



The Mainstream

THE MAINSTREAM is the official publication of Mainstreet Community Services Association, Inc.

WINTER ISSUE 2011 Jan/Feb/Mar

CHANGE—WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?



I would like to wish everyone a belated Happy Holidays and a very prosperous and Happy New Year. I also would like to thank the Mainstreet Community for voting the Board of Directors back in for another term. The Board of Directors heard you, we listened, and we will continue to listen.

I think most of the “Baby Boomers” remember a golden oldie entitled “*War, What is It Good For?*” by Edwin Starr. This is a question that has been asked by almost every individual, group, and nation on earth for a long time, but we’re going to change the title a bit. “Change, What is it Good For?” The old school of managerial thought is that nobody likes change and will do whatever they can to resist, and even prevent, it when possible. Current events in our nation reflect this philosophy to a tee.

Here in Mainstreet, it is evident that our Community is undergoing change. Change is good and sometimes needed, and I honestly feel that this particular era of change is for the best. The change I’m referring to is the timely collection of assessments. Homeowners not paying their assessments are an age-old problem for all communities, not just the Mainstreet Community.

Beginning January 2011, there will be new processes in place which will greatly and proactively assist us in our efforts. The most efficient and beneficial process which is widely known and the least complicated, is to contact the office and work out a payment plan. This has proven to be very successful and painless for a number of homeowners.

What are assessments good for? Where do we start? Let’s start at the beginning. The Mainstreet Community is one of the first planned communities. It is also a mandatory homeowners association – meaning when you buy into Mainstreet, you are automatically a member of the homeowners association and therefore subject to HOA fees. We are one of the best looking communities in the metro Atlanta area, and we definitely have more amenities available to us than surrounding communities. Assessments are used to sustain these amenities and common areas. For those that don’t know where some of the common areas are, they include: The Clubhouse, Pools, Tennis Courts, the Pavilion and Recreation Areas, and the entrances just to name a few. In additional, there are utilities or recurring bills, lights, heat, electricity, water, communications, etc.

Also, the administrative costs associated with postage, salaries, insurance, management and financial fees, etc. are also paid out of the budget. *The budget is comprised solely of assessments collected from homeowners.* The things our assessments are used for are all numerous. The above-mentioned items do not include events the staff and Board create in an effort to bring the Community together, give something back to the families, and build fellowship between neighbors.

If you do the same thing all of the time, you will always get the same results. We are looking for different results by doing different and productive things during the term of this Board. Changes which make sense must be noticeable and not obscured by fear of it.

Assessments also serve another purpose, and that is to help in the sale of homes. Many real estate agents will, during their pitch to sell a home, allude to the fact that the delinquency rate in a community is a certain percentage -- and the lower the rate the better. At this point, I must say, delinquencies in the Mainstreet Community are not as bad as in other subdivisions and areas. However, we must strive to collect past due assessments and keep them in the single-digit range. To accomplish this goal, the Board of Directors will employ some different and unique strategies this coming year.

In conclusion, we are looking for a banner year in the Mainstreet Community. Please come into the office and allow us to work with you. With your prayers and support we can make it happen. *Remember: Nobody wants a busybody, but Nosey neighbors can be a blessing.*

**Rick Harris, President
MCSA, Inc. Board of Directors**

The Mainstreet Welcome Committee would like to extend a hearty welcome to the following residents that chose to live and become a part of the Mainstreet Community. We realize that you could have picked any number of communities, but elected to put roots down in our community. Again, welcome and remember to come by the Clubhouse, pick up your welcome packet, and get involved by hopefully volunteering for one of our many committees. Enjoy the many amenities we have to offer. A hearty Mainstreet Community welcome and Happy New Year to:

Mr. Steve Rutledge
Ms. Regina Johnson
Mr. Derrick Shipman
Mr. Todd Brechbill
Mr. Sadek Mostefai
Mr. Gary & Alex Takessain



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Landscaping Committee
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Welcome Committee
Patrice Diamond 770.498..5911
Seniors Committee
Beverly Wright-Paige 770.465.9397
Newsletter /Web Committee
Nadine Rivers-Johnson 678.580.2762
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Homeowner Management Services, Inc. (HMS, Inc)

(Accounting & Financial Services Only *)
Mail Payments to: 770.667.0595
HMS, Inc.
P. O. Box 2458
Alpharetta, GA 30023-2458



Mainstreet Clubhouse

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MAINSTREET SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1, 2011
Visit website or Call Clubhouse for information



Clubhouse Events

PUB NIGHT AT THE CLUBHOUSE
1ST Fridays—9:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.
Join your neighbors for Bid Whist, Spades, Dominoes, Uno, Board Games, Trivia, Pool, Meet-& Greet! Deejay!
Food and Drink
We Bring the Fun! See you there!

