

# Cabbagetown

## NEIGHBOR

David Thayer  
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Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Volume Twenty-Nine • Issue Number Three • March 2020

"The light you see at the end of the tunnel is the front of an oncoming train." ~ David Lee Roth

## Neighborhood Meeting

The next neighborhood meeting will be held on Tuesday, Mar. 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:45p at **The Cabbagetown Community Center.**

NOTE: More info found at: [cabbagetown.com/agenda](http://cabbagetown.com/agenda)

### I. Welcome and announcements

### II. New neighbor?

[cabbagetown.com/membership](http://cabbagetown.com/membership)

### III. Review and approval of the February minutes

### IV. Atlanta Police Department

### V. City of Atlanta – Valencia Hudson

### VI. Financial Report –

**Saundra Rueppel, Treasurer**

### VII. Committee Reports

#### A. NPU – John Dirga,

Cabbagetown Representative

#### B. Historic Preservation and Land Use

Committee – Nicole Seekely, Chair

#### C. Cabbagetown-Reynoldstown

Transportation Committee –

Genevieve Barber, Chair

#### D. Website & Social Media –

Nathaniel Compton

#### E. Cabbagetown Initiative –

Kendall Rawls, CI President

### VIII. Old Business

### IX. New Business

#### A. Krog Masquerade, Jim Shumake

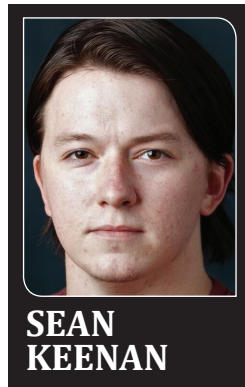
– The event would close down Krog Tunnel and part of Wylie St. on Halloween 2020. Please come to the meeting to voice any concerns you may have about this.

Final February minutes will be adopted at the March meeting. **The Community Center** is located at 177 Estoria Street SE.

## 18.59" of Rain

Feeling a wee bit soggy? It might be because we're 9.72" above our normal rainfall totals for the past sixty days.

# CSX to Reactivate Hulsey



SEAN KEENAN

**Just days after the Atlanta City Council proposed legislation that would urge CSX Transportation to be mindful of community wishes when mulling the possible sale of Hulsey Yard, the railroad giant says it will instead reactivate**

the massive site that's been quiet since May.

After ceasing freight operations at the 70-acre property, which flanks the Atlanta Beltline, CSX migrated them to the company's yard in Fairburn.

That move stirred speculation – and no shortage of imagination – about how the site, which borders parts of Old Fourth Ward, Inman Park, Cabbagetown, and Reynoldstown, could be repurposed to benefit its neighbors and the city at large.

But now, CSX officials tell Curbed Atlanta they aim to put Hulsey Yard back online in April – although with less banging and clanging than the intermodal activity there in years past.

"The type of operations that are going in there are going to be very different than folks were used to with the intermodal operations," said CSX spokesman Bryan Tucker. "It will be what we call a TRANSFLO facility."

Essentially, rather than hauling hefty shipping crates from truck to train – and vice versa – Hulsey Yard workers will be moving only the contents of the crates.

Work is slated to take place between 5a and 5p on weekdays, the freight operations are expected to be less intrusive for neighbors, such as occupants of the adjacent **Fulton Cotton Mill Lofts.**

Additionally, Tucker said, traffic in the area should be decreased, with roughly 20 or 25 trucks traveling through Hulsey Yard daily – a significant dip from the hundreds of deliveries and pickups that had occurred each day with the intermodal operations.

Those trucks are expected to carry just dry goods, such as wheat, plastic pellets, and ground limestone, he added.

All that news aside, the decision to restart the site for freight operations has thrown a wrench in plans of the Hulsey Yard Study Committee, a community-led group that organized to draft a masterplan for the property's potential redevelopment – despite the property not being offered for sale.

The organization hired local architecture firm **Lord Aeck Sargent** to help reimagine Hulsey Yard. Resulting plans crafted a framework for would-be developers that included affordable housing, parkland, and new transit options.

Nicole Seekely, head of the Hulsey Yard Study Committee and a Reynoldstown resident, told **Curbed** that while her group is disappointed, they aren't surprised.

"The masterplan will still stay as we have it – as a guiding document of design principles should CSX decide to sell in the future, or should the property ever go through rezoning," she said.

Tucker wasn't able to specify exactly how much space the new operations might require. However, he said, CSX still has no plans to sell any of the property as of now.

"With this operation going in there, I don't think it precludes us from doing anything else, but there are no other plans in place that we are prepared to announce," he said.

**Crash  
Chaos**  
See Page 10

# 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, and advertisements to: [newsletter@cabbagetown.com](mailto:newsletter@cabbagetown.com).

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### Newspaper 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 delivery problems let us know at: [ctowndelivery@gmail.com](mailto:ctowndelivery@gmail.com)

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Visit the official Cabbagetown website at:

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Advertising with the *Cabbagetown Neighbor* is an inexpensive way to reach over 700 homes in 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 newspaper. Visit the CNIA website at [www.cabbagetown.com](http://www.cabbagetown.com) or write the editor at [newsletter@cabbagetown.com](mailto:newsletter@cabbagetown.com) for more info.

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Full Page 7.75" x 9.875"	\$160	\$450	\$870	\$1,680

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# CNIA President's Letter



**CHELSEA  
ARKIN**

*Hi Pals, It's March! Warm weather is coming soon.* Maybe this is the year that the Stacks will finally offer pool memberships to Cabbagetown neighbors? We can only hope (hint, hint).

In other news, we're gearing up for a busy year, but we really, really need help pulling it off. Are you interested in helping out for an event (or two)? If you are, you can let me know via email (president@cabbagetown.com), or attend our next

CNIA meeting on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7p in the Cabbagetown Community Center (177 Estoria Street). We promise (fancy) pizza, lots of neighborhood gossip, and we even have chairs again. What more could you ask for, really?

