

# Cabbagetown NEIGHBOR

Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Volume Twenty Issue Number Three March 2012

"I like to get where the cabbage is cooking and catch the scents." - Red Smith, sports columnist

## CNIA Meeting February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012



Pictured above, Ashley McCartney presides over her last CNIA meeting as it's President.

For more info see page 5.

## Neighborhood Meeting

The next neighborhood meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 7p at the Cabbagetown Community Center.

### Agenda

- Welcome & Announcements**  
Valencia Hudson, City of Atlanta  
APD & Public Safety  
Minutes of Last Meeting  
Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports**  
Hospitality, UDC, Historic Preservation and Cabbagetown Initiative
- Old Business**
- New Business:** Request by Brad Cunard to extend closing hours at Little's Market from 8p to 11p.  
Request by Shirley Hughes of Sweet Cheats for outdoor furniture.

The Community Center is located at 177 Estoria Street. If you have an item to add to the agenda, please email [cniaboard@gmail.com](mailto:cniaboard@gmail.com).

Want to book the Community Center? Cabbagetown residents receive a discounted rate (\$100 for up to four hours) Contact Dan at [Communitycenter@Cabbagetown.com](mailto:Communitycenter@Cabbagetown.com) or call 404.317.2379



Photo by Reid Rolls

Looking for a good conversationalist? Make friends with David Crowder

## An upward trajectory

By Kyle F. Bidlack

A few months ago, an equally familiar and yet unfamiliar silhouette strode up Carroll Street. His walk had a purpose to it: Confident, welcoming and charismatic. One part ZZ Top, one part disciple and one part Renaissance man.

### *Cabbagetown, say hello to David Crowder.*

Does Cabbagetown has some rare earth metals buried beneath our Georgia clay? What attracts such meteoric musical talent? From Jack Sobel and *Black Swan Lane* to *Slim Chance and the Convicts* to *Girly Man*...And now David Crowder.

The Cabbagetown Neighbor (CN) had the unique opportunity to get to know David Crowder (DC) a little better. Here's what we learned...

**CN: what brought you to Atlanta and what compelled you to settle in Cabbagetown?**

**DC:** I came to Atlanta because of friends. A career transition allowed my wife and I the opportunity to relocate so I pulled out a map of the grand-ole U. S. of A. and started circling cities I thought might be happy. We quickly decided on Atlanta because of so many people we wanted to be around more. Having grown up in rural East Texas, and having spent the last 16 years of my life in central Texas, one of the things I really wanted in my new geographic local was to not have to get in my car  
*(continued on pg 7)*

**Wylie  
Coyote?  
See Pg. 8**

# Cabbagetown NEIGHBOR

*Cabbagetown Neighbor* is a monthly newsletter produced by the Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association (CNIA), a non-profit organization. This publication is supported by advertisers. Please submit news articles, announcements, and ads to: [newsletter@cabbagetown.com](mailto:newsletter@cabbagetown.com). Previously published issues are available for download under the CNIA tab at [www.cabbagetown.com](http://www.cabbagetown.com).

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## Newsletter Distribution

The Cabbagetown Neighbor is distributed the weekend before the CNIA meeting (the second Tuesday) each month to the residents of Cabbagetown. If you have any problems related to receiving your newsletter please contact the newsletter editors at [newsletter@cabbagetown.com](mailto:newsletter@cabbagetown.com) or call 404.452.4105.

## City of Atlanta Service Numbers

Missed Trash Pick-ups	404.330.6333
Bureau of Parks Work Order Office	404.817.6813
Illegal Dumping	404.330.6333
Bulk Rubbish	404.330.6333
Potholes	404.330.6281
Traffic Concerns	404.330.6501
Zoning Enforcement	404.330.6175
Housing Code Compliance	404.330.6190
Atlanta Workforce Development	
Agency Job Hotline	404.658.9675
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Mayor's Office of Constituent Services	404.330.6023
Atlanta Police Department	404.853.3431
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Community Cyber Centers	404.880.7220

## KEEP UP WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Join the Cabbagetown online community at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CNIA>

And the parents' network of Cabbagetown kids at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cabbagekids>

## ADVERTISE WITH US

Advertising with the *Cabbagetown Neighbor* is an inexpensive way to reach over 650 homes in the Cabbagetown neighborhood including the residences of *The Stacks Lofts*. It is also a great way to support the CNIA and the publication of this newsletter. Visit the CNIA website at [www.cabbagetown.com](http://www.cabbagetown.com) or write the editors at [newsletter@cabbagetown.com](mailto:newsletter@cabbagetown.com) for more info.

## ADVERTISING RATES

Ad Size	One Month	Three Mos	Six Mos	One Year
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

Classified ads are 25¢ a word for non-residents. Classified ads of 25 words or less and announcements are free of charge to Cabbagetown residents.



# SEABA Update

By Ashley McCartney

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Sweet Cheats (on Kirkwood Avenue, on the park) hosted our networking soiree. We tried a new soiree format allowing our guests the spotlight for one minute to speak about their specific businesses and their ideal customers.

It is our hope that this format will foster even more relationships and help promote our local businesses. As we spoke, listened and networked, we enjoyed a variety of the delicious treats Sweet Cheats has to offer.

We offer a HUGE thank you to Shirley for her hospitality and her scrumptious treats. Not only does Shirley have the best cupcakes, cruffles, cookies and brownies in town, she has expanded her menu to include gluten free and vegan options. She truly has a great thing going and we are so glad she is right here on Cabbagetown Park!

Our next event will be held March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 at Zoo Atlanta. One of our distinguished board members, Rick Hudson, will give his famous "Beltline 101" presentation, which fills us in on the progress and how the project can better our businesses and community. The event will cost \$10 and attendance is limited. Please RSVP on our Facebook page or send an email to ashmccartney@gmail.com.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 5:30p until 7:15p., Gardenhood will host us for Networking in the Garden. This was one of the favorite events from last year and we thank Garden Hood for offering to host us again.

Good things are on the horizon for SEABA. Please check out our new SEABA website at [www.seabaga.org](http://www.seabaga.org) for information about our new membership guidelines, leaders, membership benefits, and tactical and strategic plans for 2011-2012.

If you would like to be on our mailing list or know more about our organization just send an email to [ashmccartney@gmail.com](mailto:ashmccartney@gmail.com) and we'll get back to you. We are also now on Facebook.

*SEABA (South East Atlanta Business Association) was created through the merger of the Reynoldstown/Cabbagetown Business Association and the Grant Park Merchants Association in 2006. Our most important goals are to strengthen and grow the business community and enhance the quality of life for all residents. SEABA is a 501(c)(6) non-profit corporation operated by volunteers.*

Over 26 years of income tax and accounting experience...

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*Tracy T. Garvin, CPA*

225 Estoria Street, SE  
Cabbagetown, Atlanta, GA 30316  
678.637.9373  
[tracy-garvin@clear.net](mailto:tracy-garvin@clear.net)



# Milltown March Madness (and greatness!)

**NCAA March Madness is Here!**

Catch the action at Milltown  
Bud Light Pints \$3<sup>50</sup> • Budweiser Bottles \$3<sup>25</sup>

**March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6p • Wine Series**

Organic Wines with Lauren DeLuca  
5 tastings • 1 full pour • \$15

**March 16<sup>th</sup> • Emer Art Opening!**

Come See & Buy • **FREE** Appetizers • 7p-11p

**March 17<sup>th</sup> • St. Patrick's Day**

Open at 9a! Milltown Green T-Shirts for Sale  
Wear Your MT Green T-Shirt & Get a **FREE** beer.  
Bloody Mary Bar • Green Eggs & Ham \$5<sup>25</sup>

**CABBAGETOWN GOES GLOBAL!**

March 15<sup>th</sup> thru March 30<sup>th</sup> • Online Auction



**March 31<sup>st</sup> • Let's Celebrate!**

**"CABBAGETOWN GOES GLOBAL" AFTER-PARTY!**

Music by Michael Chesin & Parker Smith  
All Donors get Appetizers and Two **FREE** Drinks!



**milltown tavern**

180 Carroll Street • Cabbagetown • Atlanta  
404.827.0434 • [MilltownTavernCabbagetown.com](http://MilltownTavernCabbagetown.com)

**Visit Once a Day. It's Good for YOU!**

# Cabbagetown goes global

By Kyle F. Bidlack

As you are probably aware, Milltown Tavern hosts an annual fundraiser that aims to commemorate the amazing goodwill that Cabbagetown exhibited in the wake of the cataclysmic tornado that ripped through our neighborhood in 2008.

