

**Neighborhood Association Newsletter** 

# THE BIRDCAIL

# Community Information

#### **Neighborhood Beautification**

Progress has been made in our efforts to maintain the Audubon Forest sign and surrounding landscaping at the entrance to the neighborhood.

A working group has been organized by AFNA President, Stephanie Fearrington, to study the viability of replacing the sign in the future. More information will be available in the future. In the meantime, please check out the sign's recent brickwork repairs courtesy of our neighbor, Mr. Richard Dent and the new paint job courtesy of neighbor, Mrs. Kisha Wiley!

#### **AFNA Monthly Meetings**

AFNA meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Hoosier United Methodist Church Conference Room; 2545 Benjamin E. Mays Drive.

#### **AFNA Neighborhood Walking Group**

Looking for light exercise and delightful fellowship with our wonderful neighbors? The AFNA Neighborhood Walking Group meets everyday at 5:30 PM in front of Hoosier United Methodist Church. Contact Kisha Wiley to confirm your participation by 3:00 PM on the day of your first walk: 678.471.5070.

#### **Construction Update Community Meeting**

**When:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024; 6:00 - 7:30 PM **Where:** Hillside International Truth Center, Inc. 2450 Cascade Road SWAtlanta, GA 30311

Please let Neighborhood Planning Unit I (NPU-I) Chair, Eunice M. Glover, know if you plan to attend via email at **chair.npui@gmail.com.** 

For information about Cascade Road Complete Street, Phase 1, check out the project page on ATLDOT's website here >



#### **ATL311 After Hours and Weekend Help Lines**

Watershed Emergency: 404.546.0311

Emergency Traffic Light, Sign or Pole Repair: **404.290.7058** 

For non-emergencies or if calling from outside of the Atlanta city limits: **404.658.6666** 

For all other emergency requests, dial 911.

## Community Resources

#### **Grant Provides Seniors Tax-Help to Seniors**

Homeowners often fear displacement in anticipation of community revitalization efforts, driving higher home appraisals, property appreciation, and ultimately higher taxes. Invest Atlanta's Anti-Displacement Tax Fund Program is designed to assist long-term homeowners and vulnerable residents who are at risk of displacement due to rising property taxes and gentrification pressures.

This program aims to provide financial assistance and support

to those in need, ensuring that they can remain in their homes and maintain the fabric of their community. It will pay the homeowner's increase in taxes above their base taxes for 20 years, if the homeowner continues to qualify for the program. Requirements:

- Must own and occupy a home in the City of Atlanta
- Must be over the age of 65
- Must be currently delinquent on real estate taxes

To learn more about the program or apply, please visit:

https://www.atlantaga.gov/ government/mayor-soffice/executiveoffices/office-ofconstituentservices/senior-citizenanti-displacement-grant or **click here** >

# Volunteer Spotlight

### Mario and Kisha Wiley

While they'd had their eye on Audubon Forest for many years, Mario and Kisha Wiley purchased a home on Oriole Drive approximately a year ago. In that short time, the Memphis natives have made a marked impact on the neighborhood and the AFNA!

You may have met the Wiley's at the AFNA holiday party or gift donation event last December. They were integral in the planning and execution of those events. Or, maybe you've seen them at the monthly AFNA meetings where they always seem to contribute something valuable each month.

This Spring, Kisha volunteered to spruce up the sign with paint as an interim fix ahead of the potential neighborhood signage rehab project. She also started a neighborhood walking group which meets everyday at Hoosier United Methodist Church at 5:30 PM.

Mario heads up the Community Safety and Economic Development committees. Make sure to



Connect with us on Instagram!

@audubonforest

say "hello" if you see him out in the neighborhood in his street captain t-shirt.

We appreciate the contributions of the Wileys. Their positivity and energetic outlook is contagious!



# Neighborhood Info

#### **Street Captains:**

Our Street Captains are the pulse of the each street in our neighborhood. They have volunteered to receive and report issues related to trash dumping on their respective streets, new neighbors, unkept yards, and any other issues that need reporting. In essence, Street Captains are the eyes and ears for us all. This role is not taken lightly and is key to increasing our neighborhood's value.

Street Captains assist with:

- informing neighbors about issues that may affect the neighborhood and its residents;
- fostering a sense of community among neighbors within our area; and
- encouraging involvement and participation in AFNA.

In the next few weeks, AFNA street captains will be visiting residents door-to-door to meet you and your family to solicit your suggestions, ideas,

and desires to help AFNA better serve you. They will be wearing identifiable black t-shirts when we ring your doorbell so that you can easily identify them.

Current Street Captains: Mario Wiley (Chair) and Anita Bridges (Oriole Drive).

#### **AFNA Boundaries**

The streets comprising Audubon Forest are: Audubon Circle, Benjamin E. Mays Drive (Flamingo Drive to Peyton Road), Cardinal Way, Chickadee Court, Falcon Drive, Flamingo Drive, Jenny Wren Lane, Oriole Drive, Peyton Road (B.E.Mays Drive to Falcon Drive), and Willis Mill Road (north of B.E. Mays Drive.)

# Membership

#### Join AFNA Today!

Want to be in the know about neighborhood activities, or get involved in future neighborhood initiatives? Join the Audubon Forest Neighborhood Association today by simply paying your annual membership dues.