Here are some things to look forward to:

- Spring 2020 Cabbagetown Roll Call on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Location TBD. If you know of any new neighbors please let me know.
- The return of our Cabbagetown Concert Series on April 4<sup>th</sup>

A couple other things we're planning this year:

- Cabbagetown Prom
- A bigger and better tour of homes
- A May Day parade

*Do you have any other ideas?* We'd love to hear from you (or see you at the next meeting).

As always, you can contact me at president@cabbagetown.com, stop by my porch (223 Carroll St), or send a carrier pigeon (or cat).

*Thanks,  
Chelsea*

## Krog Masquerade in 2020?

By Kyle F. Bidlack

*Krog Masquerade appeared at NPU-N on February 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 to request a street-closure permit for an outdoor festival, blocking the tunnel as well as Wylie Street between Estoria and Short Street, on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.* Event organizer Jim Shumake described his previous treatment at the Inman Park Neighborhood Association meeting as disrespectful. Randall Fox spoke from the audience in support of the application. The applicant accused several individual NPU Board members of being rude.

Mr. Shumake was asked about several apparent inconsistencies in his application, including the traffic plan (potentially sending

vehicles in the wrong direction on Kirkwood Avenue), fire safety (application states "no tent", but shows a tent on the site plan), and electrical safety (application states "no generator", but shows a DJ on the site plan).

The event permit that Mr. Shumake filed, includes closing the tunnel to vehicle traffic (permit application proposes to keep sidewalks open for bicycles and pedestrians).

***NPU-N voted unanimously to oppose the application.***

Mr. Shumake has agreed to attend the March 10<sup>th</sup> CNIA meeting. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to listen and be informed, we encourage you to attend the meeting.

## Cabbagetown Talent Show!

*We're calling on neighbors with all varieties of talents to step up and show off their skills!* This neighborhood runs on the many strange and wonderful talents of a few neighbors, but we need MORE. WE NEED YOU!

*Don't think you have a skill to share?* Sure you do! Have you ever picked up an object that weighs approximately 25 pounds?! (The crowd roars). That's a skill and we need it!

Have you ever typed approximately 15 words into a Facebook post? (Deafening applause). You're our hero! WE NEED YOU!

Check out the options for getting involved and sharing your wonderful, strong, smart, sexy self with the neighborhood:

<https://tinyurl.com/ctowntalentshow>

## New Fire Pit in the Garden

*Big thanks go out to all the members of the Cabbagetown Community Garden.* Together, on February 29<sup>th</sup>, they built a glorious new fire pit for all of Cabbagetown to enjoy.

We were unable to get quotes from garden members due to aching muscles and sore backs. In related news, *Little's Food Store* is reporting a shortage of **BENGAY**®.

# Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association: General Meeting



**ALICIA FORSEE**

*Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 7p at The Cabbagetown Community Center. Meeting Conducted by Chelsea Arkin. Minutes recorded by Alicia Forsee.*

- 1. New neighbor welcome:**
  - New 97 Estoria owners
- 2. Atlanta Police Department**
  - a. New Captain Zygaj, new Major Villaroel
  - b. No pursuit policy is now official
  - c. Narcotics department has been eliminated

### **3. City of Atlanta Department of Public Works**

- a. Addressed lane closure complaints on Pearl/Memorial – Public Works will monitor how permits are working and affecting traffic flow. Neighbors can call APD if it's the lane is still closed in the evening or if they don't have proper traffic flaggers helping move traffic
- b. Addressed line of sight complaints turning from Pearl to Memorial: Memorial is a state road so it is hard for city to make a chance, but Public Works will try. Public Works recommends community reaches out to GDOT
- c. Krog Tunnel flooding is going to be an extensive repair by Watershed Dept., which is not scheduled yet
- d. Dekalb Ave resurfacing starts in May

### **4. Financial Report, Sandra Rueppel**

- a. Income: Advertising = \$1680, Donations = \$600
- b. Expenses = \$500

### **5. Cabbagetown Concert Series, Slim Chance**

- a. Did not receive grant to fund concert series, so now working to figure out how to make ends meet. Could Cabbagetown invest in equipment for concert series but also use it as a source of income? Anyone know of any grants to apply for?
- b. First show is Sat., April 4<sup>th</sup>, 4-7p: Cabbagetown Chronicles CD release party. Everyone that did cover songs for album will perform. Will be featured in **Creative Loafing** in March

### **6. NPU-N, John Dirga**

- a. Call GA power if you have a problem with street lamps
- b. Use 311! Call for any type of complaints. You can also see all service requests in your area on the app so you don't have to double down on reports
- c. 180 Pearl St. has restricted commercial use in Reynoldstown and is applying for a variance to build a patio.
- d. **Hulsey Master Plan** will go into CDP (comprehensive development plan) until further needed. Things to hopefully change about future plans: protect murals, alter historic district regulations on building height.

- e. **Krog Masquerade** has filed a permit to close down the Krog Tunnel and part of Wylie on Halloween 2020. 1500 guests, only street parking available. They will present at March 10<sup>th</sup> CNIA meeting, please come if you have feelings about this.
- 7. Transportation Committee, Genevieve Barber**
  - a. **Atlanta Bicycle Coalition** proposed city resolution to drop speed limit to 25mph – people can survive injuries sustained at that rate. CNIA unanimously supports this proposal
  - b. Transportation committee has a **Facebook** page. This is the best way to get in touch.
  - c. Dekalb Ave redesign--Jackson St to Ridgecrest Rd. Phase 1 is repaving and getting rid of suicide lane and putting left turn signals at some lights, cycle track between Hurt and Oakdale
- 8. New Business**
  - a. New owners at Estoria – have been involved in Estoria for long time – change of agent, not change of business. Will manage trash and sound better. Won't bring back the riblet.
  - i. CNIA unanimously supports approval of their liquor license pending plan to manage trash, sound, parties is approved by adjacent neighbors.