This year, Barb Harper approached The Wellbeing Foundation, and shared her idea that Cabbagetown is in relatively good shape. We are so lucky compared to other neighborhoods around the world. Barb is aware of the Wellbeing Foundation's effort to build a water well in the tiny village of Esupetai, Kenya. This little village has suffered through a nine year drought and the situation is dire

- A handyman might offer 4 hours of handyman services.*
- A photographer might offer a portrait photography session.*
- Someone might offer round-trip airline tickets*
- An artist might offer a collection of his/her works.*
- A gardener might offer to plant flowers in someone's yard.*
- A web wizard might offer a specialized service.*
- Someone might offer a vacation home for one week.*
- A tattoo artist might offer a tattoo session.*

You get the idea, yes? The idea is that YOU have something to offer... Something special. Something that people will want to bid on.

Think about it for a little bit. We know you can help. Cabbagetown has always risen to the occasion, and we know you can come to the rescue of Esupetai.

**The auction site is live right now!**

**We invite you to check it out:**

**[www.32auctions.com/cabbagetown](http://www.32auctions.com/cabbagetown)**

A handful of Cabbageheads have already stepped forward and donated some amazing items, services and experiences, but we'll need so much more. We need YOU. If you want to hop in right now, email Kyle Bidlack at [kyle.bidlack@yahoo.com](mailto:kyle.bidlack@yahoo.com) and share your idea. He'll help make it a reality.

The online auction will commence on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and run for two weeks, ending on Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>. After the auction is over, Milltown Tavern will host a big party on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and you will be invited! Beer, Food and Music will fill the festivities...And we might even have a special guest; a Maasai warrior named Sonkoi. Sonkoi lives in Esupetai and we hope he will be able to

make the journey. Trust us, you will love meeting Sonkoi.

Several members of the Wellbeing Foundation just returned from Esupetai! They spread the word about Cabbagetown's effort and heart. The village is overjoyed.

Additionally, The Wellbeing Foundation will be making a donation to The Clear Water Initiative which was founded by Cabbagetown neighbor, Ben Sklaver. Sadly, we lost Ben in the War in Afghanistan. Before Ben died, he made a tremendous difference in the world by doing exactly what Wellbeing is doing. Our donation will be made in the name of Ben and all his Cabbagetown neighbors.

So we ask you to please start thinking about how you can express your unique Cabbagetown global vision. In the coming weeks we'll be reaching out to you, via emails, news, websites, posters and Facebook. We believe this will be one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do in your lifetime.



*Pictured above is some villagers of Esupetai, Kenya with a special message for the villagers of Cabbagetown. The Wellbeing Foundation traveled to Esupetai in mid February and spread the word of your potential efforts. Photo by Dennis Lumpkins of The Wellbeing Foundation.*

The Wellbeing Foundation is a group of mostly Atlantans who have been together for over three years. Thus far, they have raised almost \$20,000. Barb believes we can harness the global vision and heart of Cabbagetown and help The Wellbeing Foundation raise the final dollars need to begin drilling. We have an idea that we think can raise upwards of \$30,000...Enough to drill the well and change the lives of 5000 villagers.

## HERE'S THE PLAN:

We've created an online auction site (much like ebay). We are asking Cabbageheads to offer up things for auction that people near and far can bid on. EVERY Cabbagehead has something truly unique to offer...Something of amazing value. Here are some examples:



# Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association: General Meeting

February 7, 2012 – Cabbagetown Hall (Community Center)

By John Dirga

1. Officer Trotter, APD, announced a social networking website that will help EMS/AFD/APD respond to emergencies at neighbors homes, including photos of missing kids, fire safety, and other items. Details forthcoming. To reiterate the danger of dark alleys, there was a call about a robbery in Dekalb/Boulevard underpass on his way to the meeting.

2. Sam Gris, Public Safety Report: 6 cars broken into on the same street in Inman Park, all for valuable items left visible, and other vehicles at the Edgewood Shopping Center. An alcohol delivery driver had his inventory stolen at 11:30a in front of 97 Estoria. Zone 6 response times have dropped, especially on evening watch (from 4:23min to 2:29min) and morning watch (2:32 to 1:28). Virginia Highlands has a problem with vehicle break-ins.

3. No update on Esther Peachy Park renovation. Pat Katz absent.

4. Yearly fundraiser in memory of community organization during the March 2008 Tornado: This year is a more global vision. In honor of Ben Sklaver (who lost his life 2009 in Afghanistan), and led by Kyle Bidlack of the WellBeing Foundation, which has a goal of bringing clean water to Esupetai, Kenya. The idea is to put a talent on bid for auction. Well Being Foundation will also make a commemorative contribution to Ben Sklaver's Clear Water Initiative.

5. Proposed by-laws changes (detailed in the February Cabbagetown Neighbor): Double-signature checks (passed unanimously).

6. ELECTIONS: For President – Lyn Deardorff. No other nominees. Unanimous. Vice-President: John Dirga. No other nominees. Unanimous. Recording Secretary: Ashley McCartney. No other nominees. Unanimous. Corresponding Secretary: Tracy Garvin. No other nominees. Unanimous. Treasurer: Karin Kane. No other nominees. Unanimous. NPU Representative: Brad Cunard. No other nominees. Unanimous.

7. UDC Cases: 185 Savannah Street ( 2-story CRAFT house). HP Chair Jared presented: David Lewis wants to put in a driveway and a back deck. HP recommends a letter of support. David Butler is the architect. Requires a variance (normally requires a 20' into property). Removing one deck to create a drive-way. There were concerns about the deck dimensions, and the movement of gas meters. HP Committee could not provide details about UDC Guidelines, and the Staff Report was not presented. There was a motion to support, contingent upon applicant providing a copy of the staff report. UPDATE: Application has been deferred due to insufficient materials.

8. Tova presented a letter about the Atlanta Public School redistricting, Option 1. Cook (which may be closing?) or Hope Hill Elementary, to Coan Middle, to Jackson High. 2. Whiteford Elementary, to King Middle, to Grady High. Hoping for Southeast Cluster to support Cabbagetown's acceptance into Coan to Jackson (which is clos-

ing for \$13mil renovation). Parents hope to align with Grant Park, Parkside Elementary, to Coan, to Jackson. Lynn Splinter pointed out that this will affect our home values. SEACS parents group (supporting option C, which splits from Reynoldstown) includes Grant Park, Summerhill, Kirkwood, East Lake, Peoplestown, & Ormewood. A resident asked if it was it too late to involve Reynoldstown? There was a motion to authorize a Cabbagetown School Committee, for CNIA to endorse the letter as its guiding mission statement, and allow committee action which adhere to its mission, with further correspondence not requiring community votes. Unanimous.

9. George Berry presented an update for "3 Points Park". Committee members include: Myra, David Dechant, Kim, and George. UDC stated the gazebo design had to relate to the Cotton Mill. Perhaps a Trolley Waiting Station would be more conforming. No update on sidewalks or drawings of trolley station. It was recommended that he contact Traffic & Transportation to determine the rules for sidewalk clearance, and obtain drawings of a Trolley Station.

10. February 25, 4p, Initial Chomp & Stomp planning meeting.

11. CNIA Treasurer: \$8,211 in general fund. Income: \$885 (Advertising). Expenses: \$102 (pizza), \$464 (printing), \$500 (website). -\$181 for the month.

12. It was suggested that CNIA review Candler Park's event application process, for renting/using park. They retain right to say what's going on.

13. Meeting adjourned.

## Wedding Bells



Photo by Adrienne Lampe

Pictured above; Kate Nadeau and Mike Bodnar on the Roof of Mill Bldg. No. 1

On Tuesday, March 3, 2012, Kate and Mike were married at the beach in Riviera Maya, Mexico. A spirited reception followed and the newly married couple spent their honeymoon enjoying all that Mexico has to offer. Cabbagetown wishes Katie and Mikey a wonderful lifetime together.

# Vintage hardware

By George Berry, *The Wood Guy*

Every now and then a neighbor will ask me where they can find a glass doorknob for their old bathroom. "Vandyke's Restorers" is the best and cheapest source for vintage hardware and retro everything, from bathtubs with feet to wooden heating grills.