Annual membership dues are \$50 dollars per household. Payment is accepted via **PayPal** or in-person by check at each AFNA monthly meeting. For more information and to pay your dues, visit **audubonforest.org.** 

We welcome all neighbors with open arms!

# Call for Volunteers

We need your help! Please consider volunteering for one of the committees listed below:

# Executive Committee:

- President
- Vice President\*
- Secretary\*
- Treasurer
- Chairpersons of Standing Committees

\*Open Executive Committee Position



# Standing Committees:

- Communications
- Courtesy and Hospitality
- Community Safety\*
- Economic
  Development\*
- Membership\*
- Social\*
- History
- Zoning and Land Use\*

\*Open Committee Chair Position

# Mid You Know!

Cascade Springs was once a water company, a horticulture business and a popular vacation resort?

By Joanne Huntley, AFNA History Committee Chair



From 1909 until 1972, Cascade Springs was the home of several successful businesses, all operated by John H. Zaring, Sr. and family. Zaring, a native of Kentucky who was living in Florida, came to Atlanta to buy real estate in the growing Gate City of the South, and for medical reasons. He had learned that he was developing some symptoms of tuberculosis, and believed that mineral water was a natural treatment for the disease. Atlanta had a cooler climate and several mineral springs.

In 1909, Zaring purchased the Cascade Springs property at public auction for \$5,100. He decided to first operate a commercial nursery and a horticulture business at Cascade Springs. Over time he constructed six large greenhouses with a self-sufficient spring water and boiler heating system that allowed for the growth of flowers which were sold in a florist shop. The City of Atlanta, which was still developing its public water supply, was experiencing problems maintaining

the quality of its water. Zaring saw the potential for a larger commercial market for the water that had previously only been sold in small quantities to local residents. In 1910, he built an unique, indigenous stone springhouse over the larger of the two springs on the property and allowed the water to back up so it could be easily bottled. Over the next 30 years, Zarin leased the bottling rights to the Cascade Springs water to a series of business partners. Initially operating as the Cascade Spring Water Company, the water was advertised to be "Nature's Pure Water", "the purest, softest and most healthful water known" and was sold "for the Healing of the Nations." Zaring eventually constructed a bottling house with an assembly line to clean, refill and recork five-gallon bottles that were stored in warehouses then delivered to residential and commercial customers. At the height of its operations, the company averaged about 100 bottles or 500 gallons of water a day. But by 1942, the market for the spring water

# Did You Know! continued

had died as the public supply of water improved. Zaring closed his commercial water business in the early 1950's.

In 1917, Zaring decided to take advantage of Cascade Springs' proximity to Atlanta and develop a small, middle class urban resort on the property. Working with a partner, Zaring formed the Cascade Springs Park and Camping Company. They refurbished an existing hotel on Cascade Road across from Cascade Springs and named it the Cascade Inn. It had a restaurant that sold breakfast for \$.35. luncheon and afternoon tea for \$.50, and a special "Old Fashioned" fried chicken dinner for \$.75. One of its four rooms could be rented for \$7 a week, meals included. In 1927, Zarin closed the Cascade Inn. During the Depression, he allowed it to become the home of the man who held the lease for the bottling company.

Below the waterfalls and along the stream, the company built furnished and unfurnished bungalow tents to rent to campers for \$5 a week unfurnished or \$7 a week furnished or \$25 per month for the summer season. He also built a lake where campers could immerse themselves in the mineral waters. In the 1930s, the bungalows were refurbished and rented to persons who had lost their homes during the Depression.

To attract more business to its urban resort, Zaring built a large dance pavilion over a stream that flowed through Cascade Springs. Dances were held for free three nights a week and the pavilion was available to rent for private events three nights a week. Zaring built a soda fountain where drinks could be purchased. Spring water was available for free

To access Cascade Springs, visitors could drive to Cascade Springs or could take the trolley to the end of the car line on Beecher Street and be picked up by an auto bus that brought them to the hotel and camp grounds. Seasonal visitors could go into Atlanta for the theater or travel 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the West End Golf Club for their further amusement.

The popularity of Cascade Springs as an urban resort destination declined in the 1920's as middle class people began to buy cars that allowed them to travel further than the Atlanta suburbs for their recreational resort destinations. Additionally, in the aftermath of the Depression,

the City of Atlanta received New Deal relief funding that paid for the creation of more city parks. In 1927, Zaring's business partner responded by promoting Cascade Springs as a daily or weekend destination for picnics and dancing. A restaurant was built on the property where boxed chicken dinners could be purchased for picnics. The dance pavilion continued to host dances at irregular intervals. A tennis court and a miniature golf course was built along one of the streams along with a penny Dixie Cup dispenser.

In 1952, when Cascade Springs became part of the City of Atlanta, Zaring demolished the Cascade Inn, and the bungalows and deeded the property to his son. The dance pavilion was dismantled and sold. Zaring continued drink the spring water until his death in 1957 at the age of ninety. The Zaring family continued to operate the greenhouses in Cascade Springs until the early 1970s.

Visitors who walk the trails at Cascade Springs Nature Preserve today can still see some of the ruins of the Cascade Spring Water Company like the old boiler in its original shed, and the historic spring house pictured below:



This history note summarizes information from the article entitled, "Cascade Springs: An Atlanta Urban Spa" by Russell A. Zaring, pages 43-58 in the Atlanta History Bulletin, Fall 1987 Edition. See the article for a more detailed discussion of Cascade Springs and for more pictures.