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## This Month's Events

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7p: Cabbagetown Initiative Meeting**  
Cabbagetown Community Center, 177 Estoria St

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 7p: CNIA Meeting,**  
Cabbagetown Community Center, 177 Estoria St

**March 16<sup>th</sup>, 7p: Historic Preservation Committee Meeting**  
Cabbagetown Community Center, 177 Estoria St

**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30p: Transportation Committee Meeting**  
97 Estoria

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Cabbagetown Roll Call Party**

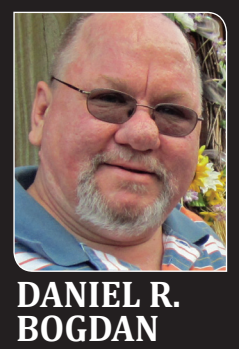
**April 4<sup>th</sup>: Cabbagetown Chronicles CD Release Party**

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## Clarification

In the February print edition of The Cabbagetown Neighbor, we failed to mention that Tori Shillcutt was the driving force behind Game Night at Milltown Tavern. Our apologies.

# Transforming: With an Eye on History



**DANIEL R. BOGDAN**

## *Cabbagetown's Constantly Changing!*

Back in the 1980s or early 1990s, you would never have imagined that the community would have turned out as wonderfully as it has.

Back then, our main focus was keeping the community – or what was left of it – together long enough to fight the railroad and keep them from overwhelming and absorbing us!

Our day-to-day priorities were very short, rarely looking beyond a horizon of six months to a year at a time. But so much has changed, and for better or worse, Cabbagetown has turned the book to a new chapter in its rich history as one of Atlanta's best in-town neighborhoods.

When I reconnected with Cabbagetonians a few years back, I was startled and delighted to find that so much was still familiar in the community: that sense of "howdy" with neighbors you meet walking their pets on the streets, or passing down narrow sidewalks on Carroll or Tye Street.

I was thrilled to find that Jake and Nina Elsas has founded the *The Patch Works Art & History Center*, and that their efforts were fulfilling the dreams of many people who came before them beyond our wildest expectations.

So it was fitting that people like *Panorama Ray* would be included in the artifacts that made their way to the tiny museum on Gaskill Street. His efforts – and of those countless others who came before and after him – are beautifully documented and presented for future generations to view and ponder.

It was with a certain sense of shock that I received a notice from The Patch Works that they would be moving to a different location.

As Cabbagetown enters this new chapter in its life, it stands strong and proud. It will survive the intrusion of the rail yard and will outlast the commotion and noise that it generates.

The Mill site survived the cruel abandonment and neglect that it suffered at the hands of CSX, City Hall indifference, and a bruised and battered community.

The Memorial Drive corridor has built out an impressive economic base – whether one finds the developmental character desirable or not, it's still a major victory. It beats the hell out of the industrial wasteland that dominated the scene for decades.

Perhaps the most critical thing to do as Cabbagetown comes of age, is to hold on to, and cherish, its rich and often sketchy past. That's where Patch Works comes in. Like the mill structures, it is a barometer of the community's health. With its copious amount of contemporary artifacts from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is a linchpin of sorts, to keeping the community mindful of its heritage

as it reshapes itself for the coming decades.

*I wish Jake and Nina all the best with their move.* Personally, I can think of no better place than to relocate in one of the Mill buildings. But reality looms large, and real estate is a precious commodity in Cabbagetown.

Wherever it settles, I urge everyone to support Jake & Nina's efforts to serve as an anchor of sorts, for the community. I am wrapping up phase one of a three-phase project for an exhibit called "*Cabbagetown In The News*" and need people to come and read some of the articles so that we can enable those with vision impairments to hear the stories.

Once I've finalized the exhibit for display (wherever it may be), I encourage people to come on down and become part of Cabbagetown's history by adding your voice (literally) to the stories that make up your community.

## C'town Roll Call Party

*New to the Neighborhood? We want to meet you!*

Mark your calendars for the next "Roll Call - Welcome New Neighbors Party" on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7p, at the home of Amber & Jeff Brannon, 616 Gaskill St. Contact Karen at [russiankar@gmail.com](mailto:russiankar@gmail.com) for a special invite if you are a new neighbor.

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# Slim's Pickin's: Superlatives Abound!



**SLIM CHANCE**

*The music scene in Atlanta continues to blossom as Spring approaches.* Soon the days will be longer and we will spend more time in the evenings outside having fun. There are quite a few exciting events coming up in March, and here are only a few of them that seem like they will be worth your while.

BTW, the Cabbagetown Concert Series will NOT be held in March this year.

Instead, we are having two events in

April. The first is on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 4p in the Brookshire Amphitheater – **The Cabbagetown Chronicles CD Release Party!**

This bash will feature ALL of the second line acts that covered tunes by the main honorees, and who contributed one of their own tunes. Short sets, but guaranteed to be awesome. Come out and celebrate Cabbagetown's rich musical heritage with us.

**Thursday March 5 Arlo Guthrie @ Variety Playhouse** – When I was a kid "Alice's Restaurant" was one of my favorite records. I could recite most of it even though I barely understood what it was about. But Arlo was so much more than just that novelty record. His affinity for all forms of American roots music probably came from his Dad Woody, and he continues to perform wonderful and diverse music to this day. My Dad took me to see the R-rated movie "Alice's Restaurant". I saw boobs. Dad said "Don't tell Mom." I never did.