BOOK CLUB
4TH Fridays—7:30 P.M.
Club members and homeowners welcome.
Bring your reading suggestions!

KARATE AT MAINSTREET
Saturday Morning
Beginners: 9:00 A.M. –10:30 A.M.
Advanced: 10:30 A.M. –NOON

MCCWCC (Crime Watch)
Block Captains Needed!
Report crime directly and often!
See Crime Watch "Eye On U" Signs
www.crimewatch@mainstreetcommunity.org

BIBLE STUDY AT MAINSTREET
For more information contact
Noel Tiu at (77) 630-2420
noel_tiu@msn.com

Message From the Community Association Administrator Nadine Rivers-Johnson



At the beginning of each New Year, we all resolve to make changes. We promise to *do better, be smarter, live healthier, and work harder*. Inevitably, we vow to make a difference in our quality of life. This year, the Mainstreet

Board of Directors and the Clubhouse staff have also resolved to bring about changes that will carry our community forward. In this issue, many of these changes are highlighted and discussed.

First, 2010 was a year of recognition for the Mainstreet Community. We were awarded two grants. The Captain Planet Foundation, the oldest environmental organization in the country, celebrated their 20th anniversary, a significant milestone -- creation of the first and only eco-hero, "Captain Planet" in December 2010 at a fundraiser gala attended by Ted Turner, Chris Tucker, LeVar Burton, and Ed Begley, Jr. Mainstreet was one of the grant award recipients recognized in their video montage. We also received recognition at the annual "Days of Giving" event sponsored by Wells Fargo (formerly Wachovia Bank). See the press release in this issue. Starting in February, the Redan Village Branch of Wells Fargo Bank will sponsor a series of financial seminars aimed at educating youth, adults, and seniors in the community on numerous programs available through their financial institution. This series will help increase awareness of the financial process and hopefully "de-mystify" the banking industry. It will also benefit and foster a healthy relationship with one of our banking neighbors.

To address issues faced by our community in particular and South DeKalb County in general, CEO Burrell Ellis will participate in a "Meet and Greet" Town Hall Meeting at the Mainstreet Clubhouse on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. As DeKalb County faces continued budget cutbacks related to property tax shortfalls and other factors, this meeting will give you a chance to meet directly with the CEO and voice your concerns, offer comment, or ask questions. For further information, please visit the DeKalb County government website.

The most aggressive change we have committed to, as we begin 2011, is to meet with delinquent homeowners and develop *workable* payment plans. We have a very strong agenda planned for our community. The increased revenues we expect from this program will provide funds needed to make additional services available that will enhance our quality of life here in the community. Along with regular payments of HOA fees, we will actively solicit for an increase in community involvement and volunteerism. Remember, future MCSA-sponsored events will require a "current" status of your assessment fees and having an up-to-date Mainstreet identification card available. Therefore, we encourage you to contact the Clubhouse administrative offices to set up an

appointment if you are delinquent. Working together, we can maintain the status of our Association.

Take time to visit the Clubhouse or the website. Our Resource Center is up and running for internet access and career resources. We provide copying, faxing, and notary public services during normal business hours, as well as access to the weight room. Beginning May 1 through October 1, 2011, the Mainstreet Concession Stand will be open four days a week. Remember, the Clubhouse is *your* source for information, referrals, services, healthy living, and fun. Use it! After all, your homeowner assessments pay for all Clubhouse operations, as well as maintenance of the common areas and other amenities.

So fellow "Mainstreeters," take the next few minutes to read this informative issue and begin to utilize your amenities. We think you will find a great deal of pertinent data as we strive to be bigger and better. Make a commitment to work with, and for, your community. In 2011, I wish you all prosperity. As always, I hope to "See You There!!"