They have been in business for a long time and their prices are the best in the business. Just go to [vandykes.com](http://vandykes.com). I get their Catalog every year and read it cover to cover. They also sell period furniture kits for the Do-it-yourselfer (Or you can order the kit and I can put it together for you). Their toll free number is 800.558.1234

# Immigration hero

Immigrants' List, a bipartisan political action committee, named Sen. Nan Orrock (D-Atlanta) an Immigration Hero for 2012. Sen. Orrock is one of two state legislators to receive this award that honors leaders who exemplify the organizations' vision to promote fair immigration reform.

*"I am very humbled to be included on this list of advocates who oppose the draconian policies toward our immigrant community and support a positive, productive approach,"* said Sen. Orrock.

Sen. Orrock represents the 36<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Cabbagetown. She may be reached by phone at 404.463.8054 or via e-mail at: [nan.orrock@senate.ga.gov](mailto:nan.orrock@senate.ga.gov).

# Walking tours

By Atlanta Preservation Center

## **Cabbagetown Arboretum Guided Tour**

Stroll through Cabbagetown to see this collection of trees and other woody native plants highlight one of Atlanta's greatest assets, past and future: her urban forest.

**Wednesday, March 21, 2012**

**1:00p - 3:00p. Admission is Free**

Meet at Cabbagetown Park on the Tye St side.

## **Fulton Bag & Cotton Mill Tour**

In 1881 the Fulton Cotton Spinning Company constructed a new complex of buildings in the current location on the south side of the Georgia Railroad line, east of downtown. The mill thrived until the mid-1950s when it was sold. After years of declining operations, the mill closed in 1978 and the buildings sat empty for almost 20 years. Although abandoned and in disrepair, the mill was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 along with the mill village today known as Cabbagetown. In 1995 the property was purchased for conversion into lofts. Since this time, it has endured both a major fire in 1999 and a tornado in 2008.

**Wednesday, March 21, 2012**

**1:30p - 3:00p. Admission is Free**

Reservations required: 404-688-3353 ext. 11 (Limited to 25)  
This event is partially accessible to individuals with physical disabilities. For questions call 404-688-3353. This event is appropriate for young preservationists over 10 years of age.

Meet at The Stacks. Parking is available on site.

# Art on the Beltline: Call for Artists

**The 2012 Art on the Atlanta BeltLine Request for Proposals is here!**

We're excited to bring back Atlanta's largest temporary, public art exhibition for the third year in a row! Submission instructions are detailed in the Request for Proposals and proposals are due by April 16, 2012. Please be sure to attend one of our five information sessions where we can answer any questions you may have about the project or your proposal. You can visit [art.beltline.org](http://art.beltline.org) to submit and check for updated information. We look forward to another strong show in 2012!

Visit: [www.beltline.org/Portals/26/Art\\_on\\_the\\_Atlanta\\_Belt-Line\\_2012\\_RFP.pdf](http://www.beltline.org/Portals/26/Art_on_the_Atlanta_Belt-Line_2012_RFP.pdf) for more information.

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# An upward trajectory

*Continued from front page.*

to secure necessities; I really wanted my future hunting and gathering to be on foot. I knew this was the place the first time I stepped foot on Carroll St. There is an unpretentiousness about Cabbagetown that I immediately fell in love with, an attitude that feels really genuine. It's not a place that people settle to project a certain image, rather it seems this space is collecting people who are really diverse yet have some sort of similar internal aesthetic that is authentically quirky.

**CN:** *You live in The Stacks, why?*

**DC:** Honestly, once we had settled on Atlanta, I typed, "Atlanta lofts for sale," into the internet machine and The Stacks was the first thing that came up. I clicked on the link and thought, "cool, that looks exactly like somewhere I'd want to live." I also thought it would be ridiculous to wind up in the first place I found online so I spent several months attempting to be a responsible, informed real-estate purchaser, only to wind up at the creepy conclusion that Google knows me better than I like to admit.

**CN:** *Most vivid childhood memory?*

**DC:** Shooting dirt in my brother's ear with an air rifle. I thought I killed him. I know I must have done much worse, but the look on his face and the feeling I had while running to get the garden hose is still in my chest.

**CN:** *You have been the front man in the David Crowder Band for 11 years, how would you sum up that chapter of your life?*

**DC:** I got to do something really special. Not a whole lot of people get to do what they love with people that they love. I was friends with each of the guys in the band before we started making music together and it felt like music was coming from relationship rather than the inverse. Being in a band you are stuck in the near proximity of each other, and honestly that's what I think that chapter of my life was about - the relationships.

**CN:** *Your faith plays a predominate role in your music, do you also write music and lyrics outside the confines of faith?*

I do on occasion write music and lyrics that don't have the same intentionality as the ones we're known for. Bizarrely, I've been writing a lot of Country and Western of late. Such future hits as, "She Drove Me To Drinkin'" ("Drinkin'" being a bar outside of Beaumont, Texas, of course), "Damn, It's Morning Again" (word play being the equivalent elocution of "morning" and "mourning", of course), and "I Might Not Be A Cowboy But I'm From Texas" (Which, of course, is the hook of the chorus that is followed by the line "I might not drive a truck, I drive a Lexus." I, of course, don't drive a Lexus but I thought it was funny and the only other things I could think of that rhyme with "Texas" are, "nexus," and "plexus," which I found difficult to fit with the rest of the song's thematic content.)

**Editor's note:** David's latest release has risen straight to number one on the main US iTunes Album Chart after it's first day of release on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and charted number two on Billboards top 200.

singing gospel songs in a field as form of resistance, or Pete Seeger and his protest songs, or Woodie Guthrie singing "This Land Is Your Land" with the words "this machine kills fascist" scrawled across his guitar, central moments, when culture is reconstituted, music is in the middle of it. It is cognitive praxis, these relationships between politics and culture, music and movements. Music is sneaky, it creeps in and grabs the heart while it informs and forms the way we think and interact.

**CN:** *How would you describe your home life here in Cabbagetown?*

**DC:** My friends joke that I don't know where anything in Atlanta is if it's not on Carroll Street. In a confessional way I refer to Milltown Tavern as my living room and I have fallen in love with the staff and all the fancy people that frequent that place. If I'm not there I am usually asleep.

**CN:** *Can you tell us a little bit about one of your heroes, Gary Mills?*



*The David Crowder Band. Photo by Reid Rolls*

**CN:** *who are your musical influences?*

**DC:** Willie Nelson, Elvis, Olivia Newton John, Queen, Bill Gaither. Those are the 8 tracks that were playing in my dad's Ford Thunderbird during my impressionable years.

**CN:** *How can music change the world?*

**DC:** Music has always been connected to social movement. Whether it be slaves

**DC:** Gary is a hero of mine because he sums up East Texas in a body. We are an *almost* brilliant people. When Gary wasn't in jail, he worked for my dad on rental properties. He was a treat. As a kid he taught me ingenuity by way of example. He had this van he had purchased at a pawn shop (yes, go ahead, laugh, that's how we roll) and believe it or not it was prone to malfunction on occasion. *Continued on pg. 11*

# An opportunity to serve

By Megan Warley

If you've ever walked or driven through Reynoldstown and were curious about the large, old, blue building on the corner of Stovall and Mauldin: that building is the home of the Andrew P. Stewart Center, and has been since 1950.

The Stewart Center is a non-profit organization that currently runs an after school program and summer camp for under-resourced children.

We offer low cost after school care that focuses on providing academic enrichment opportunities, including homework help, tutoring, and electives such as art and music. All of the children we serve attend Atlanta Public Schools, and many reside in the Reynoldstown & Cabbagetown neighborhoods.

We are currently seeking to better involve the surrounding communities of Reynoldstown and Cabbagetown in our programs. One way that community members can get involved is through after school tutoring.

We currently partner with Mercer University and Hands on Atlanta for after school volunteers, but would LOVE to have caring, passionate community members work with our children as well. Volunteers would spend time helping students with homework, read to students, help with fun activities, and serve as positive role models.