**Saturday March 7 Sturgill Simpson & Tyler Childers @ Infinite Energy Arena (Duluth)** – Contemporary country music is not without controversy, or shining outliers. While most of the radio crap is unlistenable to me, folks like Simpson and Childers channel a difference vibe. Simpson came out of the chute with some amazing tunes, and has drifted pretty far away from country with his newest album. He has pretty much disowned the business end as well. Childers is a bit more in line with the traditional style, and this show will be an intriguing mix.

**Thursday March 12 Marty Stuart & the Fabulous Superlatives @ Variety Playhouse** – In today's country music scene, Marty Stuart stands out above everyone else for his devotion and celebration

of the roots and traditions of the genre. He was 13 years-old when he joined **Lester Flatt's band**, then toured with **Johnny Cash**, and currently has one of the best bands in the world. Ain't none better.

**Sunday March 15 Macy Gray @ City Winery** – Psychedelic soul? Not really sure what to make of some of her work, but the vast majority of it shines like a diamond. Catchy tunes and that raspy voice combine to create something really different from anything mainstream, and it is welcomed. Gray has seen some ups and downs in her career, but maintains her personal integrity like a badge of honor.

**Tuesday March 17 Graham Nash @ Variety Playhouse** – Even without Crosby, Stills, and sometimes Young, Graham still manages to stand out. A former member of **The Hollies**, he is a

great singer and has a healthy catalog to choose from. His solo albums were part of my teenage soundtrack, some of which are still in ration today. The dude played at Woodstock, man!



**Thursday, March 12, Marty Stuart @ Variety Playhouse**

**Sunday March 22 Meshell Ndegocello @ Variety Playhouse** – There is a unique complexity in Ndegocello's work that defies description, but I will try. An accomplished bass player and vocalist, her grooves are addictive, and her mastery of both deep blues riffs and spoken word were a template for the whole Acid Jazz scene. Mix in some melodic Hip Hop, thought-provoking social commentary, and a few spoonfuls of funk, and you just might get it. Definitely one of the most interesting performers you will see this year.

**Sunday March 29 Canyon Ladies @ Eddie's Attic** – My dear friend Berne' and some of her pals have put together a rather groovy thing-a consortium of women singers paying tribute to the greatest female artists of the 60's and 70's. You will hear tunes by Joni Mitchell, Linda Ronstadt, Carole King, etc. 4:30PM start time!

**Tuesday March 31 – Rodney Crowell @ City Winery** – Very few artists have had the level of credentials that Crowell carries, having extensive stage time with the legendary **Emmylou Harris** and fantastic musical collaborations with his ex, **Rosanne Cash**. His amazing "Diamonds And Dirt" album produced five #1 hits! He is a master songwriter, and has released so much great material over the years that even a two hour gig is insufficient to showcase his great work.

# Are You a VIP?

By Angie Wynne

**Oakland Cemetery offers Cabbagetown Neighbor Readers a Discount on Illumine VIP Tickets.**

Illumine returns to Oakland Cemetery this April with new history to uncover, new sections of the cemetery to explore after dark, and all-new artistic installations to enjoy. Also new to Illumine this year is an unforgettable VIP experience on April 23<sup>rd</sup> presented with **ATL Collective**. To show their love for Oakland's neighbors to the east, Historic Oakland Foundation is offering a \$10 discount on VIP tickets to the first 30 Cabbagetown Neighbor readers who use discount code CABBAGETOWN at Eventbrite. Here's what to expect on VIP night:

VIP guests will gather at North Public Grounds for a concert presented by ATL Collective. You'll groove to top local musicians performing **Ray Charles'** enduring 1962 album, **Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music**. The Grammy-winning album was named one of the best albums of all time by **Rolling Stone** and **Time** magazines. VIP tickets include up to three complimentary drinks.

After the show, experience compelling art installations set against the inspiring backdrop of Atlanta's night-time skyline and meet participating artists and Illumine's creative director, Cooper Sanchez, along the mile-long route. You'll wind through the Victorian gardens of Bell Tower Ridge and then head to Lion Square, where artist Charmaine Minniefield examines the Gullah Geechee Ring Shout, a traditional African-American worship and gathering practice.

At Oakland's historic African American Burial Grounds discover how an investigation of Oakland's now-unmarked graves shines a light on 19<sup>th</sup> century African American burial practices, how Oakland's physical landscape was wrought by the class and racial issues of the day, and how the photography of Victorian-era luminary Thomas Askew unveils a rich tableau of middle and upper-class African American life in Atlanta. While exploring the installations at the African American Burial Grounds, you'll also enjoy more live music from Atlanta musicians.

And finally, when you reach the newly restored 1908 Women's Comfort Station, sample beer from **Eventide Brewing** as you explore thought provoking installations from **Clark Atlanta University** students which tell the story of some of Oakland Cemetery's female African American residents.

Don't miss this unforgettable night of light, art, and music at Oakland Cemetery. Tickets to all seven nights of Illumine are on sale now at Eventbrite. All proceeds from Illumine support Historic Oakland Foundation's mission to preserve, restore, enhance, and share Oakland Cemetery. Learn more at [oaklandcemetery.com/illumine](http://oaklandcemetery.com/illumine).

# The Long Game

By Brandon Sutton

**CSX will never leave Hulsey!**

**CSX has already sold Hulsey to a developer in a backroom deal!**

**Amtrak is buying Hulsey for a passenger terminal!**

**They're going to build high rises in Cabbagetown!**

**Do any of these sound familiar?** These are just a few of the many rumors and proclamations I've heard over the past year or so as we've been working on a **Master Plan for Hulsey Yard**. And, while I'm disappointed that CSX is apparently reactivating the yard for a different use-case this Spring, I'm not throwing my hands in the air and abandoning the bigger vision the neighborhoods pulled together over the past year.

