



CN

Cabbagetown
NEIGHBOR

Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association
Volume XXXIII • Issue Number One • January 2024

CLAY!

CABBAGEHEAD OF THE YEAR 2024

(ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS OVERDUE)

Read all about it on page seventeen.

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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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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CNIA President's Letter



**MARINANGELES
GUTIERREZ
RIVERA**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! ¡FELIZ AÑO NUEVO!
ADD COMMUNITY TO YOUR NEW YEAR
RESOLUTION.** Thank you to all who attended the Holiday Crawl, it was spectacular to see so many faces! We hope you met neighbors both new and well established Cabbageheads. If we missed you, I hope your winter holidays were light and wholesome.

As we enter 2024, it is my great honor to invite you all to volunteer with your neighbors in the new year. If you've been

reading this letter, you're nearly there! Come on out. We have activities for all interests, talents, and time commitments. Get connected, cabbagetown.com/membership

Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association (CNIA): Your line to Neighborhood Planning Unit - N, ATL APD, City Council Leadership, and several committees including: Hospitality Committee, Historic Preservation & Land Use Committee, Arts Committee (Murals & Concerts), Cabbagetown/Reynoldstown Joint Transportation Committee, Newspaper Committee, and the Chicken Noodle Network.

We have a board for any decision-making that welcomes At-Large Members, Communications Chair, the Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President. We are actively looking for folks to join as At-Large Members, a Communications Chair, and a Vice President.

Cabbagetown Initiative (CI): They take care of our public spaces, including our Parks and the Community Center. They also host our annual Chomp & Stomp. They too have a board for planning and decision-making that welcomes At-Large Members, the Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, & President. They are looking for folks to take the place of board members who have been serving since 2020.

Whether you're interested in joining a committee, volunteering for the board, or helping from the comfort of your home - we'd love to have you. Still on the fence, ask me anything - email: president@cabbagetown.com.

COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR 2024

CI and CNIA will be co-hosting a community planning session where we'll review the calendar, month-by-month, and establish anticipated dates for all of our wonderful events, meetings, and festivities. This annual planning will allow us to prepare the calendar and open our Community Center for event rentals.

We will also discuss community storage for props, materials, and kitchen items. If you're interested in getting involved, come out. If you're part of a committee and looking at how to plan the year, come out. If you're simply interested in what's on the docket for 2024, come out! Monday, January 22nd, 7p at the Community Center. Join us for food, drinks, and community starting at 6:30p.

GEORGIA PROGRAMS TO HELP YOU THIS WINTER

For anyone who may benefit, there are state and local resources available to support weatherization and energy costs: Georgia Weatherization Assistance Program, served by the Tallatoona Community Action Partnership: (<https://tallatoonacap.org/wx/>) Weatherization means they will assess your home (both structure and appliances) for energy loss or waste. If they find inefficiencies, they'll take measures to correct the issues – by installing air sealing, insulation, and energy-saving appliances – using solutions that have the highest savings-to-investment ratios.

H.E.A.T. (Heating Energy Assistance Team) (www.heatga.org) H.E.A.T. works with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to distribute natural gas assistance funds through CAAs. H.E.A.T. has a few assistance programs that each provide up to \$350 of funding towards past due heating bills for customers.

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) (www.faca.org/programs/liheap-2) A federally funded energy assistance program that helps low and fixed-income families meet their energy needs during the heating season by providing up to \$400 of non-crisis funding towards heating bills each winter.

Georgia Power Programs & Rebates (<https://www.georgiapower.com/residential/save-money-and-energy.html>) include the Energy Assistance for Savings and Efficiency Program, Home Energy Improvement Program (individual and whole improvement rebates), and Hope Works (free home energy savings improvements for those that qualify). They provide a number of rebates and incentives from LED Light Bulbs, Air Sealing, to Duct Sealing, and EV Charger Installation Rebates.

Cheers, Marina

2024 IS YOUR YEAR! WISHING THESE CABBAGEHEADS A RESOLUTE BIRTHDAY!

- Thomas "TJ" Ford, Adam Bird, Justin "Bigs" Marlett Esq
- Donald Kjorlien, Misty Ford, Tonya Moss
- Matthew Buzzetta, Jackie Yantis, Tim Holden
- Anna Pfeffer, Belle Araujo, Javier Mcintosh, MJ Met
- Tova Rose, HJ McGinness, Michael Lund, Ryan Richards
- Katherine "Kat" Low-Oxley, Keith "Doc" Ingram
- Nathaniel Compton, Nicola Huntley Butcher
- Karen Anderson Singer, Erik Meadows, Claire Wiggills
- Fz "Foz" Khan, Ferris Scott "Peaches" Thomas
- Paul Bracken, Mrs. Bertha Wise Jr., Bella Bowers
- Sanela Hart, and Lisa Hanson

CNIA: General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, 7p. Meeting conducted by Marinangeles Gutierrez Rivera. Minutes by Lucy Perkins. Location: Cabbagetown Community Center.

1. 7:05p start

2. Atlanta Police Department Updates - Lt. Butler

Motor vehicle theft is up but mostly from Kias and Hyundais. Violent crime is down. People stealing from the cars is down. Zone Six is doing well. Homicide on Ponce was an isolated incident.

3. Review and Approval of October Minutes

Review of prior minutes. Motion to accept minutes - approved.

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

Tye and Gaskill all-way stop has gone through - 60-90 business days for install. 260 Estoria construction - stuff on sidewalk, lanes were closed with no one directing traffic, which is a violation - please report when seen. Q: Short term rental ordinance going into effect at end of year? Is that true? A: Deadline has been moved so many times - not sure. Register short term rentals now but enforcement hasn't kicked in yet. Q: Left turn light at tunnel? - DOT is slow but they've put in an inquiry. Please provide feedback on the DOT website.

5. Vice-President Report - Marinangeles Gutierrez

Transportation Committee Updates + Tye Stop Sign: Best way to get things done is to reach out to DOT directly: Atlanta DOT website, submit comment on website or on social media. Update on Pearl Street traffic calming - going through procurement; 1st quarter of 2024 to be completed. An additional piece of sidewalk is included - concrete, not brick!

Q: Where is hump? A: Still at top of hill. Stop sign at Gaskill and Tye. Other stop signs were installed. Gaskill, Fulton Terrace, and Estoria. Requested curb cuts at Tye and Wylie. GDOT has reached out to us about Memorial Drive project. Road diet (reduction of lanes) and installation of bike lane. They want to talk to us to answer questions. Look for them at Feb. or March meeting. There will be a crosswalk from here to Taco Town, but don't know where. CNIA Membership Campaign: Open Positions include Communications Chair, Transportation Committee Chair, and other Member At-Large positions.

6. Committee Reports

1. Upcoming Ctown events - Amanda Bisgaard, Hospitality Chair, Bradford representing.

Holiday Crawl - please come! Holiday Drive with the **Chicken Noodle Network** - Please drop off clothes - donations at Littles until December 20th

2. Historic Preservation and Land Use Committee -

Jacob Elsas and Anya Warren, Co-Chairs

Meetings are 1st Wednesday of every month. 241 Powell - Addition at back of home to extend bathroom. Approval from HPLU with some conditions. Fixed windows on contributing structures are not allowed. Recommended to ask if they would be allowed. Motion to accept the site plans as is under the condition that the staff is ok with the transom window. Ten for, none against, no abstain, motion passed.