If you are interested in after school tutoring, please contact me via email or phone: [Megan@stewartcenter.org](mailto:Megan@stewartcenter.org) or 404.522.0942

To learn more about the Andrew P. Stewart Center, please feel free to visit: [www.stewartcenter.org](http://www.stewartcenter.org)



Photo courtesy of Atlanta Animal Control

## Wylie Coyote?

By Skyler Waldrop Minter

Multiple residents of neighboring Reynoldstown have spotted what they believe to be, coyotes roaming the area near the Beltline and the CSX rail yard.

We want to remind residents of all intown neighborhoods to keep pets on a leash while outdoors as dogs and cats that are allowed to roam freely may be at risk. Coyotes adapt easily to urban settings and are unlikely to leave an area if they find a dependable food source.

CN has learned that February through April is coyote breeding and birthing season, so this may explain the frequency of sightings in the last few weeks.

## One of Cabbagetown's greatest secrets

Okay, so maybe it's not a secret anymore, but how wonderful is it that Tim or Jack or the staff at Agave recognize you as a Cabbagehead and somehow manage to find you a table quickly (no matter how busy they might be)? As usual, Agave has some amazing things going on this

month...Wonderful compliments to their mouth-watering gourmet menu.

**The Agave Spring Tequila Dinner**  
**A Five Course Feast featuring the Super Premium Tequila of Partida!**  
Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:00p

\$65 per person plus tax and gratuity  
Call 404.588.0006 to reserve your seat.  
Looking for a recommendation? Try their pan-seared tuna. Trust us, you will not be disappointed. For more information on Agave, check out: [agaverestaurant.com](http://agaverestaurant.com)



# Little Pink Houses...

By Skyler Waldrop Minter

**When you think of Cabbagetown, what comes to mind?** Are you lured by the remnants of the once-booming mill town, or drawn to the now-thriving artists community? Is it our neighborhood green-space and grand "Chomp and Stomp" festival (the festival that makes other festivals green with envy) that you hold dear?



For some, the recognition and the distinction are the vividly-painted homes and quirky yard décor.



All Photos by Skyler Waldrop Minter

As if celebrating some imaginary year-round holiday, Cabbagetown is always the star of its own party, the bell of its own ball. It's not a contest, it's a story, and each neighbor adds another chapter. All of this translates into some wonderfully wacky, but glorious eye-candy.



The photos here are just a few that caught our eye. What do you love about Cabbagetown? Let us know! Send photos, stories and other newsworthy items to: [newsletter@cabbagetown.com](mailto:newsletter@cabbagetown.com)

Cabbage-kids are our future. Here is one of our brightest angels; Caliope Dechant.







# The cool kids of the krew

By Debbie Weeks

**Cabbagetown did it again!** Our Krewe of Cabbagetown Procession was a hit! The weather forecast called for 100% chance of rain. We expected a lot more cars and floats but many cancelled their plans because they didn't trust in the Mardi Gras Gods that watched over us and halted the rain just in time for us to roll.

Thanks to everyone who participated and to the neighborhood revelers as they screamed for beads as members of the Krewe of

Cabbagetown cruised the streets. Special thanks to Karen Russian and David Thayer for their organizational efforts. Next year will be even better (we are on a good trend, considering that this year was almost twice as big as last year)! We hope to have dancers, baton twirlers, drummers, bands, cheerleaders, even better beads and anything your creative minds can come up with!

*Laissez les bons temps rouler! See ya next year!*



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# An upward trajectory

*Continued from page 7*

On one particular occasion the accelerator cable broke and so he simply drilled a hole in the plastic engine cover, you know, that intrusion of plastics between the passenger seat and the driver? So, ran a rope to the accelerator arm and ran it out the hole. You pull the rope the van goes forward. Or backward, depending on what letter it was on. Almost brilliant. That would be enough, but no, he then cuts a slit down from the hole and ties knots at different speed increments. Cruise control! Almost brilliant. I'm pretty sure he'd love Cabbagetown but it's best you yield to him on Carroll St.

**CN:** *Can you tell us a bit about your dog, Asta?*

**DC:** He is made of concrete. This works best because of my travel schedule. He's very amicable and obeys me for the most part.

**CN:** *What bible verse most speaks to you?*

**DC:** Honestly, you may laugh, and I say this with slight embarrassment due to the potential of me appearing to have a very limited knowledge of scripture, which may reflect badly on my cause, but... it truly is John 11:35 – *"Jesus wept."*

To me those two words hold the entire narrative of God's reconciliation of creation. They sit in the middle of one of the more difficult passages in the Bible. A man, Lazarus is sick. Word has gotten to Jesus through Mary and Martha who ask that he come to where Lazarus is. The word that they send to Jesus is, *"Lazarus, the one that you love, is sick."* They believe if Jesus comes, he will heal Lazarus. Jesus doesn't come immediately. Lazarus dies.

When Jesus does arrive Mary runs to him and says, *"if you would have been here, my brother would not have died."* Jesus, seeing this and shares in her affliction. He is moved by, and shares in, the pain. There were two stories happening, the one unfolding from Mary and Martha's perspective – our brother's was dying, why didn't you come – and Jesus' perspective – his intentions are to raise Lazarus from the grave. Despite Jesus' knowledge that Lazarus was about to be back in the living, he still shared in the sorrow that resulted from his delay.

In summary, it is helpful to me to believe that in the difficult moments of life, there is more than my story unfolding, that perhaps I cannot yet see the thing that will be resurrected and that if there is pain where these stories collide it is not carried alone.

**CN:** *Do you have a vision for the next chapter in your musical journey?*

**DC:** A very loose one. I have loved doing what I've been doing and plan to pursue solo stuff, I am just taking a bit of time to exhale and steady myself before diving back in. I'd get around to it sooner if the darn chicken & dumplings weren't so tasty at Milltown.

**CN:** *When you walk down Carroll St, what do you absorb?*

**DC:** Everything. I hope.



## Sold!



**269 Powell St.  
Cabbagetown  
3 BR/3 BA**

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# SPECIAL REPORT: Fiduciary Failure

By Michael McPherson. Contributions by Bryan Brunson, Celine Bufkin, Meridith Mason-Ward, Nasreen Jilani, Jason Snyder, Katherine Dirga, Edward Lindahl, and Jerry Weber.

## Foreword

I (Michael McPherson) have here attempted to give a full accounting of the events surrounding the crime committed by Robert Wood, the Cabbagetown Initiative Community Development Corporation (CICDC) former President.

I, and other members of the CICDC Board, learned of the thefts shortly after I became President in the first half of 2009. As soon as we were aware there might be something seriously wrong, we instituted an investigation. Our investigation revealed a breach of trust and we began both taking steps to seek to restore stolen funds, and press charges against Mr. Wood.

Unfortunately, we had placed trust in a neighbor at a time of dramatic change in the CICDC and just before the neighborhood was devastated by the 2008 tornado. Robert betrayed our trust, and stole from us all.



Mugshot of Robert Wood. Courtesy of The Atlanta Journal Constitution

## Robert Wood Pleads Guilty To Theft

On Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Robert Wood pled guilty to 40 counts of theft by fiduciary. The total number of counts reflected the first and last theft, as well as the different means by which he used to steal from the CICDC over a period of roughly 19 months. He wrote checks to himself and to cash; Mr. Wood pulled money from teller machines with a corporate debit card; he paid for personal expenses with both checks and the debit card.

## History of the CICDC and Mr. Wood's Involvement with CICDC

Robert became a member of the board of directors of the CICDC in a time of great change. CICDC was formed by the neighborhood in the late 1990s in order to raise money for the purpose of creating the City of Atlanta's Cabbagetown Park.

In 2005, the neighborhood and CICDC met that goal when the Park opened for public use. It was no small task. A defunct APS School had to be torn down, the land had to be transferred from APS to the City Parks Dept., and great sums of money had to be raised.

To meet these goals it took a great deal of coordination by a paid executive director (ED), the volunteer members of the board of directors of CICDC, and the volunteer leaders of the Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association (CNIA—otherwise known as “the neighborhood association”). From the project's inception in the mid 1990s, highly motivated, intelligent people cut through the red tape year after year and finally completed the task. And then, after all that work, trust was placed in the wrong person.

The CICDC was run by a paid employee, the ED, but the board of directors and the ED could not develop a program that would bring in enough money to continue to compensate the ED. So, just as the finishing touches were being put on Cabbagetown Park, the administrator (the ED) that managed the books and helped guide the neighborhood through the fundraising and construction process was let go.