**Let's keep in mind that a Master Plan is not a tomorrow plan, or a next 6 months plan – it's meant to serve as a long-term blueprint.** Whether the yard sells in a year, in 2 years, in 5 years, or in 10 years, the document that we went to such great lengths to produce will continue to serve an important role in the future of the area.

There were key recommendations toward the end of the plan regarding zoning modifications that would be needed to ensure elements of the plan could be achieved. Now is the time to codify the plan so that when the time comes, the groundwork will have been laid for a process that a would-be developer could follow to ruffle the fewest feathers in the neighborhoods.

The sudden clearing of the yard last May is proof of how quickly things can change on the site. Whatever the new operation ends up being, there's no guarantee it will be around long-term. In another life, I've done some research on the future of supply chain logistics. Let's just say that entire industry is in the midst of a massive upheaval. Without going fully down that rabbit hole, it's anyone's guess as to how the disruptive technologies and processes already being piloted will affect operations on sites such as Hulsey. Note the word "guess".

I've heard from more than one neighbor since the news broke about the new operation that it's better to deal with *'the devil you know'* in these situations. I think there is some wisdom in this thinking, at least in the absence of clear guardrails that would make sure what comes next is what the people want.

Living beside a train yard never bothered me. In fact, it can provide an interesting snapshot into what's going on beyond our little bubble. Maybe Hulsey's transition time isn't quite there yet. Perhaps we will have to wait a bit longer – to see the vision we've laid out – get the consideration it deserves.

In the meantime, I think we all need to stay vigilant and do what we can to move the conversations forward in a productive way. There are still things that could theoretically happen on part of the site (**Beltline** transit, anyone?) if the whole parcel isn't being used. We can still pass legislation to protect the Wylie and Tennelle street murals and work on zoning modifications as well.

**We're playing the long game here.** I'll borrow the lyrics from a popular dance hit (from yet another life) in 1995: *"Don't give up, don't give in; keep on pushin' and you'll win."*

# Goodbye David Thayer

By Reverend David DeChant

***This morning you maybe didn't feel the split second when the earth stopped spinning in the universe so that one of the planet's finest humans could get picked up by the Gods.***

They took David Thayer from us. Cabbagetown suffered a crushing blow today as we were stripped of the title of Home of The Great One. Yes, this time it is true. We've lost our most relevant artist, our most colorful resident, the guy with the neighborhood-defining home and yard that was the most photographed spot in Cabbagetown. THAT guy. Our leader of culture and cool. The head Cabbagehead. The guy on the porch with those giant dogs and THAT house with the signs on the gate and the fountains and turrets and fire pits and bamboo and rusty metal and stacked bones and bullfrogs and chickens. He is no longer ours on this planet or in this neighborhood.

***Can you feel it? Hurts doesn't it?*** And even though for the last decade he struggled with a body that had moved mountains and paid the price, and drank lakes and paid the price, smoked forests and paid the price, he continued to wake each day and hobble around. He was unhealthy for a long time but continued to live. He lost his life partner (whom David called "brother") Richard, and survived that for so much longer than anyone thought. Hell, I'd even killed David off on Facebook a couple years back and he survived that.

***This time it really hurts.*** So final. I'd bestowed in David, a Keith Richard's-like mortality in which I didn't believe anything would end him if none of the obvious things had failed so miserably to do so. That is how Death is so sneaky by rushing in when life is taken for granted. I hate to be reminded of that with David.

My friendship with him is almost two decades old and started as colleagues. As stonemasons and hardscapers and creators of gardens and fireplaces and as outdoor laborers, we were in the same line of work. I made the mistake of introducing myself those many years ago as "a competitor" and he immediately put me in my place with, ***"You may be in the garden industry but I only compete with God with what I make."***

I was his friend right away but it was a decade before I earned his respect as a fellow mover of rocks and stacker of stone. It was of the utmost achievements of my life that he finally told me I would succeed him as the next greatest Cabbagetown craftsman in "the outdoor arts." I was humbled to tears on that day to hear those words.

On his property is a mausoleum of granite in which he interred the ashes of his beloved Richard, and David gave me specific instructions of to combine his ashes with Richard's in an urn I'm to carve out of limestone when this horrible day occurs. The instructions include a very detailed hand drawn account of the two penis shaped handles the urn is supposed to have! Nothing specific about the urn or its lid, but the handles will probably not be forgotten. Of course it will be my pleasure to maintain my loyalty to this request. The horrible day has now occurred.

***David was once young and handsome, believe it or not.*** He would have been described at times as nice and charming, believe it or not. He conquered this city with antiques and waterfalls. He made beauty with his back and hands and became the unofficial leader of our village by being larger than life in every way.

***You may have met celebrities at his house like Jane Fonda or Tom Waits.*** You may have passed out at his house and woke up with tetanus and in dog poop. At one party at his place the entertainment was a bunch of naked people with

pierced parts inserting big needles through their various holes for the all folks of Cabbagetown to ponder. Grandmas and children are still pondering about that Halloween. I'm still pondering it.

***The thing about David Thayer is that exact feeling.*** We are left to ponder him. If you live a thousand years you will not meet another like him or see a house like his. No other human turned out like him. He was part Howard Finster and part GG Allin and an engineer and architect and designer and visionary. He was gay when gay wasn't cool he was loud and obnoxious whenever he felt like it.

If we magically could produce a résumé of all his works, all the yards and homes he built things in, if we could show people how prolific David Thayer had been in this world while he was on it, he would be internationally known as one of the great artists of the last sixty years.