Nadine Rivers-Johnson
Community Association Administrator
Editor-In-Chief, The Mainstream

2011 Calendar of Events

Superbowl Viewing Party	02/06/11
Wells Fargo Financial Seminar	02/ 2011
Annual Children's EasterEgg Hunt	04/24/11
Shopping/Vendors at Pub Night	05/06/11
Mainstreet Health Fair	05/28/11
Pool Season Opening "All Free Days"	5/29-5/30/11
Annual Fourth of July Celebration	07/04/11
National Night Out Against Crime	08/02/11
Community Yard Sale	08/20/11
Annual Children's Halloween Party	10/31/11
Children's Christmas Party	TBD

NOTICE

**Board of Director's Meetings
are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month
at 7:30 p.m.**

**Keep abreast of current news and topics
affecting the community**

**REMEMBER: Homeowner Meetings
with the Board of Directors held every other month.
Watch the Clubhouse Marquee and listen to
Calling Posts for next date and time!**

Message From the Office Associate

Season's Greetings! A new year brings with it new goals, ideas and new opportunities to do things a little better or a little different than the year before. As the new Office Associate here at Mainstreet Community Services Association, Inc., I plan to do all that I can to assist you, the homeowner, with bringing your homeowner association (HOA) assessment account current. For those of you that are current in your assessments, MCSA, Inc. thanks you and hopes that you will continue being diligent.

Paying your assessments regularly is the only way that this community will be sustainable and able to continue to offer you and your families the many amenities that you currently enjoy, as well as plan for future features. As Office Associate, I plan to review with you your current financial situation and develop a comprehensive plan that will better assist you in bringing your accounts current. In these tough economic times, effective communication and having a clear plan and sticking to it will help alleviate stress and unwanted debt.

We take pride in our ability to explore every option in order to help you become current in your assessments. Therefore, we encourage you to take advantage of the Clubhouse office bulletins and Mainstreet Resource Center to view current job listings in Dekalb County and surrounding areas, vendors that offer lower rates to service your home, and many other services that promote financial health.

Here at Mainstreet, we are committed to making sure homeowners have access to resources that can assist you. Please stop by the Mainstreet Clubhouse to see what new and exciting things are happening. If you are behind in your assessments, I'd like to meet you and help you get started on the right track for 2011.

Happy New Year!

Kristina Gilchrist, Office Associate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Annual Members Meeting & Board of Directors Elections - On December 2, 2010, the Annual Members Meeting was held at the Mainstreet Clubhouse. During the meeting, annual elections were conducted by Homeowners Management Services, Inc. (HMS). Please join us in congratulating the following homeowners in being elected to the 2011 Board of Directors. These individuals represent community commitment and dedication at its finest. We wish them well in their appointments.

Rick Harris – President (Incumbent)	Yvonne Edun – Secretary
Patrice Diamond – Vice President	Patricia Prayor – Member-At-Large
Mamye Britt – Treasurer	

Parkside Townhomes Loan Re-modification – One of the pledges made by the 2010 Board of Directors, most of which were re-elected to another term, was to re-modify the existing terms of the Parkside Townhome Loan in an attempt to lower these homeowners' monthly assessments. At present, residents of Parkside Townhomes pay \$255 per month in HOA fees. Their assessments cover water services, maintenance and landscaping of their common areas, trash, and the outside of building units. (This extended coverage is the reason why these residents pay more per month than the single-family homeowners' \$45 per month HOA fees.) The loan was originated in March of 2005 and was used to renovate Parkside Townhomes and Disney Court and re-pave these areas.

By-Laws Revision Amendments – The Board of Directors recently reviewed the current Mainstreet By-Laws and felt the time had come to modify and update various sections. Many of the Articles are obsolete, contain ambiguous language, need to be revised, and in some cases deleted. The major change to the Amendments is to hold elections bi-annually instead of every year. *This single change will save the Association \$5,000 - \$10,000 per year in elections-related costs.* Look for additional information on this amendment with the next 90 days.

Annual Homeowner Assessment (HOA) Fees Discount – Homeowners, effective immediately, any owner who pays their assessments for the entire year prior to January 31, 2011, will receive a 10% discount on their annual fees. If HOA fees are paid for the year in one payment after the 15th of this month but prior to the 31st of January 2011, late fees and penalties will be waived. For more information, please contact the Clubhouse Administrative office at (770) 469-7238 or HMS.