What was left was a volunteer board that had just accomplished a task that took 10 years to instigate. Robert Wood, a neighbor, became a CICDC board member in 2006, and by November of 2007 he was acting as both Board President and Treasurer.

During this period, 2005 to 2007, Chomp and Stomp had become a full-fledged festival and started to bring in substantial sums of money. Chomp began as a fundraiser for the Park project around 2002 and now provides a large amount of both the CNIA and CICDC yearly operating budgets. CICDC uses the Chomp funds and other income to upkeep Cabbagetown Park, the Community Center, our green spaces, and drive community improvement

where possible. CICDC administers both the Park and Community Center through a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Atlanta. Our Community Garden is also on City of Atlanta property. In 2005, Chomp raised a little more than \$10,000, in 2006, close to \$19,000, and in 2007, under the leadership of Ed Lindahl as Chomp Chair, profit more than doubled at roughly \$39,000.

Shortly after the 2007 Chomp and Stomp, Robert Wood began to write checks to himself from the CICDC operating account in the guise of expense reimbursements. This was questioned by CICDC's accounting firm, but the questions did little good because Robert was their point of contact. He simply did not answer their requests for more information.

If the CICDC board were functioning as it should have been (with regular monthly meetings, minutes taken, and finances presented and reviewed) anyone on the board would have questioned the payouts at that time. By eliminating the checks and balances that a regular meeting schedule, including normal administrative presentations, Robert was able to preempt real questions regarding CICDC's finances.

In speaking with our neighbors that were involved with either CNIA or CICDC at that time, most agree that Robert had decided that regular meetings weren't necessary. At the time, this did trouble some folks, especially Jason Snyder, a Board Member and former CNIA President (2007); although others placed their trust in Robert so it was hard for Jason (and a few others) to get any traction toward implementing a more formal meeting structure for the CICDC board. A few months later Cabbagetown was hit by a tornado.

## The Tornado

Friday night, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, was a long night for anyone who lived in Cabbagetown. Nearly all of the buildings in the Stacks/Fulton Cotton Mill were hit, as were a great number of the homes in Cabbagetown. Many of our neighbors had lost their homes, and priorities shifted instantly to helping out those in need. Celine Bufkin had become President of CNIA the month before the tornado, and did a great job in helping to rally resources for the victims of the tornado. The sad thing is, Robert was helping too, but at the same time he was stealing money as it came in.



In order to process relief funds, so as to be sure that there would be no commingling of CICDC or CNIA operating funds with relief monies, Robert opened a 2<sup>nd</sup> checking account for CICDC with Bank of America. When asked if he'd like a debit card, Robert answered in the affirmative.

Within days, money started to roll in from all over the place—families of people in the neighborhood, surrounding communities, corporations, and philanthropy groups gave thousands of dollars. Fortunately, money taken in the form of a check leaves a trail to follow. Unfortunately, many of our friends and neighbors raised money by holding charity events and handed cash to Robert, which we will never be able to account for completely.

Shortly after the tornado, I became involved with CICDC. I had been to a few CNIA meetings, but didn't know anyone outside the Stacks. I had become interested in the NPU process and how the City of Atlanta extends governance to the neighborhoods.

My interest had grown through helping sort out a taxation issue with our neighbors in the Stacks in 2007. In the weeks after the tornado I was approached by Jason Snyder and asked if I would be up for taking part in the relief efforts. After clearing the commitment with my wife and my coworkers, I agreed to help.

Some of CICDC's board members were rolling off due to time served; others had their homes devastated by the tornado and would be dealing with their own personal matters. Nasreen Jilani, Meridith Mason, and I became the newest board members of CICDC in May of 2008. Everyone was asked to gather their thoughts on how Cabbagetown's relief process would work, and we'd meet back up in a week or so.

One thing that was agreed upon was that the CICDC board would postpone regular meetings while the relief committee did its job and the board members affected by the tornado sorted out their personal recovery efforts; unfortunately, this allowed Robert to act unhindered by any review process.

In the meantime I made calls to folks in areas of Georgia that had been hit by recent tornadoes. Dunwoody had been hit about 10 years earlier, and Americus was still in process of their relief efforts from the 2006 storms.

I was able to gather a great deal of information through several phone interviews and compiled a binder to bring to our relief discussion. Nasreen and Meridith stepped up to the challenge of chairing the relief committee, and I agreed to join them as a co-chair. Nasreen took on quite a difficult task—she formatted

our relief applications and did much of the record keeping. Meridith accepted a serious challenge with coordinating one of our tougher cases. The committee did what we could to ensure the process had some anonymity; after all, we were dealing with people who had just been struck a blow by nature, and we didn't want them to become fodder for gossip around the neighborhood for any reason associated with their situation as victims.

Each of the applicants that were approved for funding for repairs got their grants... eventually.

July 15<sup>th</sup> was our application deadline and over the next few months, as relief funds kept coming in from various sources, we interviewed around 20 applicants and gave cash and checks to Robert.

The Stacks made and sold its own tee shirt to help with the relief effort. John Cugasi was instrumental in organizing the tee shirt effort and he spoke to me about his reservations in handing anyone cash without a receipt. Looking back, my response (*that now sickens me*) to him was that we're all doing what we can and that the relief monies were safe with our neighbor Robert who was accounting for all the relief money.

The committee finalized the process in October and each of the committee members were assigned 5 grantees to ensure that each grantee received their relief grants in a timely fashion.

### **Robert's Concealment of Tornado Relief Funds**

Below is the statement that the tornado relief committee made for the neighborhood (based on false numbers provided by Robert):

*"The Cabbagetown Initiative's Committee for Tornado Relief was chartered to establish guidelines and procedures for the disbursement of monies raised on behalf of victims of the March 2008 tornado. Surrounding neighborhoods, businesses, and local officials raised a total of roughly \$37,000 and the committee received 20 applications for relief funds from Cabbagetown residents and displaced victims. After reviewing the applications, 12 applicants received grants ranging from \$500 to \$5000 and one other special case, non-applicant received funds. The total funds disbursed to applicants to date is roughly \$34,000 with another \$1500 allocated to general clean-up costs. Currently, funds are still trickling in from t-shirt sales and other sources and we ask for and encourage further donations as we have several cases requiring additional assistance and help. In light of the disaster, and the identification of a long term need, the relief committee recommends a balance of at least \$1500*

*remain in the emergency account for future use for Cabbagetown residents adversely affected by catastrophic loss such as fire, weather events, falling trees etc."*

There were a few more disbursements to grantees after Robert's announcement, as more money became available, bringing the total of relief funds granted to \$39,976.

Later in 2009, our investigation would reveal that incoming checks labeled "tornado relief" added up to a little more than \$51,000. The difference was noted by our accountant in the CICDC 2009 tax return as "restricted funds" and was carried over from 2010 to 2011.

From October 2008 to April 2009, there were signs of an issue with CICDC's funds. Several checks bounced and had to be rewritten. Robert's excuse for this was that he had accidentally written a check from the wrong account or he had not transferred the correct amount of funds from one account to the other (CICDC had a total of 2 checking accounts, and 1 savings account and funds were transferred between the savings and primary checking account regularly).

His excuses didn't make much sense, but personally it was hard to question the President and Treasurer on process—as Robert had the trust of his neighbors as a longtime friend. Allowing Robert to serve as both President and Treasurer was a mistake, albeit one allowed by the CICDC Bylaws at that time. Between Board Member turnover and the chaos of the tornado, Robert had a perfect opportunity to embezzle funds with almost no oversight.

Robert's behavior turned more and more aggressive and erratic, especially toward our contractors. Sometime in 2008, Robert had come to an agreement with our Park Maintenance contractor Jim Prible. The two agreed that Jim would be paid at the beginning of every quarter to cut down on Robert's time writing checks.

Very soon after this new arrangement, the terms were shifted again as Robert asked Jim if he could be paid at the end of each quarter. Around December, 2008, Robert began to talk frequently about how expensive Jim was, about how expensive Chomp had been, and the need to save cash at every turn.

In March of 2009, Jim Prible reached out to Jason Snyder and a few board members to let them know that he had not been paid for his services in 6 months. Simultaneously, Robert began to complain that CICDC taxes for 2008 were extremely expensive because of the tornado relief effort, and that along with all the others bills CICDC had very little cash in the bank. This made absolutely no sense to any of

the board members, least of all to Katherine Dirga, who had chaired Chomp and Stomp in 2008 and brought profits up to \$46,893.42.