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

Support Paie Day field day April 12th. Stop clogging storm drains with leaves - don't put debris in the storm drain.

No one knows the deal with Krog Phase II - it's been postponed while they re-do the design. Wylie street traffic calming postponed until finished. NPU system is 50 years old - happy birthday. NPU-N University - civics classes. Npuatlanta.org - Roberts rules and parliamentary procedure next. Check for more classes.

Z2322 Recommendation - ending of parking minimums supported with a couple conditions. Does not affect restaurants with liquor licenses. Clarify special exceptions - the ways around and language for accessibility parking. Provide some handicap parking at least.

Elections happened - board will stay in place for the next year.

Better Atlanta Transit presentation happened. They want to protect the trees they planted when they made the Beltline.

They support beltline rail now. Beltlinerailnow.com

Can't apply for Community Impact Grant because Wylie Street traffic calming hasn't happened yet. **Stack Squares** accessible mural project - people with community connection have dibs.

Anyone can mural - don't be shy to apply. Thank you **Fulton Cotton Mill Lofts** and **The Stacks** for your support.

Moving ahead with plan to improve the amphitheater - please

donate to the park! Everything we fundraise will go towards great things. If Watershed helps, we can still use the money for something else! FOCCers reignited. Q: Playground? A: Maybe next! Please donate! Q: Bees produce money? A: Not enough.

Cabbagetown Initiative (CI) - Todd Gandee, CI President, Mariana representing

CI Updates - Parks & Community Center

Community Center Lease signed! This is now under our control. Preparing for updates and clearing, more info in January. Remove excess things so that people can rent and use the space. Bigger community meeting about how to organize or have a garage sale to purge. More to come.

7. New Business

January 9th meeting for HPLU; it will be the only thing on the agenda. Community Planning Day meeting date to come. Request from Holiday Crawl Committee: can we move tables? Thank you Gina, for cleaning; special shout out to the Christmas witch that looks totally dope.

8. Old Business - none

9. Motion to end meeting. Adjourned at 8:16p.

WE LOVE YOU TIM PINKHAM!

Thank you for being a top-notch neighbor and human being.
We'll miss your brilliant smile and never-ending optimism.
You show all of us, how to do life right.



Sean, Brandon, and Cher welcome 2024 in fine form.



Come Join Us
Hope A.M.E. Zion Church
 196 Savannah Street
 All R Welcome
 9AM Sunday School
 10AM Sunday Worship Service

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C'town Chows: 2024 Food Trends



STACY
and JAKE

Every year around this time, the biggest, buzziest food outlets put out their predictions for food trends for the following year, and as the self-appointed Cabbagetown food-following journalists, we figured we'd do the same. Let's jump right in.

Channeling my inner Stefon from SNL, 2024's hottest food trend is.... Super Spicy Bites!

Not only the hottest trend, in our opinion, but one of the tastiest, too. Whether you're braving *The Local's* (758 Ponce De Leon

Ave) famous hot wings, crushing *Gaja's* (491 Flat Shoals Ave) mouth-watering Gochujang Fried Chicken, or slugging down a Habanero Marg at *Superica* (99 Krog St), you'll be sure to be on trend.

Next trend up is Plant Based Cuisine. Now this one loses some people, and historically, would have lost us too. Fortunately, we have some really tasty veg options in the 'A to choose from to hopefully eat up those misconceptions. Feeling trendy? Be sure to give *Planta* (99 Krog St) a try – plant based, sustainably focused, restaurant that serves up fantastic dishes that do not compromise on flavor. *General D's* fried cauliflower is a must-order, as well as the Bang Bang Broccoli and Cold Sesame Peanut Noodles. Feeling slutty? (not a great transition but wanted to keep with the theme) Be sure to give *Slutty Vegan* (476 Edgewood Ave) a try – out-of-this-world vegan cheat-day meals sure to make you feel a little dirty. Personal fave is the One Night Stand - plant-based patty loaded with vegan bacon, vegan cheese, onions, lettuce, tomato, and Slut Sauce on a vegan Hawaiian bun. As a happily married couple, this place feels as close to stepping outside the relationship (with a vegan) as it's going to get.

CTOWN GOES DOWN IN FLAMES!

By Kyle F. Bidlack

Each year, Josh Green and Urbanize Atlanta host a competition to determine the best Atlanta neighborhood of the year. Urbanize Atlanta has been doing this since 2011 (with a brief hiatus during Covid), and Cabbagetown has never won. And the streak continues.

Things started out promising. In the first round, Cabbagetown (number nine seed) trounced Cascade Heights (number eight seed) by 221 votes (609 total votes cast). Alas, we met our match in the second round when Summerhill beat us by a mere 33 votes.

Good news though, our second favourite 'hood (Reynoldstown) made it to the final round and is facing off against Hapeville (Hapeville has a massive early lead).

Said Urbanize about Ctown: "Cabbagetown might be Atlanta's undisputed per-capita PBR consumption champion, but until now, it's never managed to collect enough nominations to actually make the Best Atlanta Neighborhood showdown. (Are those two facts related? Probably.)"

FOR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, VISIT: ATLANTA.URBANIZE.CITY

A third buzzy trend for 2024 is Non-Alcoholic Spirits and Wine.

Although this one is a bit dry (pun intended) I think it is welcomed for many of us that have done some serious damage to our liver over the past month. Of course ordering a no/low ABV brewski at your favorite Cabbagetown drinkery *Milltown Tavern* (180 Carroll St) is always a great option. However, if you want to take this one step further, you could head to *The Zero Co* (626 North Highland Ave) – ATL's first Zero-Proof Bottle Shop to see what they're mixing up. We haven't been, so you'll have to fill us in on that one. Happy to join you for a craft mocktail as well, you'll just put a bit of Tito's in ours...

Between the plant-based meal and the mocktail cocktail, you could be feeling like a beacon of health in 2024, which brings us to our last trend - emphasizing life is all about balance. Sometimes, in the words of *Parks and Recreation's* Tom Haverford, you must "treat yo-self". 2024 could be the year of treating yourself with some top notch Caviar and all you'd have to do is mosey on over to downtown Decatur's *Kimball House* (303 E Howard Ave) to get the goods. Oh, and just be sure to have access to your savings account. If you're looking for a more cost effective oceanic luxury, Jeffrey Bezos has you sorted. Yep, that's right, *Patagonia Provisions* is dishing up tinned fish sent prime to your door via Amazon. Stacy swears she enjoys these, although Jake is not so sure.

As always, we hope you enjoyed this month's edition, and hope you'll drop us a line if you've got some spots you want us to try at stacy.spector22@gmail.com! Happy new year to all, and to all a good bite.

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2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

By Kyle F. Bidlack

This was one helluva year! Let's take a look back and remember some notable events and achievements over the past twelve months, or so.