FREEMANS OF MAINSTREET CELEBRATE 75TH

At 99 and 92 years old respectively, Mainstreet Community residents Ellis and Maxine Freeman celebrated their **75th Wedding Anniversary** on December 19, 2010. Since 1935, they have led a long life of service and accomplishments. In St. Joseph, MO, Ellis served as one of the first black postal service workers; Maxine, a stay at home mother for 27 years before working as a Librarian, was the first black woman to serve on the board of Church Women's United. Since living in Georgia, they have been members of White Oak Hills Baptist Church where Mr. Freeman taught Sunday School for 18 years. Parents to two wonderful children, Gregg and Rebecca, 2 grandchildren, and 2 great-grand children they have resided and been active in the Mainstreet Community for 20 years. Ellis and Maxine have managed to stay blessed, youthful and thankful for their love and accomplishments. Congratulations!



Community Link

Building Better Communities

Homeowner Management Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 2458

Alpharetta, GA. 30023-2458

770-667-0595 770-667-6315 fax



Mainstreet Pet Corner

In this edition of *Pet Corner*, I'd like to shed some light on a particular breed of dog. America's BEST LOVED breed is now, unfortunately, America's most FEARED breed – the American Pit Bull. Back in the World War I era, Pit Bulls were the poster dogs and heroes of World War I. They are also considered the best loved, affectionate, and family-oriented dogs for most of their long U.S. history. The famous "Little Rascals" dog "*Petey*" was a Pit Bull! Even today, 'The American Temperament Test Society' (for dog breeds) rate Pit Bulls with a higher good temperament score than our much beloved Golden Retriever! Did you know that Cocker Spaniels are responsible for far more dog bites than any other dogs? Also, did you know that the majority of the famous "Michael Vick" fighting Pit Bulls have been re-trained and are now living their lives with loving and intelligent owners!??

Pit Bulls are NOT genetically wired to fight or kill. On the contrary, from the very beginning of the breed, they have been bred to be human and family-loving dogs. It was only since the 1970's -- when the media started highlighting them as aggressive, violent and suitable for fighting -- that the unfair media treatment began. Because of the overall strength and strong jaws (which do NOT "lock" and are not "unable to be separated" as one of the myths states), even the owners who train them to fight also train them to let go on command and to never hurt the owner. Individuals, with aggressive and violent tendencies themselves, were attracted to these dogs by the media, because they wanted to train them to be violent, aggressive, and fight. They quickly became the favorite breed of drug dealers and gang members. By the 1980's, Pit Bulls began to be over-bred by "backyard" breeders who knew next to nothing about proper breeding procedures, and because they saw the opportunity to make quick money. As a result, bad genes were passed on.

Many shelters are now over-run with Pit Bulls, and they are first to be *euthanized* as a result. These "backyard breeders" keep the dogs in horrendous conditions and wearing truck-sized chains around their necks to "strengthen" them. They beat them to make them angry enough to fight, and they tie the females to makeshift boards in order to breed them over and over again without them getting away. Many of these owners never vaccinate their dogs OR take them to a vet when they are hurt. They are often either left to die a horrible death or are shot. (Tune in to "Animal Planet" on television and watch "Pit Bulls and Parolees" which is about the Villalobos Pit Bull Rescue Center," the largest Pit Bull Rescue, Rehab and Re-home center in America or even the world.)

I can attest first hand on the "normal" temperament of Pit Bulls – I lived with one (my grand-doggie, Zepher) for 10 years. He was the most loyal, loving, and gentle dog you'd ever want to know. He was a lap dog, and was scared to death of thunder! (lol) Just remember, never go up to any dog you don't know without the owner (or someone the dog is familiar with) telling you it's okay – you never know how a human has trained that dog.

Your Animal-Lovin' Neighbor Bev



Architectural Review Board

Hi Neighbor. First, let me wish you and your family a very Happy New Year. I look forward to continuing the work on issues we started, but did not complete, last year. The Architectural Review Board (ARB) is the enforcement arm of the Association and Board of Directors which addresses the appearance, maintenance and aesthetics of the Mainstreet Community. The ARB is concerned with the appearance of the community (i.e. "curb appeal") and the adequate maintenance of the community facilities. The Board is also responsible for the approval of homeowner requests for modifications, as well as for detection and enforcement of the Architectural Covenants and Community Design Standards.