He had many wealthy patrons that paid him to make wonderful things all over Atlanta and beyond. He gave the world koi ponds and chicken pens and garden walls and sidewalks and streams and order and chaos in equal measure. If you spoke with him ever, you remember the exchange and have a story of how weird and important it was. Cherish it as you continue to ponder him. ***You were lucky to meet him. I was too.***



David Thayer. Born February 16, 1947. Died February 29, 2020.

Photo by Dane Sponberg



# A Pearly Gate

By Kyle F. Bidlack

*It's been talked about for a very long time. Now it looks like Oakland Cemetery is getting a long-wished-for eastern gate.*

Thanks in part, to a Legacy Grant from **Park Pride**, historic Oakland Cemetery will create a new entrance on the east side of the park to open access to the Cabbagetown neighborhood and to the Eastside Trail Extension of the Atlanta BeltLine.

In addition to the Improvements at Oakland Cemetery, Park Pride will fund work at upwards of thirty parks throughout Atlanta and DeKalb County, with grants totaling more than \$1.3 million.

Established in 2004, Park Pride's matching grant programs award varying amounts of funding to community groups seeking to revitalize their neighborhood greenspaces. Three distinct grants provide awards of different sizes, designed to support Friends of the Park groups taking on larger projects as they grow and develop capacity. Small Change Grants (up to \$2,500) and Community Building Grants (\$2,500-\$50,000) are funded by The **Home Depot Foundation**, and Legacy Grants (\$50,000 and up) are funded by the **Robert W. Woodruff Foundation**.

*Not the first time we've had an eastern gate?* Take a southward walk along the Boulevard sidewalk across the street from Agave Restaurant, and if you have a keen eye, you might notice an odd pattern in the stonework in a section of the wall.

It's not hard to visualize that this odd pattern was once a large gateway that was sealed up with stone in days gone by. The good people of Cabbagetown are thrilled to have this welcomed addition and we thank all the folks at Oakland Cemetery, Park Pride, and everyone who funded the Legacy Grant.

# R'Town Booming!

By Kyle F. Bidlack

*Last month we got word that the 7+ acres that comprises Stein Steel in Reynoldstown, is now on the market.* This month, more big real estate news – 2+ acres of a former **AT&T** parking lot – near the corner of Chester Avenue and Fulton Terrace SE, will be redeveloped into 70 condos and townhomes.

The developer – **Thrive Residential** – is currently working with the City to rezone the property from industrial to multi-family residential.

According to Josh Green and **Curbed Atlanta** – Thrive's plans call for 67 units from the high \$200,000s to high \$400,000s, with a projected completion in 2022. Marketing is expected to commence this fall, per the paperwork.

Expect 22 one-bedroom, one-bathroom units of about 480 square feet, priced in the high \$200,000s.

Forty-four two-bedroom, two-bathroom options with just shy of 1,000 square feet will be priced from \$425,000 to \$475,000.

The development would also include a single three-bedroom, two-bathroom residence of 1,690 square feet, priced in the high \$400,000s.

AT&T joins eastside corporations large and small that have cashed in on real estate with close proximity to the Beltline. (AT&T reps didn't disclose the sales price.)

The nearby section of the Atlanta Beltline – the final leg of the popular Eastside Trail – was completed and opened to the public last summer.

# Big Night at JenChan's

By Kyle F. Bidlack



*JenChan's threw a big ol' Neighborhood Appreciation Party on February 28<sup>th</sup> and throngs of Cabbageheads made the scene.*

The party was one part six month celebration, one part "break the curse", with a big dash of music from **Heather Luttrell & The Possum Den** – and of course, lots of fabulous food and drink.

The staff at JenChan's continues to break the mold, constantly offering delicious new dishes, and fine-tuning a growing list of Cabbagetown favourites. Bar Manager Brandon Belt offered up a few special drink concoctions which garnered rave reviews. Cabbagehead Kelly Breedlove noted that Ms. Luttrell was a contestant on **Rockstar: INXS** back in 2005, and performed "Burning Down The House" by Talking Heads. **Eat Supper Together!**

# Carroll Street Crash and Chaos

By Kyle F. Bidlack

**Thursday night, February 20<sup>th</sup> was a quiet, foggy night in Cabbagetown. until the clock struck 7:33p. That's when things got a wee bit chaotic.**

Here was the initial report from Georgia State Patrol: "This evening at approximately 7:33p, a Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Trooper attempted to stop a 2006 Hyundai Sonata for making erratic lane changes on I-285 North at I-20 East in Fulton County.

The vehicle failed to stop, initiating a pursuit on I-20E. The pursuit continued east on I-20, exiting on Boulevard SE.

The violator passed stopped traffic on the ramp to Boulevard. The violator turned left on Boulevard striking the front end of a GSP patrol vehicle that was standing by at the intersection.

The pursuit continued North on Boulevard to Carroll Street. The violator vehicle exited the roadway on Carroll Street and struck a utility pole before making impact with an unoccupied parked vehicle.

The violator fled on foot after the crash. APD responded to the scene with K9 units to search the area, but were unable to locate the violator."

As a result of the crash, most of Cabbagetown lost electricity for about two hours. Some residents were without power for roughly ten hours.

A transformer near the corner of Memorial Drive and Boulevard also blew raining down a shower of sparks for almost an hour before power crews could neutralize the situation.

More than seven GSP vehicles descended upon Cabbagetown. Later joined by several more APD units, and a small squadron of

Georgia Power utility vehicles. Kudos to the Georgia Power crews for replacing the utility poles in quick order, and restoring power to most of us (not all of us) as quickly and as safely as possible.

Businesses up and down Carroll Street did their best to continue serving their customers – mostly by candlelight. Some customers at **Carroll Street Café** and **Milltown Tavern** think they saw the violator

running from the crash scene. They reported that the violator appeared to have significant facial wounds, was bleeding profusely, and ran with a pronounced limp.