Best Local Concert

Faye Webster at The Eastern, Nov. 17th. Hands down. Teenage girls from around the world descended on us and declared Ctown the coolest 'hood in the world, simply because Faye is here. Honorable mentions: **Rae & The Ragdolls**, **Blair Crimmins & The Hookers**, and **Chicken + Pigs** at The Brookshire Amphitheatre on April 20th, and a monumental **W8ing4UFOs** show in Little's Shady Tree Park on Nov. 17th.

Best Book

Local author Josh Green, worked diligently on his first novel for years. His hard work paid off when he delivered "**Secrets of Ash**" to the world in September. 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. Ctown gets a cameo.

Best Netflix Mini-Series

All The Light We Can Not See. Starring Aria Mia Loberti, Mark Ruffalo, Hugh Laurie, and Lars Eidinger. Panned by snooty critics, this work is beautifully done. It's hard to take your eyes off Aria, and Lars might remind you of a young, maniacal Gary Oldman. Besides, who doesn't enjoy rooting against the Nazis?

Man of the Decade

It's getting difficult to go anywhere in Ctown and not be rewarded by his work. John Dirga has been with us for many years and he is just about the doer of everything: Chomp Music Director, NPU Rep, Tree Doctor, King of the Arts, Park Preservationist, the list goes on... and on. **John Dirga is the man of the decade.**

Best Party of the Year

Chomp & Stomp 2023 was amazing! From the music, to the food, to the beverages, and the after-parties, it was an absolutely epic soirée in November, and for those that can actually remember the day, it will go down in history. Honorable mention: Ctown Prom in March was a fabulous, top-notch, social happening!

Cat of the Year

Dexter. Need we say more?

Most Admired Couple

Jimmy & Rosalyn Carter. We finally realise how much they blessed us.

Athletes of the Year

The Savannah Street Cabana. Better than Ohtani, LBJ, or Mahomes.

Most Talked about Street Art

LGBTQ+ Astronaut Girl. Kelly Breedlove's Stacks Squares artwork in June was inspiring, moving, and empowering.

ENGEL&VÖLKERS

Happy Holidays

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

Your Neighbor and Cabbagetown Expert, James Robbins

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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.

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Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association (CNIA) Meeting Agenda

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9th, 2024 at 7p

Meeting to be held at the Cabbagetown Community Center (177 Estoria Street). Find this month's links & materials

at www.Cabbagetown.com/agenda

Zoom Special: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95657039874>

7p: Meeting Begins

II. Review & Approval of December Minutes

III. Creative Placemaking Summit by South Arts:

Krog Street Tunnel Closure Proposal for March 2nd: John Dirga and Marina Gutierrez

IV. Historic Preservation & Land Use Voting:

Jake Elsas and Anya Warren, HPLU Chairs

V. 7:45p Adjourn

CNIA & CI PRESENT: 2024 COMMUNITY PLANNING NIGHT

Monday, January 22nd, 2024 at 7p • Ctown Community Center
6:30p Food & Community • 7p Workshop Begins

I. CI & CNIA Introductions

II. Community Center Updates

III. Calendar Planning for 2024 - Interactive

Committees should come prepared!

IV. 8:30p Adjourn

OTHER COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Historic Preservation & Land Use Committee (HPLU)

First Wednesdays, January 3rd, 7p Google Meet

Cabbagetown/Reynoldstown Joint Transportation Committee

(CRTC): First Thursdays, January 4th, 6p - 7p Google Meet

Cabbagetown Initiative (CI):

January 8th, 2023 at the Community Center at 7p

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...

Naughty or Nice?

Those large inflatable Christmas decorations may fill the hearts of children with holiday cheer, but on Dec. 8, 2021 Donna Hargett captured video of a bear cub wrestling with her neighbor's inflatable reindeer as the mama bear looked on, United Press International reported. "I looked up and there it was, jumping on the reindeer," Hargett said. "We see these two around all the time. They're trouble," she said. In fact, Hargett said they once broke into her home and left paw prints on the bed. No word on Rudolph's condition.

Snake on a... Christmas Tree

Rob and Marcela Wild of South Africa, figured there might be a mouse in their newly decorated Christmas tree when their cats started watching it intently. Instead, they found one of the most venomous snakes in Africa: a boomslang, CNN reported. The Wilds called on snake catcher Gerrie Heyns, who used "snake tongs" to put it on the floor. "Once I had it under control, the family came right up to see the snake," Heyns said. "A scary moment turned into an exciting moment for the children." Heyns released the female snake, about five feet long, back into the wild a couple of days later.

Christmas Potpourri

In November, the upscale New York City menswear and accessories store Jack Spade removed from its holiday catalog a \$40 frog-dissection kit (with a real carcass) after numerous queries from people wondering what in the world the store was thinking.

A holiday party for inmates at Britain's Peterborough Jail promised a fun time with Xbox consoles and PlayStations, along with cash gifts of 5 pounds each (about \$9 U.S.), which is greater than the value of the candy boxes the jail will give its guards for Christmas.

Police in Rock Hill, S.C., put a 12-year-old boy under arrest at the insistence of his mother after he had defied her and opened his Christmas gift three weeks early.

Santa's Naughty List

Sarah Childs won a restraining order in Denham Springs, Louisiana, in December 2012, forbidding the town from shutting down her "Christmas" lights decoration. The large outdoor display (in a neighborhood with traditional Christmas displays) was the image of two hands with middle fingers extended.

Florida People

When the Brevard School Board met on May 9, the topic of dress codes and concerns about students dressing as "furries" came up. Chairman Matt Susin said his daughter is "tired of furries" at school. District 3 Rep. Jennifer Jenkins cut through the kitty litter: "This is not rocket science ... If you don't want tails on kids, just say you don't want tails." She said among middle school students, the new thing is barking & meowing at each other. "It's weird, but they're doing it."

poetry contest Spring 2024

WordsOnWylie@gmail.com

"Be a fountain, not a drain."

Christine Clemens, Lowville, N.Y.

LET'S SLOW DOWN ON BELTLINE RAIL



JIM DUFFY

Last month, Brandon Sutton wrote a thoughtful piece supporting light rail on the Beltline. Today, I'll present an opposing view and encourage civil dialogue on this sensitive topic.

First, let's agree on what we are debating. The only light rail project currently being designed and debated is the Eastside Beltline project that expands the Streetcar from downtown to Ponce City Market. So when people say "Beltline light rail," they are

really saying "Eastside Beltline Streetcar." That's what we should call it to avoid confusion. However, Streetcar on the entire Beltline will cost over \$3B and take decades, so we can't take this first step lightly.

Please consider:

1. Plans can change. Yes, light rail was a part of Ryan Gravel's 1999 thesis. Yes, Eastside Beltline Streetcar was included in the 2016 MARTA tax referendum along with DOZENS of other projects. Those are historic facts, but not justifications to move forward. In fact, the initial argument for Beltline Streetcar was that it was needed to spur development, but plenty of development happened anyway! So let's agree to evaluate the Streetcar on its merits today. Atlanta has many transit needs... Why should this one be prioritized?