The community property is inspected approximately every 10 days, and violations of the Community Design Standards are noted. Homeowners responsible for the particular violation is notified and given sufficient time to correct the infraction. Failure to correct the violation will result in a fine, and the fine is added to the homeowner's account.

Technology has brought about some changes in the Design Standards, and the Board has adjusted well to accommodate these changes. The problems we have in the Mainstreet Community are the same as those through DeKalb County: debris, inoperable vehicles, vehicles parked on the lawns, commercial vehicles, and – more recently animals and pets.

Debris – maintained for more than seven (7) days which is visible from the street or adjoining property.

Inoperable vehicles – any vehicle on your property which does not or cannot run due to flat tires, no engine, or any other reason is considered inoperable.

Parking vehicles on lawn – is self explanatory.

Commercial vehicles - to include pick-ups, cars, and vans are totally restricted in residential areas.

Clean up behind your pets – find an area where your neighbors don't have to walk, and let the pets frolic there. Your pet's poop is your responsibility!

Fall is the beautiful time of the year with the leaves and the color, but when they fall, they must be **RAKED** up and bagged - - not blown into the sewers. I pass many sewers everyday which have leaves piled in front of them; this does not help the sewer system. When the sewer backs up we all suffer.

We have been able to clean up a lot, but there is still more to be done. But, we can only be successful with your help. Neighbors are great to have, but they should not be allowed to bring down the value of your home.

*Rick Harris, Chair
Architectural Review Board*



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ON U MAINSTREET CRIME WATCH

Happy Holidays Mainstreet! With 2010 behind us, the Mainstreet Community Crime Watch has had a very exciting, yet daunting year. First, I first must acknowledge and thank each and every homeowner and resident who participated in the monthly crime watch meetings, the Mainstreet Open House in October, and the Pub Night Shopping Party in December. None of these activities would have been successful without your presence and active participation! Continue to support our efforts by listening for events.

During the summer of 2010, there were a series of daytime burglaries which have appeared to slow down thanks to the vigilance of the Mainstreet Community and DeKalb County's Tucker Precinct. Individuals have been apprehended, and some property was recovered. I implore everyone to remain dedicated in reporting crime and/or suspicious activity *immediately*. I can't go without expressing my sincere appreciation to Officer C. A. Henry, Mainstreet ICP Officer, and Ms. Tonaya Moss, Public Relations Specialist, for "representing" at every crime watch meeting, responding to the concerns of the Mainstreet Community in a very timely manner, and offering their expertise and advice on how to deal with the issues of crime in our neighborhoods. The police presence has had a very positive impact on crime, and with the cooperation of the Community, the incidents of crime will be further reduced and, hopefully, eliminated. Remember, you can request a POAP (Police Often as Possible) Form directly by contacting DeKalb County's Tucker Precinct at (678) 937-5301. **The forms must be re-requested each month. Another important number is the nonemergency number at (678) 406-7929.**

Last year, we had an unfortunate incident that, due to inaccurate information and hasty reporting, put Mainstreet in a bad light by the media. Much of the information the general public researches – via CrimeMapping websites -- covers a broad area. Starting at a mile radius and due to the relationship of our community to adjacent subdivisions and apartment complexes, it may appear that we have a large amount of criminal activity occurring in our neighborhood. I assure that, although Mainstreet has had its share of crimes and vandalism, MOST of the crime occurring and being reported is happening *outside* of Mainstreet. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me or the Clubhouse for accurate information. If you have been a victim of a crime, first and foremost, CALL 911 then report your case number to the Clubhouse.

Recently, another potential problem has surfaced in the community. There has been an increase in the amount of door-to-door solicitations by people claiming to be in an emergency situation –i.e., a broken door key, the need to make an emergency trip and are in need of a (or short of) a few dollars for gas, etc. PLEASE, PLEASE do not open the door! Call 911 immediately and note the following: what the person is wearing, approximate height/weight, anything distinguishable you can think of about the person or persons, and the direction they were heading in. I had an incident on my block and, thanks to an alert neighbor the police responded within minutes and arrested the suspect. Community teamwork does make a difference in crime! I am still actively soliciting for Block Captains for each neighborhood! I have had several individuals express interest but have not been contacted yet. PLEASE send an email to vonneylene@yahoo.com or CALL. I would definitely like to have a Crime Watch meeting at the earliest possible date – before the end of January. Contact me with suggestions at the email address listed above.