### **March 2009—Forward**

The CICDC Board met on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2009, and again April 13<sup>th</sup>, to discuss a number of issues—the Grant Park Cooperative Preschool Lease agreement, should the neighborhood have a Spring/Summer fundraising event, etc. We also discussed who might take on leadership roles. Prior to these meetings, Robert and other members of the board had asked me to consider the position of CICDC Board President.

I had announced my candidacy for State Representative of House District 58 on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and I knew I would have a great deal of work ahead of me, but it was becoming more and more obvious that something had to be done to bring structure to CICDC. On May 28<sup>th</sup> the Board held elections. I became President, Jason Snyder VP, Meridith Mason Secretary, and per Robert's request he would stay on as Treasurer. The board agreed that double signature checks were a necessity and that I was to be added as a signatory on the accounts.

Robert was called to participate by phone, but did not answer. Later, I spoke with Robert about the format of the meetings and expectations moving forward—that as Treasurer he would provide a financial report at each meeting.

My wife Ying provided us with a basic balance sheet structure that Robert could simply plug CICDC income and expenses into and forward to the board for our next scheduled meeting in June. Robert had reservations about adding me to the bank account. He said that he preferred to start a new account for a smooth transition. I did not argue with him as I wanted to see what the financial report would look like in June, but by this time it was very obvious that he was hiding something.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the CICDC had its first regularly scheduled meeting since well before I became a board member. Katherine Dirga had asked Robert to supply a bank statement to the board so we could budget forecast for the year and discuss proposals for the 2009 Chomp and Stomp. Robert claimed that the finances were in a mess because of shared CNIA/CICDC responsibility for Chomp payments in 2008—this was partially true.

Chomp had been paid for in a very bizarre way before 2009, mainly because there was no real understanding of the budgetary needs of CNIA and CICDC as critical experience had been lost in the transition from a paid ED to

a volunteer board. Robert had been asked to produce bank statements for all of the CICDC accounts but that did not happen; it would become obvious in very short order why Robert did not produce the bank statements.

Robert actually populated the balance sheet that Ying had prepared and submitted it to the board for review on the June 8<sup>th</sup>. Robert called in from Columbus, GA (where he had been living for some months) and went over the expenses to-date. He claimed we spent \$6000 on insurance, \$3600 on the CICDC tax return, and showed our “carry over” balance from 2008 to be \$21,000.

Robert claimed that, with our current liabilities, CICDC would be out of money by August unless we cut costs and raised money; to everyone in the room, this was ludicrous. Robert had just provided false financials to the board which we would confirm in the coming week. During the teleconference with Robert, the Board members were cautious enough to allow me to lead the conversation and end the meeting with Robert agreeing to provide a November to November budget at the next meeting.

We adjourned and Robert hung up the phone. The board members stuck around to discuss our next steps—Jason Snyder would call the bank the next morning.

The next day, June 9<sup>th</sup>, Jason contacted the bank to find out what the board needed to do to add a second signatory. At 11:09a on June 10<sup>th</sup>, Jason emailed Robert asking for contact information for our insurance provider. Robert responded that he did not have it on him. Jason found the contact information and called Hamby & Aloisio within minutes.

At 11:39a Jason emailed me back and informed me that our agent was pretty sure our insurance had lapsed for non-payment. Jason also discovered that the CICDC Georgia Corporation Registration had lapsed as well, so he paid the registration fee and updated the organization's Executive Board information with the State.

Jason and I agreed to meet at the bank that afternoon. In the meantime, Katherine had emailed me with great concern about allowing Robert more time to create a November to November financial report. She was relieved to hear that Jason and I were on our way to the bank.

After I was added as a signer to the CICDC bank accounts, Jason and I requested a transaction history. We expected that the history would not match up very well with the expenses that Robert claimed CICDC had incurred on the report he'd submitted to the

board earlier in the week. What we were really not prepared for was the amount of transactions that had actually taken place that month and the paltry total left in our account. We ordered statements for all years and all accounts CICDC had held with Bank of America.

We told the bank manager that the activity of the past 30 days constituted theft and the present balance illustrated that the theft was on a massive scale. Jason and I called former CNIA President and attorney Gerry Weber to get a better idea of what our next steps should be and met with him that evening.

The next morning we took steps to remove Robert as signer, close the accounts, and opened up a new account with the remaining balance. By the time we got back to the bank on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Robert had been to Starbucks and spent \$10—the final act of theft using the debit card. Robert was formally removed from the CICDC board on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

It took a month to receive the range of bank documents necessary to comprehend the scope of the theft. Ying, Julie Stephens, John & Katherine Dirga, Jason Zyglis, Jason Snyder, Ed Lindahl and I all scoured the numbers and tried to figure out just how much had been taken and just how long Robert had been stealing. At each turn we had to order more and more documents from the bank.

Finally, I went to the Zone 6 APD Precinct and filed charges on July 9<sup>th</sup>—a month and a day after we had received definitive proof that Robert was up to no good. Bryan Brunson, an attorney who lives in the neighborhood had by then agreed to represent the CICDC on a volunteer basis, and the APD instructed CICDC to refrain from commenting about the case until it had been adjudicated; the last thing that we wanted to happen was for Robert to be tried in the press, hinder the investigation or even risk a possible mistrial.

We were told by APD and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office that a financial crime such as this would have to be thoroughly investigated with the use of subpoenas to various entities to build evidence and to determine the extent of the theft as best as possible. We were instructed that this would take a while but it was very important that we not discuss the case during the investigation.

A few weeks later, I received a forwarded email that originated from one of our relief grant recipients—one that had to relocate to California because they had lost everything in the tornado—he and his wife had not received the grant promised them. What they had received was a bunch of excuses that had been



perpetuated for about nine months by Robert. This prompted me to contact each of our relief recipients to make sure they had received their grants, and to that point three had not. Despite Robert's non-payment, CICDC still had a few months to take advantage of an insurance policy with Travelers Insurance that covered employee theft—up to \$25,000.

Beginning in mid-July, Jason and Bryan worked with the insurance company and we received a check for \$25,000 in early August. We immediately sent the grantees their grant checks and renewed our insurance. Although, Jim Prible had not been paid for his services for quite some time, he was willing to work with CICDC and agreed to be paid after Chomp and Stomp. Jim is a great neighbor and continues to serve the community as our landscape and park maintenance professional.

Next, I called the IRS to see if there was any way they could help in the investigation. The IRS got back to us within a few weeks to let us know that CICDC had not filed a tax return in 2005 or 2008, that we were to lose our 501(c) 3 non-profit status, and that large penalty fees would be assessed.

It took the better part of a year, several letters and phone calls, but we did get it all straightened out—the penalties were not assessed, CICDC kept its non-profit status, and CICDC became current with all its tax filings. I'm still not sure if the IRS ever looked into the actual case against Robert. The unfiled returns are another example of the damage Robert caused, and the transition of board administration that occurred between 2005 and 2007.

### **November 2009—Robert's Arrest and CICDC Recovery**

A warrant was issued for Robert's arrest sometime in October and he turned himself in on October 26<sup>th</sup>, which sparked the media's attention. Celine, Bryan and I tried to mitigate the damage done to the neighborhood, but it was hard to do when reporters were willing to listen to anyone.

In the beginning of November, Katherine, through her incredible talent, led Chomp and Stomp to a high water mark of \$69,070 in profit. 2010 came and was a really good year for CICDC and the neighborhood. CICDC amended its Bylaws to strengthen and protect against future theft and to integrate the CNIA Leadership with the CICDC Boards. Here is a list of the amendments:

- *12 Errors and Omissions were corrected; Spelling punctuation and grammar.*
- *The requisite percentage of Cabbagetown resident board members was increased from 60% to 80%.*

- *The ability of the President to hold the dual Office of Treasurer was removed.*
- *The CNIA President was made an Ex Officio Director of the CICDC Board, granting full voting privileges.*
- *Clarification of language governing CNIA involvement in election of CICDC Board Members—CNIA elects 5 CICDC board members (bringing the total CNIA elected strength on the CICDC Board to 6).*

For me, most of 2011 was spent wondering what the ultimate outcome of our case against Robert would be as the DA had begun to negotiate a plea deal. In May, Katherine became President of CICDC, I shifted from President to the role of Treasurer, Mary Huysman maintained her post as Secretary, and Cheri Snyder became VP.