2. Eastside Beltline Streetcar is a questionable use of resources. In 2022, Eastside Beltline Streetcar was projected to cost up to \$275M. That's for only 2.3 miles of transit! Who among us would be willing to tell residents in disadvantaged, under-invested neighborhoods that a Streetcar expansion into relatively affluent, developed areas is more valuable than any one of the dozens of other projects in the 2016 MARTA plan? Why can't we finish the Beltline trail first?

3. The Streetcar is not an effective mass transit solution. The Streetcar is slow, and access will be limited with only THREE stations planned for the Eastside Beltline. When Gravel wrote his thesis in 1999, Atlanta didn't have convenient transportation for hire. If it's hot or raining, do you really think someone would commute to a Streetcar station, wait, crawl along the Beltline, then commute from their destination to/from their job? Or do you think they'll just drive themselves, or use their Uber app and hire a car, scooter, or e-bike?

4. Light rail eliminates greenspace and disrupts small businesses. Dual-track Streetcar requires nearly 40 feet of right of way and offers limited access points. Say goodbye to the beautiful tree canopy between the pedestrian trail and the edge of the corridor (thank you for your hard work, Trees Atlanta!), say hello to concrete, fences, walls, tracks, and access restrictions. Less greenspace means more heat, and less access means more congestion. Meanwhile, small businesses along the Beltline will suffer from YEARS of disruption, some might not be able to survive.

Thank you for reading! I'd be happy to discuss these points with an open mind. I know my Cabbagetown neighbors care as much about this city and its people as I do.

Top of the Charts

By Kyle F. Bidlack

What is Cabbagetown listening to? Good question.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 DOROTHY
MEDICINE MAN | 9 CAGE THE ELEPHANT
BLACK MADONNA |
| 2 TOVE LO
NO ONE DIES FROM LOVE | 10 DANCE GAVIN DANCE
SON OF ROBOT |
| 3 DROWNING POOL
BODIES | 11 TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB
UNDERCOVER MARTYN |
| 4 THE LUMINEERS
HO HEY | 12 ZUTONS
VALERIE |
| 5 REX ORANGE COUNTY
LOVING IS EASY | 13 BROKEN BELLS
THE HIGH ROAD |
| 6 EMPIRE OF THE SUN
ANGELA | 14 THE DEVIL MAKES THREE
ACES AND TWOS |
| 7 THE BLACK KEYS
SHE'S GONE LONG | 15 ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
MY GIRLS |
| 8 TAME IMPALA
FEELS LIKE WE ONLY GO BACK... | |

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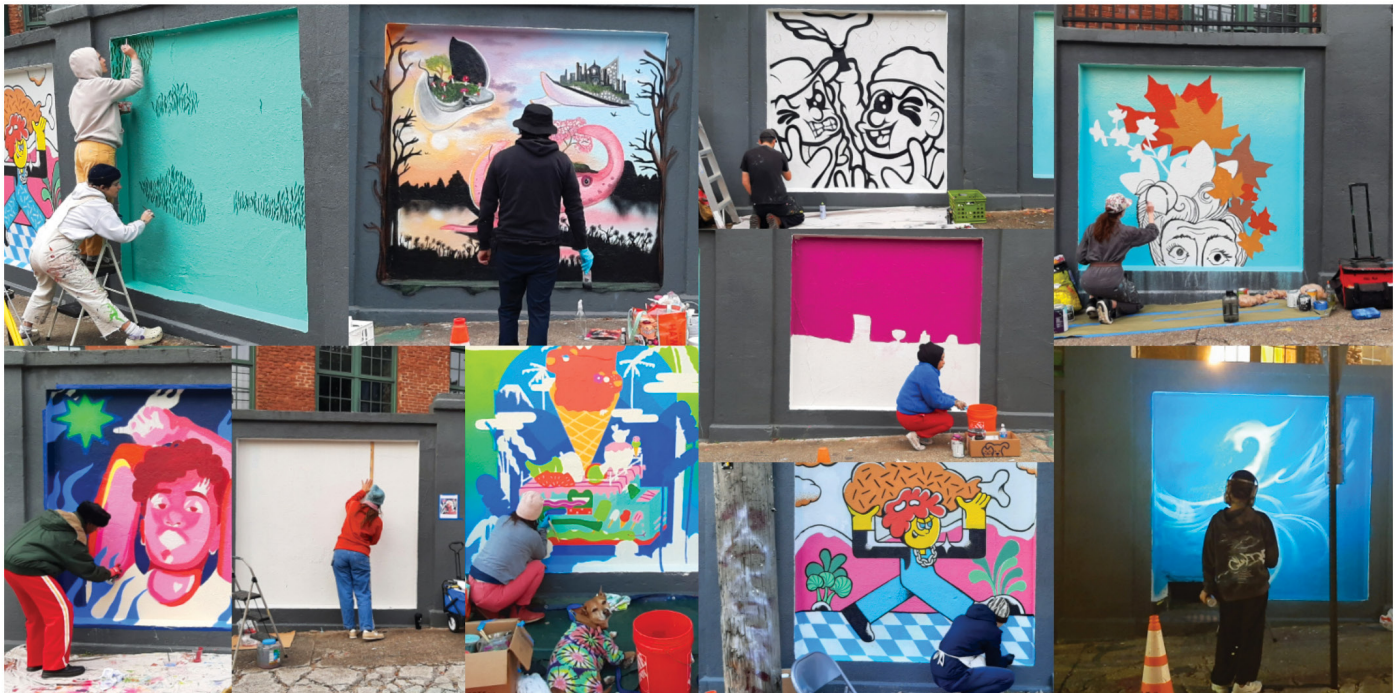
8TH ANNUAL C'TOWN ONESIE CAROLING EXTRAVAGANZA



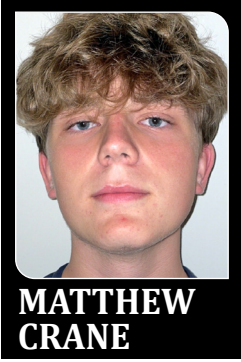
Well over thirty carolers took to our C'town avenues and delivered heavenly(?) Christmas cheer to our magical little village. Cyndi, Nick, and The Mighty Q created this tradition almost a decade ago, and it is going stronger than ever. Each year, they welcome anyone and everyone to join in and even offer onesies to those without. Cabbageheads throughout

the land wait through the night, in hopes the carolers make a stop at their house. Neighbors unaware of this tradition, are (usually) overcome with Christmas warmth and merriment. If you're bummed that you missed out, Cyndi has good news for you; "Put the ninth annual C'town Onesie Caroling Extravaganza on your calendar for Dec 22, 2024!"

STACKS SQUARES XIII



DYLAN INSPIRES A NEW GENERATION



**MATTHEW
CRANE**

Across the internet, it is impossible to find a consensus on what the purpose of art is. Some will tell you the purpose is to evoke emotions within the viewer. Some will say that art is a vehicle for social change, some think that its only purpose is to "be enjoyed".

Because there's no right answer, I have no reservation on telling you what I think.

I believe that art is meant to give us insight. Whether that insight be explicit

or implicit, about the creator or a subject, convoluted or simple, works of art in my opinion live or die based on their capacity to give an accurate and deep understanding of a person or thing.