Cabbageheads on Savannah Street, Berean Avenue, and Powell Street reported being startled by the sudden presence of Georgia State Patrol, Atlanta Police Department and K9 units, searching their backyards with bright lights. The manhunt continued for over an hour, until police called off the search.

**Cabbageheads at The Stacks had a birds-eye view of all the happenings.** Upwards of twenty folks gathered at the south end of the fifth floor of H Building (formerly Mill Building No.1). More than a few beers and bottles of wine may have been consumed at this location, while folks tried to peice together what happened.

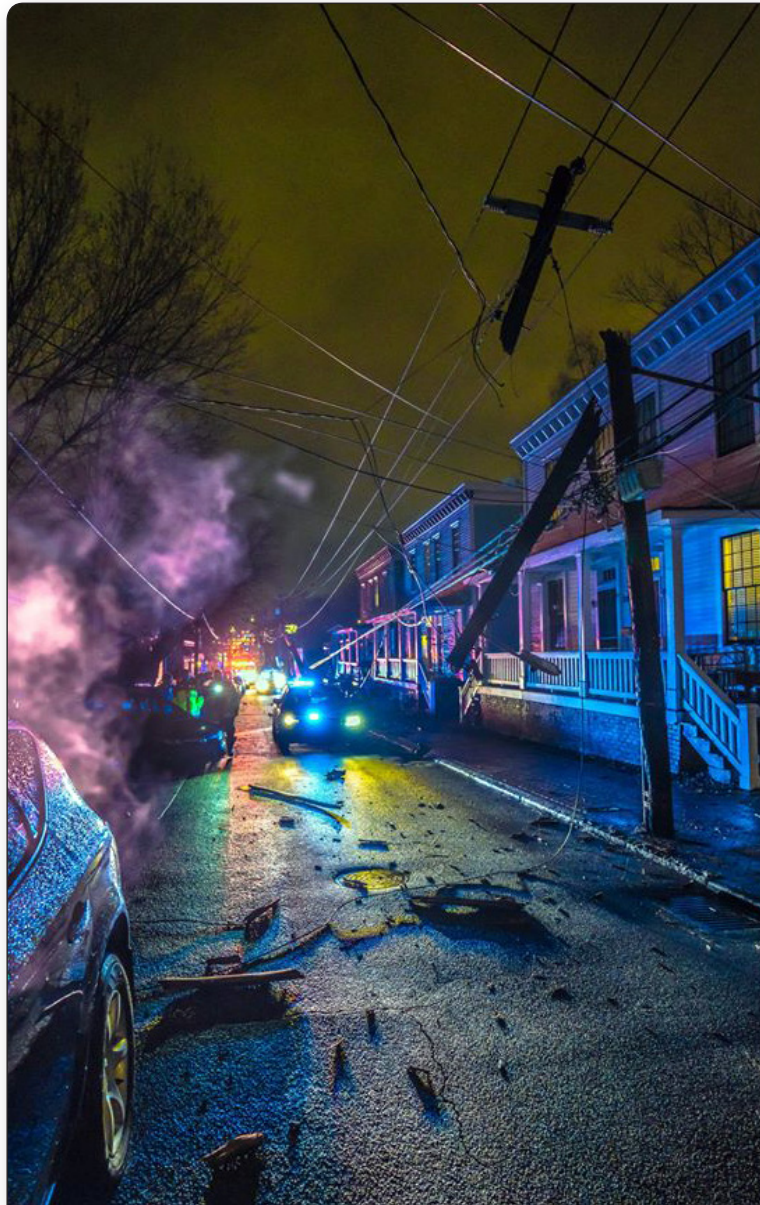
"He ran in front of the porch we were standing on then cut over to the alley between the buildings and tried to get over a fence but he couldn't get over," said Gina Morton, while speaking to **Fox5 News**.

The driver ran on to the front porch of Gina Morton and Chip Jones' home.

"We could hear him on the front porch, we were just on the other side of the door, we locked the door and

he took off," said Jones. "Everybody was trying to corral him and keep him here because the cops were only moments behind," said Tim Holden.

Desperate to get away, the man hopped a fence and took off down an alley. Atlanta police brought out their K-9s, but somehow, he managed to slip away into the dark night.



**The aftermath on Carroll Street**

Photo by Ryan Vizzions. [www.ryanvizzions.com](http://www.ryanvizzions.com).  
To purchase photo, see Ryan's Facebook page.

# Photographs from a Freight Train

By Kyle F. Bidlack

*During a recent, friendly gathering at Reverend David & Ann Marie DeChant's house, Bobby Lanier brought a treasure trove of photos from 1978 to 1982.*

Mr. Lanier was a train engineer back in the day, and the trains he commanded, often made their way through Cabbagetown and the surrounding areas. During his journeys, he'd snap photos of scenes

he found interesting. He tucked the photos away a long time ago, but recently rediscovered them and shared them with the good Reverend, who in turned, shared them with *The Cabbagetown Neighbor*.

Below are a few of the photographs. To see more from the series, check out the online edition of *The Cabbagetown Neighbor*.



# Photographs from a Freight Train

All photos by Mr. Bobby Lanier



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# March On! Party On!



**ANNA  
PFEFFER**

*If you missed Mardi Gras in New Orleans last month, don't worry, there's another celebration and parade on the horizon!*

Atlanta will be bustling with St. Patrick's Day celebrations, including the famous Irish party that started in 1858... complete with a parade!

This parade and party are not one to miss. The parade starts on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at noon on Peachtree and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. And

bars throughout the city will be celebrating all weekend long. Take a look at all of the events happening!

**The LepreCon St. Patrick's Crawl** from 2p to 2a. Twelve hours of bar hopping and green beers... and if you're lucky enough, you could win a cash prize in the costume contest. Wristbands are \$10 up until the day before the event. Your wristband will get you into any bar on the crawl and includes drink specials at every location. There's also live entertainment throughout the event!

