

Village Place Brookhaven, a mixed-use community of residential condos, office condos and retail spaces, is in the heart of Brookhaven on Dresden Drive.



Coming into its own

Brookhaven Is a happening community

By Pamela A. Keen

A magical transformation is taking place along Peachtree Road, just north of Buckhead. Brookhaven is coming into its own as a viable live, work and play neighborhood as new mixed-use developments such as Village Place Brookhaven on Dresden arrive on the scene.

“People are discovering that they want to live close to work, with their offices, homes and entertainment in a central location and that’s what’s happening in Brookhaven,” says Nick Gold, board member of the Brookhaven Community Connection, formed to champion the growth and development of the intown neighborhood. “With homes built above retail shops, residents have everything at their fingertips.”

Brookhaven has long been an established community, with the Capital City Club a mainstay by which many people identified the area. Other landmarks include Oglethorpe University and the Brookhaven MARTA station. Peachtree Road runs through it; Dresden and Brookhaven Drive are major arteries.

“One thing that’s always been a challenge for us is that Brookhaven didn’t have a city center, defined boundaries or a business organization,” says

Kelly Brantley, president and founder of the Brookhaven Community Connection. “So, about a year ago we founded our group. We include homeowners associations and members of the community to really reach out and make it truly a community organization.”

Social events and community projects, such as park or street cleanups, are open to the public and participation is high. The organization, with about 50 members, hosts public meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Hudson Grill at Brookhaven Station.

Michael Jackson of the Jackson Agency lives and works in Brookhaven, and says that the area’s dedication to attracting new businesses and residents keeps it vital and growing. He decided to move his business and his family there because of the area’s potential.

“The location is excellent,” he says. “Even though we’re only two miles from Phipps Plaza, we’re sheltered from the hustle and bustle of Buckhead. And our community is filled with young families out walking or riding bikes; everyone is so friendly. It’s refreshing to be part of such an active neighborhood.”

The area’s history is typical of many communities in metro Atlanta, with pre-Civil War farmlands, Civil War history and quiet residential neighborhoods.

Only recently has the business environment developed.

“For a long time, Brookhaven has been a diverse cultural community,” says Atlanta native Kim Gokce, who has taken an interest in the area’s history. He owns Ex Cognito Inc., an IT systems consulting firm in Brookhaven. “Did you know that at one time the area was called Cross Keys and had a post office with that mailing address? Town Boulevard used to be Cross Keys Drive. That’s how the high school got its name in 1958 when it opened.”

Brookhaven was a pass-through area for people traveling from Chamblee to Buckhead. There’s still an 1830’s farmhouse at Peachtree and North Druid Hills roads. Gokce also discovered that part of the area was incorporated as “North Atlanta” until 1968.

“This area is filled with lots of history, from before, during and after the Civil War,” says Gokce, who first lived in Brookhaven as a student at Georgia State University in the late 1980s, but says he knew that he would eventually end up living and working in the area.

“I continued to be attracted to the central location and the diversity of the area, and so this is where we settled,” he says. “Brookhaven has a great history, a diverse population and is poised for a great future.” **LA**