*A piece of art that wildly succeeds on these grounds is Bob Dylan's 1966 album **Blonde on Blonde**. Through its psychedelic organ and guitar, earsplitting harmonica, and its lyrics, tuned to perfection by the greatest poet/songwriter of all time, **Blonde on Blonde** gives its listener insight into what it means to be a young man. I'd like to take you through some of the many fantastic songs on the record and identify how they express a young man's relationship with women, his burgeoning creativity, and the sheer joy that comes from being free.*

The largest theme that persists throughout the record is Dylan's interaction with women.

Pledging my time, the second track, is the first to highlight Dylan's selfish yet common take on relationships of men his age. Right from the outset we can tell that Dylan's conception of love and dating isn't fully developed. The chorus of the song goes "I'm pledging my time to you, hoping you'll come through too"; This way of justifying spending time with a partner feels transactional. Dylan is essentially saying "sure I'll spend my time on you as long as there's something (presumably sexual) in it for me"; This lack of commitment and general disposability of romantic interests is further shown in the line "Come with me baby - I'll take you where you want to go-and if it don't work out-you'll be the first to know." In this song, women are temporary objects of pleasure able to cast out if they aren't gratifying.

Some of this depravity is exacerbated by the culture of the 60's but some of it is truly a reflection of how young single men in this stage of their lives think about women. The interesting thing is, the ideology presented in this song is at odds with other more traditional love ballads showing that Dylan also has a longing for genuine connection - much like most men that engage frequently in promiscuous acts with lots of women - however, the freedom of being single and untethered usually trumps the desire for real intimacy at this stage in life.

Visions of Johanna, considered to be one of Dylan's greatest works, is a synthesis of these two ideas. The story is a love triangle between Dylan, Louise, and the ephemeral Johanna. The notion that women are objects of pleasure to be used and disposed of is represented by Louise, Dylan's girlfriend, who is more of a tool to him than a person. He writes "she's alright, she's just near" admitting that the only reason he associates with her is that it's convenient. His tone shifts however when referring to Johanna, going as far to refer to her as Madonna, and a bird that's flown her now corroding cage. He tells us that he can feel Johanna's fleeting essence in Louise and that his infatuation with Johanna has utterly consumed him with the masterfully written line "the ghost of electricity howls in the bones of her face - and these visions of Johanna have now taken my place." Dylan - like myself - and all of you, is a man of multitudes, capable of oxymoronic behavior and rampant paradox at the hands of love.

The last noteworthy track that dives into Dylan's interaction with women is "Just Like a Woman", which has simultaneously garnered immense amounts of praise because it's just plain beautiful to

listen to but also tons of criticism for its overt misogyny. It's a breakup song that forgoes the typical personal criticism of a disgruntled lover, for sweeping generalizations about women and their tendencies to wrong men. Here's the final chorus: "You fake just like a woman- yeah you make love just like a woman, you ache just like a woman, but you break just like a little girl." The irony in calling the target of his rage "a little girl" is that blindly blaming the other party for the failure of the relationship and taking no responsibility is highly immature, almost like something a little boy would do.

This is my undisputed favorite song on the album because it feels so human.

It makes no attempt to mask the toxic

cocktail of anger and sadness that comes along with a break-up and portrays the rash, harsh, underthought nature of our words in situations that evoke heavy emotions.

The second theme expressed in droves on the album is just the joy of being free. This motif is far easier to identify in the instrumentation of the songs rather than the lyrics. Understanding the context of this however requires a knowledge of the album's conception and Dylan's work prior to 1966.

Dylan, the spokesperson for the cultural revolution had become overwhelmed with his role as folk music's messiah. He was done being a figurehead, done playing protest anthems with the same three chords. Done pretending to be something he wasn't.

Continued on the next page.



CRANE ON DYLAN

Continued from previous page. On the album preceding *Blonde on Blonde*, Dylan finally broke the chains that bound him by releasing *Highway 61: Revisited*, a rock-n-roll record front to back. In doing so Dylan alienated many of his original fans but in expanding his sound, converted far more fans than he lost.

Because of Highway 61's high sales, Dylan was given almost complete creative freedom on *Blonde on Blonde* and the results speak for themselves. The tracks that lean into pure rock and folk rock ooze pure elation. The screeching guitar on *Obviously Five Believers* sounds like fun and angst, the organ bellows that accompany the chorus on *Sooner or Later* radiate a lust for life more intense than any other sound I've ever experienced. This unadulterated joy at being unshackled from one's past is again not specific to Dylan either. Coming to college like most do and not feeling like you're at the mercy of parents or rules is a similar experience, and in my personal experience results in the same euphoria that Dylan found in gaining the freedom to make the music he dreamed of making.

Finally Blonde on Blonde presents unorthodox creativity that can only be produced in the time of one's life between childhood and full immersion into adulthood. These worlds fuse on the album and leave us with writing more superb than classically trained poets but in a format that is so abstract that it's easy to wonder if there was any thought put into them at all. I lovingly refer to this crop of tracks as "the nonsense songs" because to my knowledge they aren't about anything. They don't have a connecting narrative, it's just music with words to it that's fun to listen to. One of these songs, "*Stuck Inside of Mobile*" jumps from Shakespeare speaking to a french girl, to a senator handing out tickets to his son's wedding, to dancing with Ruthie in her honky tonk lagoon. I'm not going to pretend that I know what a honky tonk lagoon is or why a dead playwright is conversing in French, but I think it's beautiful regardless. These songs are reasonless passion shoved in a unique presentable package of words and rhymes. If you're curious how this extends to the average young man then I ask you this: What else would you call a college kid trying to discover himself other than reasonless passion shoved in a unique, presentable, package of flesh, and thoughts.

The reason I love Blonde on Blonde is because it's so authentic. Nowadays, media seems only to succeed in the mainstream by being based upon vanity and materialism. We've correlated fame and success and happiness with money and cars and elegantly embellished watches. *Blonde on Blonde* is so inspiring and different because instead of making its listener feel inferior, it embraces genuine passion for things we care about, it relishes in the exuberance of youth, it doesn't shy away from individual character flaws; It's an authentic examination and celebration of the ups and downs and the rights and wrongs that come along with being a man stepping into the rest of his life. *Blonde on Blonde* has been described as "quintessential Bob Dylan". I'd argue the *Blonde on Blonde* is quintessential humanity.

Editor's note: Matthew Crane was born in Atlanta. He is a freshman at UGA pursuing a a double major in History and Political Science.



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CANINES OF CTOWN: SHERMAN



In December, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Brandon Sutton and Ctown's newest canine, Sherman.

Katie: Hi! So, this must be Sherman!

Brandon: Yes!

Katie: I heard that he is new to Ctown. Let's start with how you got him.

Brandon: Well, you met Lady [Lady was Stevie's dog that lived with Stevie & Brandon]. Her life was truly a beautiful

experience. She wasn't technically my dog, but she was still very special to me. There was something about the energy she brought to my life that I really appreciated. I had been considering adopting a senior or older dog from a shelter for a while. Then, right before Thanksgiving, I went on the shelter website for Fulton, and within minutes, I had 20 tabs open.