**Atlanta Lucky Fest is at Park Tavern** in Piedmont Park and goes from 3p to 11p. Tickets start at \$15 in advance and include entry and entertainment and live music. Food and drink are extra. Wear your green and get ready to sham-ROCK!

**Lucky's St. Patrick's Day Crawl** starts at 4p and goes 'til midnight. \$20 tickets include two drinks, badge and lanyard, drink specials at every stop, and access to enter the \$500 costume contest! Crawl locations include **Kramer's Buckhead, Churchills of Buckhead, Dive Bar Buckhead, Lost Dog Tavern, Red Door Tavern, Stagecoach,** and **The Pool Hall Buckhead.**

And that's just Saturday! The party continues through Sunday! **The Bloody Mary Festival at The Fairmont** starts at 12p to help with those hangovers from the night before. OR, continue celebrating St. Patrick's Day at **Guac y Margys!** Guac y Margys is right on the Beltline and will be featuring green mimosas, green margaritas, and green guacamole! Celebrations include their bottomless brunch (mimosas and breakfast tacos for \$25) and \$7 green margarita specials all day long! Learn more at [guacymargys.com](http://guacymargys.com).

*It's definitely going to be a weekend to eat, drink, and be Irish!*

## Tiny Doors ATL

What to read a great story on Karen Anderson and her Tiny Doors ATL art project? Go here: [roadtrippers.com/magazine/tiny-doors-atlanta-georgia/](http://roadtrippers.com/magazine/tiny-doors-atlanta-georgia/)

# Walking Sticks

By Kyle F. Bidlack

**Reynoldstown has a budding new business.** And considering that our little corner of Atlanta is one of the most walkable spots in the land, this seems like a perfect fit.

If you are in search of a handcrafted oak or poplar walking stick, then head on over to [theronoastick.com](http://theronoastick.com). Prices range from \$15 to \$25. For anyone purchasing a Stick here in Georgia, Use the code: 'atlrnoa' at check-out for Free Shipping.

For more information, please feel free to send an email to: [Theronoastick@gmail.com](mailto:Theronoastick@gmail.com)



# Top of the Charts

By Kyle F. Bidlack

**What music is Cabbagetown listening to?** Good question. Here's February's hottest songs on the **Milltown** juke box.

- 1 OUTKAST  
SPOTTIEOTTIEDOPALISCIOUS
- 2 SCHOOLLY D  
SATURDAY NIGHT
- 3 ROGER WATERS  
BIRD IN A GALE
- 4 STYX  
TOO MUCH TIME...
- 5 STURGILL SIMPSON  
TURTLES ALL THE...
- 6 KID ROCK  
PICTURE
- 7 MICHAEL JACKSON  
P.Y.T.
- 8 OUTKAST  
ATLIENS
- 9 BLACK SABBATH  
WAR PIGS
- 10 JUVENILE  
BACK THAT AZZ UP
- 11 ROGER WATERS  
WHO NEEDS INFORMATION?
- 12 BETA BAND  
DRY THE RAIN
- 13 DR. DRE  
THE NEXT EPISODE
- 14 ELLIOTT SMITH  
SPEED TRIALS
- 15 ELLIOTT SMITH  
SON OF SAM



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# The Real Estate Report

This information is provided by Chrissie Kallio 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: Chrissie Kallio at 404.295.2068 • Lynne Splinter at 404.582.0006 • Debbie Weeks at 404.272.1906  
*We wish you happy house hunting!*



## HOUSES

For Sale	Price
252 Powell St. 3 BD/3.5 BA	\$750,000
735 Kirkwood Ave. 4 BD/2.5 BA	\$730,000
131 Short St. 4 BD/3 BA	\$699,000
266 Berean St. 2 BD/2 BA	\$589,900
620 Memorial Dr. 2 BD/1 BA	\$495,000

## MULTI-FAMILY

For Sale	Price
None this month.	

## LOTS

For Sale	Price
255 Pearl St. .06 Acres	\$150,000

## HOUSES

Pending	Price
649 Gaskill St. 3 BD/3 BA	\$675,000
597 Pickett St. 4 BD/2.5 BA	\$654,000
139 Estoria St. 2 BD/2 BA	\$525,000

## CONDOS & LOFTS

For Sale	Price
<b>The Stacks</b> Loft E319 2 BD/2 BA	<b>170 Blvd</b> \$474,900
Loft E219 2 BD/2 BA	\$474,900
Loft E111 2 BD/2 BA	\$474,000
Loft E408 1 BD/1 BA	\$395,000
Loft H309 1 BD/1 BA	\$335,000
Loft H316 1 BD/1 BA	\$329,900
Loft H303 1 BD/1 BA	\$275,000
Loft H303 1 BD/1 BA	\$275,000

**PENDING**

## CONDOS & LOFTS

Pending	Price
<b>The Stacks</b> Loft E120 2 BD/2 BA	<b>170 Blvd</b> \$490,000
Loft E007 2 BD/2 BA	\$414,900
Loft E122 1 BD/1.5 BA	\$325,000
<b>Conditional</b> <b>The Stacks</b> Loft E309 2 BD/2 BA	<b>170 Blvd</b> \$480,000
Loft E316 2 BD/2 BA	\$482,000
Loft E305 1 BD/1 BA	\$340,000
<b>Milltown Lofts</b> Loft 502 2 BD/1 BA	<b>791 Wylie</b> \$340,000
Loft 103 1 BD/1 BA	\$256,000
<b>Under Contract</b> <b>The Stacks</b> Loft H221 1 BD/1 BA	<b>170 Blvd</b> \$319,900
Loft D101 1 BD/1 BA	\$299,000

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