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## Buckhead Business Association director steps down

By [Laura Braddick](#)  
[lbraddick@neighbornewspapers.com](mailto:lbraddick@neighbornewspapers.com)



Staff / Nathan Self

Sharon Silva, working at last week's A Taste of Buckhead Business EXPO at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, will step down as the Buckhead Business Association's executive director Friday.

At nearly every Buckhead Business Association event, amongst a throng of new people and nametags, there has always been at least one familiar person who would welcome members and guests.

With her chic glasses, signature jewelry and warm smile, Sharon Silva has become the face of the association's executive director.

But Friday, after five years of hard work, Ms. Silva will step down from her position to focus on her personal life.

"She's been a tremendous part of the group," said 2009 association president Elizabeth Gill, who joined the association when Silva was hired. "She's been

With a background in equipment as well as working for the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Silva was brought on to the association to increase visibility.

Having little set in place before she almost had to start from scratch and create guideposts in every direction. Still, she said the job has been a better fit for her.

"I'm very social by nature and helping people make connections," she said. "It's a perfect fit. I don't do the job so much as a passion."

Beyond being a consistent presence at the association, Ms. Silva was also a secretary, event planner, a Web master, just to name

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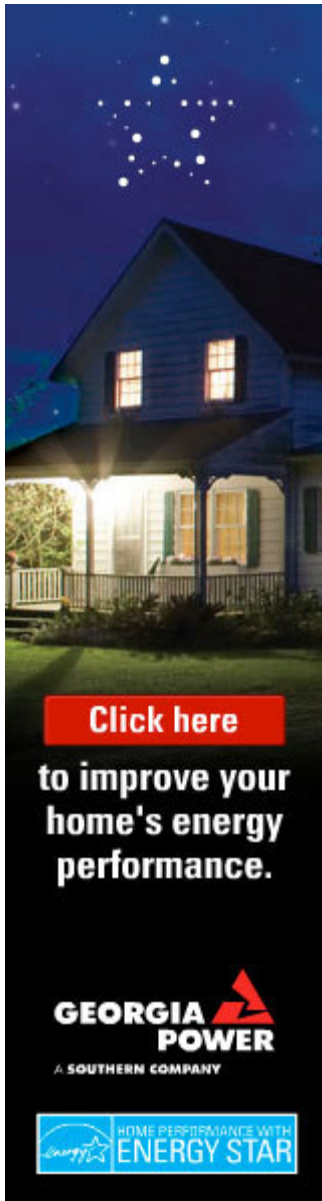


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"The position has definitely opened up my areas of expertise. It's never dull," she laughs.



Her decision to leave a relatively recent one, Ms. Silva said she had mixed emotions abc down to have more personal time to travel, relax and spend time with her 89-year-old f Silva.

"I will still be an active member," she said. "I'll miss parts of planning, but I know I'll be very capable hands and I will be happy to help out however I can."

The association is currently soliciting applications for a new director and will try to fill th mid-June.

Michael Moore, an association member for 11 years, has watched the association rise ai years and said Ms. Silva's work has turned it around.

"They really had no clue what to do with the all-volunteer association," he said, referrin memberships and participation right before Ms. Silva arrived. "She saved the organizati

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