Katie: That's a dangerous place.

Brandon: Oh my god. I mean, there's just so many. It's overwhelming. I submitted inquiries on two dogs, and Sherman was one of them. He was in a foster home in Grant Park, like five minutes away. When I went to meet him I walked in, and I was like, "Oh my." It was instant; just his demeanor, his temperament. He's super chill. So, we went for a walk, and I knew that there was a good connection, but I was nervous to take him away from the little boys who are part of the foster family.

Katie: Ah!

Brandon: The foster mom was like, "No, no. The boys know that the faster we find a home for Sherman, the faster we can get another dog out of the shelter." And that just was like, "Holy shit, these are amazing people." First of all, that they're doing that and that they're teaching their kids great values.

Katie: Well, he definitely ended up in a great home.

Brandon: I like to think so.

Katie: How is the adjustment going?

Brandon: Good! We've really bonded. He had a growth on his leg that I knew needed to be addressed. When I took him to get the growth removed, he was wearing the cone. I was like, "Oh god. This is awful." Long story short, I was sleeping on the couch so I could be next to him, so he didn't have to have the cone on. I trusted that he wouldn't mess with it if he was right there with me. So I think that really solidified our bond.

Katie: That's sweet!

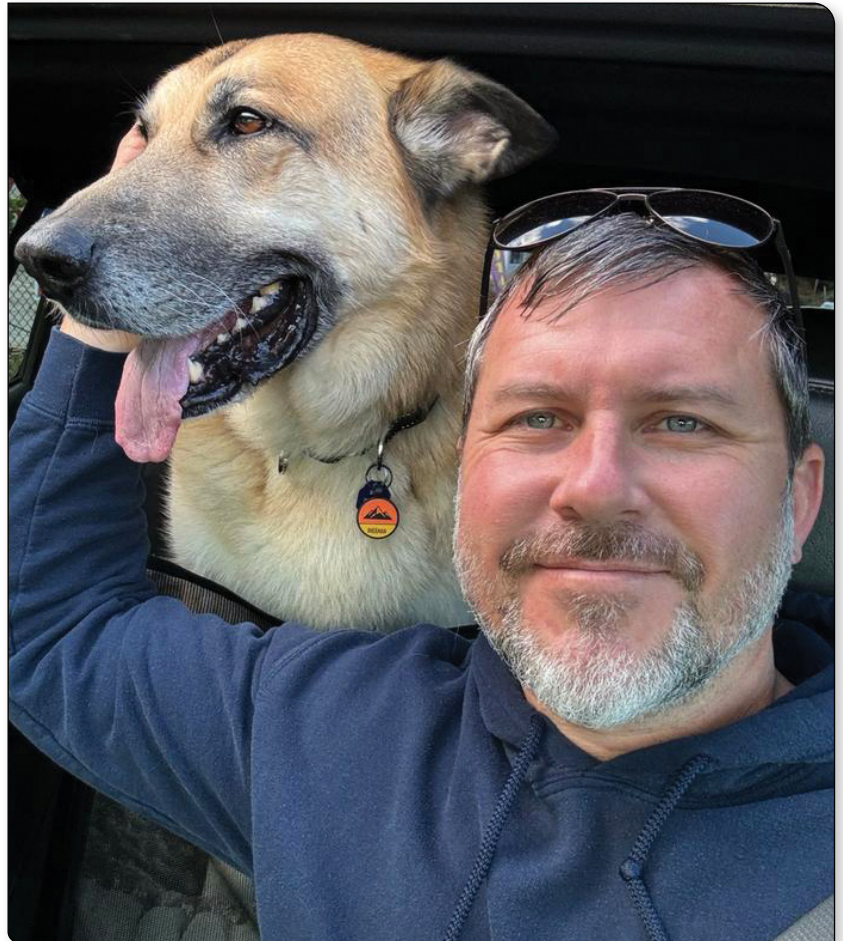
Brandon: He seems really appreciative. I'm obviously very appreciative. It's a beautiful connection that, you know, there's something about that process that's just super, super sweet.

Katie: That's really special.

Brandon: Yeah, he is really great! The only lingering thing is his reactivity with other dogs, and it's hit or miss. Elevators are the biggest concern because it's a tight area, and all of a sudden, the doors open, and there are dogs. Generally, out on walks, he's been doing a whole lot better. I have been working with him on it. During walks in Cabbagetown Park, if he reacts, I correct him quickly and reward him when he calms down. He has shown significant progress!

Katie: Good for him! Have you had to take the stairs yet with him?

Brandon: I about flipped out when they said the elevator wasn't working an hour ago.



Sherman and Brandon go for a ride.

Katie: Taking those stairs is a day-ruiner.

Brandon: Right!

Katie: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Brandon: Yeah, I mean, just to plug shelter rescues. It doesn't work for everyone, but if it does, it's an amazing connection. I know I won't have him for 15 years, but Lady was in my life for a year and a half, and it was transformational. There's so much need out there, and he's just one dog among hundreds sitting in shelters.

Katie: More than we could have ever imagined. Welcome to the hood, Sherman! We are all thrilled to have you here!

CATS OF CTOWN: TIFA AND NEWT

By Chelsea and Melissa

This month we caught up with Berean residents Aurian and Olivia to learn more about their babies, Tifa and Newt.

Can you tell us about their names and how you chose them?

The tortoiseshell girl is Tifa and the orange guy is Newt. As a kitten, Newt looked more like a lizard than a cat. Tifa's name was originally Tortellini the Tortoiseshell, so Aurian felt like he had to pick another name that started with the letter "T". Together, they resemble Puss-N-Boots and Kitty Softpaws, so we've considered this costume for Halloween, but unfortunately Newt hates dressing up. Tifa also looks like Toothless from *How to Train Your Dragon*, so we've considered this costume as well.



Tifa and Newt. Doing what cats do.

Where did they come from? Are they another set from a Cabbagetown cat colony? It seems like half the neighborhood cats are related. Newt came from the Atlanta Humane Society. Olivia went fifteen minutes before closing and was told she needed to decide on the spot whether she wanted to adopt or not. She chose Newt at first sight. He was sleepy from being recently neutered and just napped in her arms during the adoption process. I had also gone there in search of a cat, and Tifa was the only one who spoke to me. I thought she looked adorable with her pupils dilated – they're usually dilated. I knew she was perfect when she tried to stand up and fell right over.

Do you know anything about their past? How are they getting along? We don't know anything about their past. Newt was adopted at three months old and Tifa at five months old. Tifa and Newt have been residents of Cabbagetown for a little over a year! It will be two years in May. They are besties and love cuddling, though Tifa isn't too fond of other cats.

Have we ever seen them outside, hanging with Elvis, Not, Freddie, and the rest of the gang? Tifa is an indoor cat and she loves to

look out the window at birds and people walking by. Newt is allowed to go outside occasionally, usually accompanied by Olivia, but has stayed out all night a couple of times. We actually caught him hanging out with Freddie, the orange lady cat that lives on Gaskill, so maybe there is something going on there. Newt is very shy and dislikes strangers, but he loves other animals. When we found an abandoned kitten on Boulevard last summer, Newt became super paternal, helping to cuddle and bathe him until our friend was ready to adopt him.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about them?