The Bylaws were again amended to allow for CNIA to elect a majority of CICDC members, which we believe was also the intention of the founding members, but did not come across fluidly in the original language of the Bylaws. Since I was the one to file the charges against Robert, I stayed on as point of contact for Bryan and the DA's Office.

### **Details of Robert's Admission of Guilt**

On the morning of November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Robert entered the negotiated plea with the State. Robert surrendered the real estate license that he had held. He is required to perform 2000 hours of community service, be on probation for at least 10 years, cannot hold a position of trust, was required to pay back \$20,000 in restitution at the time of sentencing and is required to pay an additional \$25,000 on or before February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012. In total, Robert owes \$78,000 in restitution. From Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the day the board was presented with false financials, 2 years, 5 months, and 21 days had passed.

### **Our Current State**

The CICDC is now in a better position to accomplish its responsibilities as caretaker of the City of Atlanta's Cabbagetown Community Center and the City of Atlanta's Cabbagetown Park. The CICDC Bylaws had been strengthened to help ensure theft could not happen again, the Cabbagetown Garden was founded, Chomp and Stomp became more "green" and easier to manage under Ed Lindahl's 2<sup>nd</sup> foray as Chomp Chair, the volunteer board accepted more responsibilities in a new committee structure, and we upgraded the CICDC website. In my opinion, CICDC's relationship with GPCP improved, and both CICDC and CNIA moved from a confused relationship to a more stable and understandable existence as was hopefully intended by the founding members. Also, upon inspection of

the Community Center's roof, it was determined that it needed to be replaced. The roof had taken damage during the tornado, though it went unnoticed to that point.

The board members of CICDC and the leadership of CNIA better understand the responsibilities involved in running both a neighborhood association and a 501(c)3 non-profit—something that was lost sometime between 2005 and 2007. We can only blame Robert for what he did, but there are certainly other failures involved in leadership that were not his and might have, if corrected, made the theft difficult to perpetrate.

However, hundreds of hours of hard work put in by those most active in our community have helped put CICDC back in a solid financial and operational state. Robert was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$78,000.

To date, CICDC has received \$45,000 from Travelers (\$25,000) and Robert (\$20,000) in restitution with an additional \$25,000 scheduled to be paid by February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Recovering \$70,000 has and will go a long way toward allowing CICDC to meet its current and future goals.

At the same time, Robert has been made to face the judge (and all of us), admit his guilt, pay restitution and society through 2000 hours of community service. Would I like to have seen Robert serve prison time? There's a part of me that would have loved to see Robert serve prison time for his betrayal of us. However, I believe that the sentence is one that punishes Robert, recovers much needed funds for the CICDC, makes Robert actually work in a volunteer position for society for the equivalent of a one-year full time job and will serve as a deterrent to others to steal from a 501(c) 3.

### **Conclusion**

Now that we know what not to do ever again, we can move forward better prepared to do the work that will keep our community one of the greatest places to live in the City of Atlanta. We have to help each other make it a better place, and that means paying attention and offering our time and energy where it counts. It also means being respectful to our neighbors.

In closing, all the problems caused by the theft took a great deal of time to sort out and added a great deal of stress onto the lives of the folks that were and are serving this community. When things are done the right way everything runs smoother and that makes it much easier to serve. I hope that 2012 brings out a new sense of dedication to serving and improving the neighborhood coupled with a concerted effort by ALL to treat each other with kindness and respect.

# Crime Blotter

By Sam Gris

## 700 Block of Wylie St, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1145a

No forced entry to vehicle. Victim parked vehicle to go inside location to make a delivery. Reporting party advised he forgot to lock the back door when he closed it. He advised when he returned the door was open and 9 cases of liquor were missing. He stated he did not see anyone outside the location when he entered nor anyone when he exited. The employees at the location advised they had not seen anything and that their camera system did not work. **Taken: 2 cases of brandy, 5 cases of Vodka, 2 cases of wine.**

**Prints attempted**

## 600 block of Woodward Ave, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:30p thru Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 12p

Victim stated he parked his vehicle in front of the location and someone busted the right passenger window entered the vehicle and stole listed property. **Damaged: Right passenger side window busted Taken: GPS**

## 952 Glenwood Ave, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:45p

An unknown person entered victim's resi-

dence through the garage door while she was out walking her dog and took listed property from the garage. **Taken: desktop computer, luggage, leaf blower**

## 103 Pearl St, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, between thursday morning and Friday morning.

.Victim advised he parked his 2011 Chevrolet Aveo at the above location and woke up this morning to find that his vehicle had been broken into. It appeared that it was pried with a crowbar of some sort. Someone broke the back passenger side window entered the vehicle and stole listed property. Damaged: Back right passenger side window busted. Taken: bag with two diamond necklaces, a diamond ring, a bracelet, and a Fossil watch

## 800 block of Memorial btwn Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

Victim lives in Macon, GA. Tag# BMK0126. Victim stated he parked his 2000 Red Dodge Intrepid in the parking lot overnight and when he returned his car was missing. He advised the car was paid off and no one else had a key. There were no witnesses and no

cameras in the area. The vehicle was checked for impound, a lookout was given over the radio and placed on the system as stolen.

### Additional notes:

When APD Deputy Chief Calvin Moss announced his retirement, his departure created a series of command changes and promotions. Our Zone 6 Commander, Maj. John Dalton, became Deputy Chief to head up the criminal investigation division. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> in command, Capt. Vincent Moore, was promoted to Maj. Two former Zone 6 Commanders are Deputy Chiefs now, Maj. Dalton and Maj. Propes.

Maj. Keith Meadows is the new Zone 6 commander. Meadows grew up in east atlanta and was initially assigned to Zone 4 as a patrolman in SW Atlanta. In 1996, he was assigned to the Homicide Unit. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of major and assigned to the Major Crimes Section.



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# Chomp 2012

By Alicia Thompson

Hello Cabbageheads! Just wanted to let you know that we have officially started planning Chomp & Stomp 2012. Because it is our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a very important fundraiser for our community, we have started the planning early this year.

On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> we had a Chomp get together to kick start the party. We were looking for fresh faces, ideas, and inspiration. Thank you to those folks who took time out of their busy Saturday to discuss and learn about the fun that is Chomp & Stomp Planning. We walked away with the feeling that this could be the best Chomp ever! We are still open for input (actually all the way up to November 3<sup>rd</sup>).

Current positions available are, Sponsorship Driver, Web Site Coordinator, Program Builder, and a Security officer. If interested email me at [chompandstomp@gmail.com](mailto:chompandstomp@gmail.com), call me 678-467-1378, stop by and chat at 208 Berean Avenue or just attend our next meeting which is March 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 at the Cabbagetown Community Center.

We will meet once a month up until September where we take it up a notch and meet once a week. We do manage to have a lot of fun while birthing the baby that is Chomp! Hope to see you there.



## Announcements

World Class Gardens by [wonderfallsofatlanta.com](http://wonderfallsofatlanta.com)  
We have created on over 30 properties in Cabbagetown  
Who wants to be next? Friendly neighborhood prices.  
Call us @ 404.444.7118

## Events Calendar

By Skyler Waldrop Minter

### Atlanta Fair

Thursday, March 8 - April 8 - Turner Field. The Atlanta Fair is Old Fashioned Family Fun for All ages. Enjoy the fun, food, rides and more.  
[www.atlantafair.com/Atlanta](http://www.atlantafair.com/Atlanta)

### Hunger Walk/Run 2012

Sunday, March 11 - Turner Field, 12p to 4p  
The 28<sup>th</sup> annual 5k walk/run benefits the Atlanta Community Food Bank & five other local nonprofits. Gates open at Noon; walk/run begins at 2p. [www.HWR2012.org](http://www.HWR2012.org)

### The Blue Market Monthly

Sunday, March 11- Blue Market Studios, 12p to 5p. This monthly artists market offers wares from local artists including artwork, jewelry, accessories, home goods, and baked-goods. [www.bluemarkstudios.com](http://www.bluemarkstudios.com)