Last, I have gotten several complaints about residents not being able to contact me. I have several means of contact, with the most effective being via email or phone. If you would like to be added to the Crime Watch mailing list just send an email to: vonneylene@yahoo.com, and I will add you to my distribution list. May you all have a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Yvonne Edun
Mainstreet Community Crime Watch



CUTTING IN MAINSTREET

Mainstreet has a strict prohibition on the cutting down of trees, which requires the approval of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) before any trees may be cut down, except in the case of an emergency, i.e., trees about to fall on their own, trees destroyed by wind or storms, or any other condition that could pose harm or injury to persons or damage to property. In such cases, the homeowner must contact the ARB as soon as practicable after such incident to advise the reason why the tree(s) were cut down. Any person who cuts down trees without the prior expressed written approval of the Architectural Review Board will be fined \$250 per tree.



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TENNIS ANYONE?



The start of the official tennis year begins with the first *Slam* of the season -- the Australian Open on January 17, 2011, in Melbourne, Australia. There are four **major** tennis tournaments each year, called "**Grand Slams**," which are the most important tennis events in terms of world ranking points for players, tradition, prize-money awarded (usually \$1 million dollars or more), and public attention. The second *Slam* is the French Open at the end of May in Paris, France. The third *Slam* is at Wimbledon in late June and is played in London, England. The last *Slam* of the year is the U.S. Open which is held in Flushing Meadows, New York in Late August. Players play on three kinds of surfaces - clay, grass and hard courts - during these four events. Tennis, like the Olympics is played by individuals, but they play on behalf of their respective countries. Unfortunately, American tennis players are becoming an "**ENDANGERED SPECIES!**" We need to recruit a new group.

How young can children start playing tennis? The Williams Sisters started playing tennis at ages 6 and 7 years old. Andre Agassi started at age 4. They have all been ranked No. 1 in the world in tennis. (For a complete history of Blacks in tennis visit www.Chargingthenet.com.) If your young child shows an interest in tennis, as a parent you can help them get started by: (1) You can enroll them in the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) "Quickstart" tennis play format program for Kids under 10; (2) According to teaching professionals, tennis is a "rally" game; the more they learn to rally, the sooner they will develop their game. You can set up a court in the driveway, a vacant lot, or a cul-de-sac and rally with them. Just keep it fun! (USTA sells a home-court kit.); and, (3) If they show talent and maintain an interest in the game, enroll them in their school's tennis team program and/or provide private coaching. There are several men's and women's tennis college scholarships available. National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) alone, offers a minimum of 1,971 scholarships for men and 3,794 scholarships for women. Women's tennis is classed as a "head count" sport, which means that the scholarships that are offered are "full-ride" scholarships. For more information, contact the Clubhouse at (770) 469-7238 or visit my website.

Larryette Kyle, Tennis Chairperson, Author
www.chargingthenet.com Tennis Book

Spiritual Corner

GOOD BYE 2010, HELLO 2011



Now that all of 2010's bad economy is just a memory, it is time to look ahead at the New Year. Many of us have gone through tremendous pressure to survive all the woes of last year, and even now some of us are still reeling from it.

The advice that my column will share with everyone is there is hope. Our Lord Jesus himself said, "*In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*". John 16:33. These words -- even for those who are not religious -- have in it comforting thoughts. This is the wonderful effects of God's words; and for those that know and continuously resort to reading them, especially in times of trouble, finds solace in His love for us. There are many unforeseen circumstances in this world, but remember what matters most never changes. "*Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow*". Hebrews 13:8

I remembered last year when I was about to lose my house to foreclosure. It was already set to be sold on the steps of the DeKalb courthouse. I was engulfed with fear -- fear I never experience in my lifetime, even when I was living in the Philippines. The thought of sleeping literally on the streets brought so much anxiety, but God said in Isaiah 41:10, "*Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you and I will uphold you with My righteous right hand*". He proved to me that nothing is above Him and gave me a testimony that He controls everything in Heaven, on Earth and beneath the Earth when my mortgage holder agreed to modify my monthly mortgage payment thus avoiding my property being foreclosed and sold.

We often forget in times of trouble that God created us for a purpose, each one of us, and no matter what happens His purpose will be accomplished. "*He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion until the day of Jesus Christ*". Even in hard times we know that we will have victory through Jesus. "*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us*". Romans 8:37. The only thing God wants from us is to trust in Him for He cares for us and blesses us beyond what we can imagine. Philippians 4:19. "*And God will meet all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus*".