They are garbage thieves. They rob the garbage disposal and all the trash cans looking for food and toys. Newt loves cheese more than anything, but Tifa is especially food-motivated. She likes to climb on people who are holding food and isn't afraid to throw paws at the dog of the house if he gets too close to hers. When they were kittens, they managed to break a heavy pizza stone that was sitting in the middle of the table. I can only assume they were trying to make pizza.

We've heard of making biscuits, but pizza is a first.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHORS: Having profiled most of the legendary street characters, we will be continuing the column by special request. Do you know a cat who longs for the spotlight? Please contact us directly at chelseaarkin@gmail.com.



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LUCKY THIRTEEN



JOHN DIRGA

Undeterred by the cold and bouncing back from mishaps with the rain, the resilient and courageous creatives of Stacks Squares Round XIII took a couple weeks of iffy December weather and turned it into another gorgeous array of ten murals at the north end of Carroll Street.

Winter install is always a challenge, but we're so incredibly proud of these wildly talented painters. Three artists were excited to create their first mural! Betcha can't guess which.

We appreciate our community support, especially Little's, Sam Flax, and Topo Chico. Big shout out to the fine folks at FirstService Residential & TriBridge Residential! Stacks Squares is produced by the Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association.



Please visit our Cabbagetown website (cabbagetown.com/squares) and follow these fine artists on Instagram:

- Teresa Abboud - @teresa_afternoon*
- Kristen Consuegra - @krissen_*
- Ghosttown - @ghosttown.atl*
- Lasalle - @johnlasalle_25*
- Liliana Penagos - @pendejaporpeppers*
- Honey Pierre - @honeypierre_*
- Broly Su - @brolysu*
- Eder Velasco - @eder6325*
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CLAY: COTY 2024!

By Kyle F. Bidlack

New Year's Eve at Milltown Tavern was a night of secrets, because if Clay knew he was going to be the Cabbagehead of the Year, he would have never let it happen.

When Clay hurls a verbal jab your way, you somehow feel honored. And when he complements you, you worried, because an even greater jab might be next. He is the undisputed king of the hit and run, and he takes his cues from Norman Fell.

He is the ultimate dog whisperer. And the ultimate dog photographer. He has helped many of us train our own canines, and he has made us all better dog owners.

When other establishments struggle to keep a team together, he keeps a team together.



Celebrating Clay and The New Year.

When he gives you two minutes of conversation, you feel like a VIP because he's the only one of us that once had a Reddit page dedicated to "how to get on his good side."

He looms like a friendly shepherd colossus constantly protecting his flock. But at three in the morning, he gets the flock outta' here.

He is the Executive Director of Atmospherics... always keeping the lighting, music, temperature, and bonfires at Milltown Tavern, Absolutely perfect.

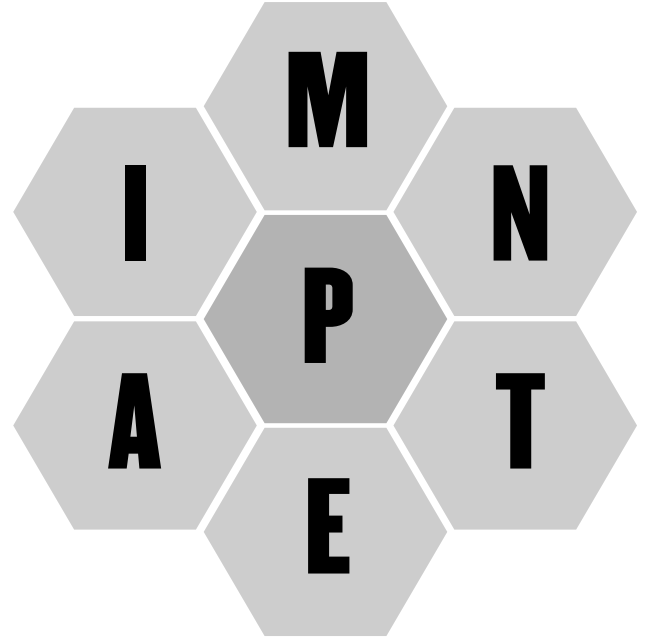
He keeps the bad guys out and the good guys in. He protects us all from ourselves and potential DUIs. He has kept us all healthy by encouraging COVID precautions, or sometimes something as simple as using sunscreen.

He's tolerant but not THAT tolerant, so don't get cocky. He's well-raised, well-schooled, and well-traveled. He can survive in the wild for weeks on end(?). He can ski, snowboard, and paddle board circles around all of us. And he can drink Noel Gallagher AND Bono under the table.

In the blink of an eye, this moment will be the distant past. And it would be a tragedy if one more day went by without adding this man to the ranks of Cabbagehead of the Year. So girls and boys, your Milltown Cabbagehead of the Year for 2024 is The gentle man, the gentle myth, the gentle legend: Mr. Clay R. Miller.

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 "pangram," which uses every letter at least once. *How many pangrams can you find?*



- 1.
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- 28.

Last month's Pangram solution: Muzzling



RANDOMOSITY 24

By Kyle F. Bidlack

ACROSS

- 1) Goldendoodle, e.g.
- 3) Spooky.
- 4) The only consonants in "non-union".
- 5) First 3 of 26.
- 10) Zodiac sign symbolized by scales.
- 12) Free speech org.
- 14) Wrap worn by ancient Romans.
- 16) Throw out, as from a game.
- 19) Changed, as DNA.
- 20) Capital of Norway.
- 22) "Be that way!"
- 23) Sawyer created by Mark Twain.
- 25) "Home Alone" boy.
- 26) Sea creature that can change color to camouflage.
- 31) ___ the belt (unfair).
- 33) Want more than anything.
- 36) Fruit that looks like its first letter?
- 37) Dissipates with daylight.
- 39) A staple at Little's.
- 41) Fan of Dada?
- 42) Turns in "Wheel of Fortune".
- 44) Things that are cut to defuse bombs.
- 45) "That's my ___" ("I love that song!").
- 46) W.
- 48) Distinguishing quality.

- 50) How a movie might be "Certified" on Rotten Tomatoes.
- 51) Mint ___ (cocktail).
- 52) Muppet with a long, curved nose.
- 54) "Shiny Happy People" band.
- 55) Highest point value for a Scrabble tile.
- 57) "Back In Black" band.
- 60) Dissipates with daylight.
- 61) "Mr. Brightside" band.
- 62) Home to the NFL's Dolphins.
- 64) Kooky.
- 65) Chopping tool.
- 68) Quick photo.
- 71) DC superhero who rules over Atlantis.
- 72) They're listed on a dating profile.
- 74) Greek god of war.
- 76) Eclipse or Orbit.
- 78) Fish that can weigh more than a horse.
- 79) Courage in the face of danger.
- 80) Very, in French.
- 82) What you might smell like after sitting around the Milltown Tavern campfire.
- 83) Secretly include on an email, for short.

