after decades of dithering, the world is finally getting more serious about tackling climate change.

Wind and solar power are cheaper than ever and are being built at record rates around the globe. Advances in critical new technologies, from carbon capture to fusion power, are occurring with startling speed. Sales of electric vehicles are booming, and badly needed charging stations are being built.

Emissions from China, the world's largest polluter, will peak within the next couple years, many researchers believe. In the United States, the transition to clean power is happening faster than many realize. Those two countries just agreed to accelerate their efforts to reduce emissions, delivering a much-needed jolt of ambition ahead of climate talks in Dubai this month.

Efforts to crack down on emissions of methane — a potent but often overlooked greenhouse gas — are ramping up. Brazil, Indonesia and other countries are taking serious steps to reduce deforestation. Youth activists are using protests and lawsuits to take on the fossil fuel industry. And in a powerful message that could be a sign of things to come, Ecuador voted this year to leave some oil in the ground.

These are the kinds of developments — large and small, from governments and the private sector — that together will determine just how hot our planet becomes.

COMPLETE BOULEVARD?

By Kyle F. Bidlack

Waaaaay back in 2016, The Cabbagetown Neighbor reported to you that Boulevard — our main street to the west — was on track to get overhauled and become a "complete street".

A complete street means a by-way becomes more friendly to all kinds of transit, including pedestrian, bicycle, scooter, etc... and the traffic lights are updated and coordinated so that traffic flows better.

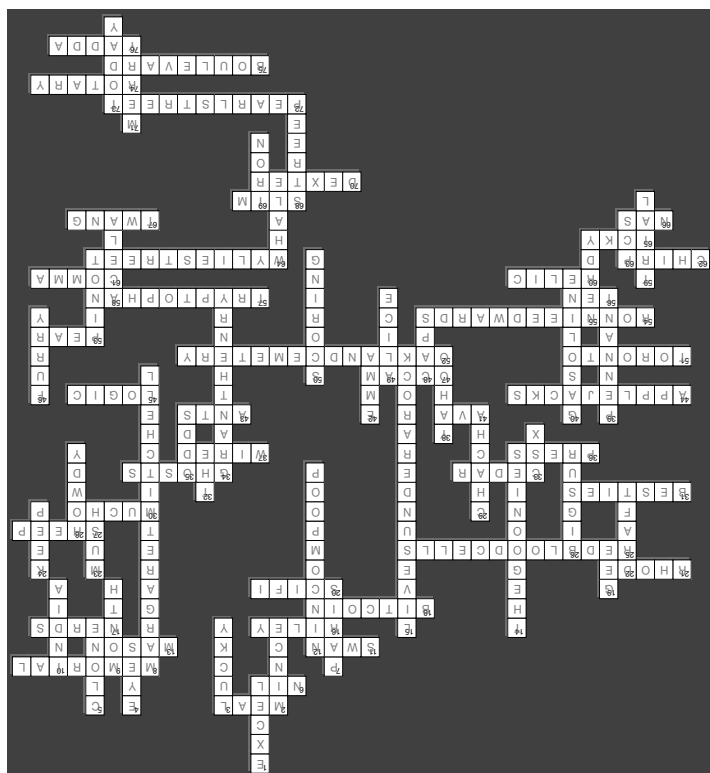
Like we said, that was back in 2016. The City now tells us the project is right on track and — get this — should be complete by August 2027. Yup. You read that right. Not a typo. The design work for the Boulevard project will be completed in May 2025. Construction will begin that same month, and will be finished by August 2027. Theoretically.

CABBAGETOWN INSIGHTS: NOVEMBER 2023 LOCAL REAL ESTATE STATS

SUMMERHILL	GRANT PARK	INMAN PARK
19 ▼ HOMES FOR SALE	35 ▲ HOMES FOR SALE	10 ▲ HOMES FOR SALE
20 ▼ HOMES PENDING	46 ▲ HOMES PENDING	07 ▲ HOMES PENDING
96 ▼ AVG DAYS ON MRKT	76 ▼ AVG DAYS ON MRKT	36 ▼ AVG DAYS ON MRKT
\$664,000 ▲ AVG HOME PRICE	\$567,000 ▲ AVG HOME PRICE	\$707,000 ▼ AVG HOME PRICE
\$344 ▼ AVG PRICE SQFT	\$314 ▲ AVG PRICE SQFT	\$480 ▲ AVG PRICE SQFT
KIRKWOOD	REYNOLDSTOWN	CABBAGETOWN
34 ▲ HOMES FOR SALE	19 ▼ HOMES FOR SALE	11 ▲ HOMES FOR SALE
22 ▼ HOMES PENDING	34 ▲ HOMES PENDING	05 ▲ HOMES PENDING
62 ▲ AVG DAYS ON MRKT	109 ▲ AVG DAYS ON MRKT	37 ▼ AVG DAYS ON MRKT
\$553,000 ▲ AVG HOME PRICE	\$698,000 ▲ AVG HOME PRICE	\$481,000 ▼ AVG HOME PRICE
\$306 ▼ AVG PRICE SQFT	\$419 ▲ AVG PRICE SQFT	\$306 ▼ AVG PRICE SQFT

STATS COURTESY OF MICHAEL GRUE. 770.609.5503
HOMESAVVYREALESTATE.COM

The solution to this month's "Randomosity 23" crossword puzzle.



WHO IS THAT?!!!

CAN YOU IDENTIFY ALL THESE CABBAGEHEADS?

Maybe we're making this too hard. Cabbagetown is full of characters, right? We all see (and recognize) each other almost every week. But can you identify these current, former, and honorary Cabbageheads based on photos from years gone by? To submit your guesses (in order), email them to The Cabbagetown Neighbor at: newsletter@cabbagetown.com

The first person to submit all correct answers in proper order will win one beverage of their choice at Milltown Tavern, courtesy of The Cabbagetown Neighbor. Yet again, no one was able to identify all nine Cabbageheads from last month's edition. Here is the solution: 1. Wes Kelley 2. Andrea Lyn Martin 3. Jay Desai 4. Alexis Rice 5. Rev. David DeChant 6. Elizabeth Mahaffey 7. Sean Keenan 8. Jen Chan 9. Tim Pinkham.