### 6th Annual A-Town Day

Saturday, March 17 - Lakewood (Aaron's Theater), 12p to 8p. A-Town Day is a health-care festival, concert, and day of awareness benefiting the Diabetes Association of Atlanta and the B-Aware Foundation.  
[www.atownday.com](http://www.atownday.com)

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, March 17 - Peachtree Street, 12p. Join Atlanta in celebrating the luck of the Irish! Step off begins at Peachtree and Ralph McGill, and will proceed down Peachtree toward Woodruff Park.  
[www.stpatsparadeatlanta.com](http://www.stpatsparadeatlanta.com)

### Georgia Marathon

Sunday, March 18- Centennial Olympic Park - 7a. The Georgia Marathon & Half Marathon will include a 5k race as well as a children's run, and will travel through Metro Atlanta's most interesting and historic areas. [www.georgiamarathon.com](http://www.georgiamarathon.com)

### Southeast Atlanta Beltline 101

Tuesday, March 20 - Historical Concepts - 490 Brasfield Square, Glenwood Park, 6p. Find out what's in store for the Southeast corridor of the Beltline. [www.beltline.org/BeltLineCalendar](http://www.beltline.org/BeltLineCalendar)

### Atlanta Film Festival

Friday, March 23 - April 1, Midtown. Atlanta's very own International film fest. See more than 150 films showcased for this event.  
[www.atlantafilmfestival.com](http://www.atlantafilmfestival.com)

### BaconFest

Saturday, March 31 - Dad's Garage Theatre, 1p. Fill your Saturday with the best of bacon, beer and bands! This event is 21 and up, sorry kids. [www.dadsgarage.com](http://www.dadsgarage.com)

### Stone Mountain Village Bluegrass Music and Arts Festival

Saturday, March 31st - Stone Mt. Village, 10am-7pm  
[www.stonemountainvillage.com](http://www.stonemountainvillage.com)

## Krog Tunnel turns 100 years old...

By Randy Osborne and Kyle F. Bidlack

...or 99 years old. Depending on if you believe the concrete embossed date on the Cabbagetown side, or the date on the Dekalb Avenue side.

They really knew how to build things back then, didn't they? Cabbagetown does it's best to honor this graceful hulk by adorning her (him?) with thousands and thousands of layers of paint. Jim Prible and his crew, are turning the pocket parks on the Cabbagetown side of the tunnel, into things of beauty. And Neil Carver has created a truly Cabbagetown/Krog Tunnel appropriate "Welcome to Cabbagetown" sign that greets folks as they emerge from the "Krogger."

Brian Bannon of Inman Park, and his buddy Bill, are doing random performances at the tunnel. They did their first show (consisting of music, poetry and prose) on New Year's Eve. Their second show was on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

How appropriate that a grand old tunnel which has given all of us so much entertainment, gets random serenades on it's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. "100 Thanks" to Brian and Bill.



Tracie Weller and Emma enjoyed the festivities at Milltown Tavern.

## Mardi Gras for Paws

On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, Milltown Tavern hosted "Mardi Gras for Paws" benefitting *The Barking Hound Village Rescue Foundation*.

A low-country shrimp boil, spirits, and live music from The Tommy Thompson, Greg Hester and The Mercury Birds, filled the day.

According to Lead Organizer, David Muir, the event raised close to \$1,000. Mr. Muir sends his warm gratitude to all those who attended and donated so graciously.

# Cabbagetown Portraits

James Kelly moved to Cabbagetown on his birthday in 1992; what a way to celebrate! Most Cabbageheads will recognize Kelly as Slim Chance, the guitar-toting frontman of *Slim Chance and the Convicts*. When Slim moved to Pearl Street, he was playing with other local musicians like *Deacon Lunchbox* and the *Opal Foxx Quartet* and was the center of musical movement known as the Redneck Underground.

Back in the 90's, the neighborhood looked very different. "This was a slum," says Slim. "I mean, a major slum. You didn't go into Cabbagetown after dark." From his porch, Slim watched the daily parade of prostitutes and drug dealers that frequented the crack houses on his block.

Slim kept a log book of their dealings and presented it to the local precinct, demanding, "we want these people out of our street." So the next time you want to thank someone for keeping Cabbagetown clean, you need look no further than Slim Chance.

"It was an adventure back then. It was kind of like going into the lion's den, but still it was fun and exciting and so different. I'm just anti-yuppie, really anti-middle-class-conservative-suburban...that shit bores me to tears."



Photo by Dane Sponberg, raftermen.com

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# The Real Estate Report

This information is provided by Lynne Splinter Realtors using the First Multiple Listing records and data from Housing and Urban Development postings. The information is not guaranteed or warranted. Any questions regarding real estate

in the Cabbagetown area can be directed to the following resident agents: Nadia Giordani 404.221.1777 • Lynne Splinter 404.582.0006 • Judy Staples 404.271.7824 • Debbie Weeks 404.272.1906 ...happy house hunting!



## CONDOS & LOFTS

<i>Under Contract</i>	<i>Price</i>
<b>Milltown Lofts</b>	<b>791 Wylie</b>
Unit 201	\$99,500
2 BD/1 BA	
Unit 911	\$81,900
2 BD/1 BA	
Unit 909	\$80,000
1 BD/1 BA	
<i>Under Contract</i>	<i>Price</i>
<b>The Stacks</b>	<b>170 Blvd</b>
Unit E128	\$206,900
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit H508	\$169,169
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit E121	\$179,900
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit H409	\$129,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit E205	\$149,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit E221	\$204,900
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit H224	\$109,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit H509	\$129,900
2 BD/1 BA	
Unit E113	\$199,900
2 BD/2 BA	
<i>Under Contract</i>	<i>Price</i>
<b>Soft Park Lofts</b>	<b>174 Chester</b>
Unit 113	\$69,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit 50	\$159,900
2 BD/2 BA	
<i>Sold</i>	<i>Price</i>
<b>Sold</b>	<b>Price</b>
Unit 146	\$99,900
2 BD/2 BA	

## CONDOS & LOFTS

<i>For Sale</i>	<i>Asking</i>
<b>Milltown Lofts</b>	<b>791 Wylie</b>
Unit 805	\$93,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit 901	\$82,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit 501	\$79,900
1 BD/1 BA	
<b>The Stacks</b>	<b>170 Blvd</b>
Unit H309	\$135,000
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit E121	\$179,900
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit E424	\$275,000
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit E007	\$199,900
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit E010	\$164,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit H119	\$119,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit E113	\$199,900
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit E117	\$204,900
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit H122	\$200,000
2 BD/2 BA	
Unit H509	\$129,900
2 BD/1 BA	
<i>Under Contract</i>	<i>Price</i>
<b>The Stacks</b>	<b>170 Blvd</b>
Unit E227	\$168,900
1 BD/1 BA	
Unit E118	\$199,900
2 BD/2 BA	

## HOUSES

<i>For Sale</i>	<i>Asking</i>
200 Estoria St.	\$375,000
3 BD/3 BA	
187 Tye St.	\$369,000
3 BD/2.5 BA	
252 Iswald St.	\$369,000
1 BD/1 BA	
<i>Contingent</i>	<i>Price</i>
127 Short St.	\$299,000
3 BD/2 BA	
<i>Under Contract</i>	<i>Price</i>
209 Powell St.	\$350,000
3 BD/2 BA	
<i>Pending</i>	<i>Price</i>
125 Short St.	\$299,000
3 BD/3 BA	
<i>Sold</i>	<i>Price</i>
269 Powell St.	\$262,500
3 BD/3 BA	



## COMMERCIAL

<i>For Sale</i>	<i>Asking</i>
None reported.	

## MULTI-DWELLING

<i>For Sale</i>	<i>Asking</i>
742 Kirkwood Quadraplex	\$270,000



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## Agave Charity Dine Out

Monday, March 19, 2012

Join us for dinner anytime on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and we will be donating a large portion of the night's proceeds to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Metro Atlanta Chapter.

[www.afsp.org/atlanta](http://www.afsp.org/atlanta)

Agave has a close and personal relationship with ASFP. Make your reservation now and help us make this a successful night!

## The Spring Tequila Dinner Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 7:00 pm

*If you haven't been to one of these big dinners, you are missing out !!!*

**Five Courses paired with the  
Super Premium Tequila  
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Thanks Cabbagetown ☐  
We always look forward to  
seeing and serving our  
neighbors and friends.

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