- 84) "I'm a Believer" band.
 - 86) Planet orbiters.
 - 88) Having a sharp incline.
 - 89) You might get lost in one at night.
 - 91) Color that Picasso became enamored with in 1901.
 - 94) "Just so you know ..."
 - 95) Nearly all of its episode titles start "The One With ..."
 - 97) Watch episode after episode.
- ## DOWN
- 2) Needs to pay.
 - 3) Fashionable, from the French.
 - 5) Foul-smelling.
 - 6) Season 1, Episode 1.
 - 7) Cuisine with green curry.
 - 8) Flowers handed out on "The Bachelor".
 - 9) Socrates taught him, and he taught Aristotle.
 - 11) Pops. [DAD]
 - 13) Canadian territory bordering Alaska.
 - 14) Time's 2023 Person of the Year.
 - 15) Super-smart person.
 - 17) Do some light cardio.
 - 18) Piece of garlic.
 - 21) Impersonate.
 - 23) It borders Nepal and Bhutan.

- 24) What the answer to this clue is not (it's two!).
- 27) He recently tied Michael Jackson for most #1 Billboard hits by a male artist (13).
- 28) Like curling up beside a crackling fire.
- 29) "Forest" for a sea otter.
- 30) It travels through air at roughly 1,125 feet per second.
- 32) Taylor Swift's boyfriend.
- 34) Classics on the Carroll Street Café brunch menu.
- 35) Unwanted email.
- 37) Judi in the Bond films.
- 38) What you get when you turn the "tide"?
- 39) You are here.
- 40) Reply to a tweet?
- 41) Something needed for a game of cricket or an animal that eats crickets.
- 43) Ship's call for help.
- 44) Courtroom testifier.
- 47) Home to Adam and Eve.
- 49) All of them lead to Rome, in a saying.
- 50) Not many.
- 53) Last letter of the Greek alphabet.

- 56) Plummet.
- 57) At the ready.
- 58) Club for theater lovers.
- 59) Our local railroad company.
- 63) City in Ohio where LeBron James was born.
- 66) Subtraction word.
- 67) You are here.
- 68) Part of a book.
- 69) Erroneous.
- 70) A lot of binary code.
- 72) Wheel covers.
- 73) Like some hair days.
- 75) What surrounds Vatican City.
- 77) Italian "hello" or "goodbye".
- 81) They're found at the back of an alley.
- 85) Aristocratic.
- 87) Get naked.
- 90) Obi-Wan Kenobi or Luke Skywalker.
- 91) The third president in a row with a five-letter surname.
- 92) Take out of its packaging.
- 93) Curse word cover-up.
- 96) Reptiles that look like their first and last letters?

TEMPORARY CLOSURE IN DEFENSE OF JENCHAN'S

By Angie Wynne

Historic Oakland Foundation and the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation have announced that Oakland Cemetery will temporarily close to the public for the month of January 2024 so that paving and infrastructure projects may be completed.



Historic Oakland Foundation's Museum Store will also close in January. Both the Cemetery and the Museum Store are expected to re-open to the public on February 1. Information on the closure and reopening can be found at oaklandcemetery.com.

These projects are made possible through funds from the City of Atlanta's 2022 Move Atlanta Forward infrastructure bond. The City is repaving nearly two miles of roads at Oakland, replacing failing water lines, installing irrigation for Oakland's gardens, improving drainage and soil stability, and repairing gutters.

This major accessibility improvement at Oakland would not be possible without the support of our partners in the Department of Parks and Recreation and the City Council, in recognition of the Cemetery's importance as a vibrant place for visitors and neighbors alike.

Families who wish to visit loved ones at Oakland should contact Oakland Cemetery Sexton Sam Reed at sreed@atlanta.gov or 404.658.6019.

By Kyle F. Bidlack

Of the many admirable things JenChan's does, offering healthcare to its full-time staffers is but one. To do this they – understandably – add a 4% Health Insurance Surcharge, pretax. Says JenChan's; "Our industry is an increasingly difficult one to survive in, this small charge afford our staff the ability to go to the doctor for mental or physical ailments they may face."

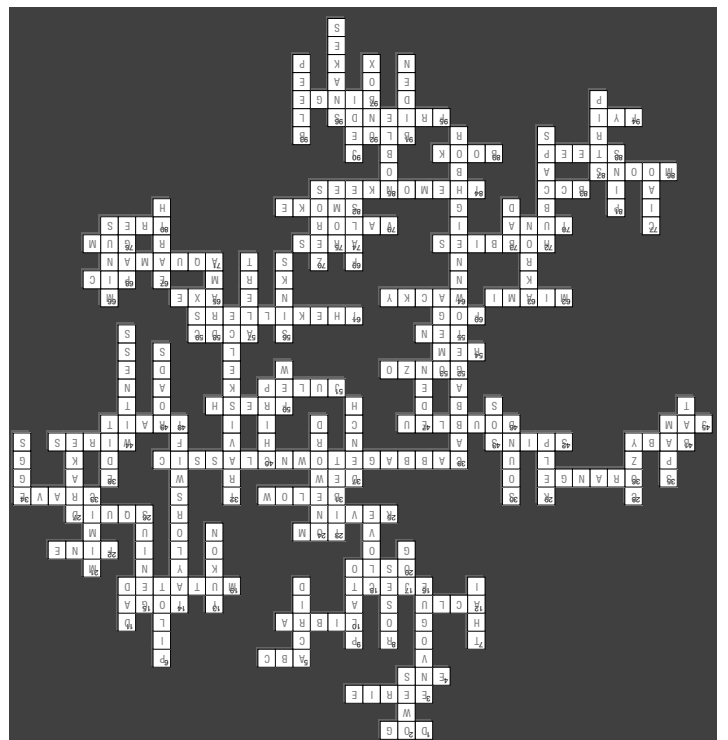
JenChan's explains this charge on every bill and on every menu.

But that didn't stop one diner from complaining about what their cohorts called an "absurd" charge. The diner raised a ruckus in the restaurant and online. Sadly, as is often the case with social media, a bunch of folks piled on with insults, misguided comments, and threats against JenChan's.

In response to the diner raising the ruckus, JenChan's spent a lot of time with them, explained their approach, showed genuine Ctown hospitality, and even refunded their entire bill. Righteous, right? Apparently not. The diner (and scores of folks on social media) did not relent.

This writer fully supports the love and guiding principles exhibited by JenChan's. Furthermore, this writer will increase his visits to JenChan's, will tip heavily (because the service and staff is wonderful), and will double (maybe triple) my contribution to the health insurance surcharge. I hope you will consider doing the same. If the diner in question has a problem with that, they know where to find me.

The solution to this month's "Randomosity 24" crossword puzzle.



"If everyone is driving you crazy, then the feeling is probably mutual!"
Bill Chappell, Atlanta

WHO IS THAT?!!!

CAN YOU IDENTIFY ALL THESE CABBAGEHEADS?

Yup. We're DEFINITELY 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. Ali Weeks 2. Damian Domingo 3. Lisa Myers 4. Chris McGinness 5. Suzanne Denham Mason 6. Spencer Reeve 7. Nina Caltabiano Elsas 8. Jack Sobel 9. Lynne Splinter.