And so as we face and begin year 2011, allow the hope to flow in our lives, allow the joy to surround us. But most of all, allow the love of God to show in our lives that in doing so we may become to others -- a shoulder to cry on, a strong pillar to lean on, and most of all become an inspiration in their own lives that they will overcome.

Lastly, keep our eyes focused on the only one who can do exceedingly more than we can imagine, Jesus Christ our Savior. I declare that for all of the residents of Mainstreet Community that the year 2010 is forgotten, and the year 2011 will bring abundant blessings.

In Christ, Noel Tiu

GUTTER CLEANING SERVICE

Clogged gutters and down-spots lead to water overflowing the gutters which wets the fascia boards holding the gutters to your house. If the fascia boards get wet too often the wood will ROT and the gutters and fascia boards will fall off your house. This will cause a substantial cost compared to having your gutters cleaned often, especially when the leaves are falling. Leaves and sticks piling up on your roof will also hold moisture and cause your shingles to ROT. Once your shingles rot, then your roof will leak water causing water damage inside your house. So don't go a season without having your gutters and roof cleaned a few times. It's very inexpensive to prevent compared to repairing the damage.

Roof and gutters cleaned for the same price. \$1/yard(3feet) of gutter.

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Diamonds & Pearls

Register today for Diamonds & Pearls, an all female after school program for elementary, middle and high school students offering:

- Dance
- Homework Assistance & Tutorial
- CBCT Preparation
- Community Service Projects
- Tennis
- Mentoring
- Performing Arts
- Snacks


Hours of operation are from 2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. Monday-Friday.
Serving students in the Stone Mountain, Decatur, Lithonia area.

- \$55 per week (Elementary School Students)
- \$40 per week (Middle and High School Students)
- Financial assistance available

"This award winning program is certainly meeting the needs of young girls."

For registration information contact:
Diamonds & Pearls
3725 Southland Drive
Stone Mountain GA 30087
770.879.4433 • info@diamondandpearls.org

Lisa Raynor
Fox Five News Anchor

YOUNG MEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Register today for Young Men's Leadership Academy, an all male after school program for elementary, middle and high school students offering:

- Kaplan SAT Preparation
- Homework Assistance & Tutorial
- Entrepreneurial Training
- Community Service Projects
- Tennis
- Mentoring
- CBCT Preparation
- Snacks

Hours of operation are from 2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. Monday-Friday.
Serving students in the Stone Mountain, Decatur, Lithonia area.

- \$55 per week (Elementary School Students)
- \$40 per week (Middle and High School Students)
- Financial assistance available

"This program has responded in fulfilling a need by helping male students better resolve conflict, excel academically, and become outstanding leaders and role models."

For registration information contact:
YMLA
5725 Southland Drive
Stone Mountain GA 30087
770.879.4433 • info@ymla.org

Michelle Benson
Georgia State Representative



Mainstreet Community Honored by Gift from **Wells Fargo at “Days of Giving Event”**

Mainstreet Community was honored by Wells Fargo with a \$1,000 grant at the company’s Days of Giving ceremony at the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce in Marietta on November 8, 2010. *Many groups in the program have not received support before.*

The donation to the Mainstreet Community is among contributions to 240 non-profit groups, each for \$1,000, to organizations across Atlanta made at five community breakfasts. The company began the program in Atlanta last year and in 2010 expanded it by more than a third. Before the program began, Wells Fargo had not supported many of the groups before.

“These unrestricted dollars will allow us to continue to help the community,” said Nadine Rivers-Johnson, Community Association Administrator for Mainstreet. “With the economy still suffering, the money couldn’t come at a better time.”

“A hallmark of Wells Fargo is local decision-making and local involvement,” said Scott Asher, community bank president. “Through Days of Giving we’re connecting with local communities in a whole new way.”

He added that Mainstreet Community was selected by frontline employees of the company for the honor. Across Atlanta Wells Fargo has 5,000 employees and serves half of all Atlanta households. It has nearly 200 bank locations. Wells Fargo will make a total of \$5 million in contributions to some 500 groups across Georgia in 2010.

Added Asher, “We know the needs continue to be great across our area, especially now. This is a new way to help more people and more groups that we haven’t been able to reach in the past.”



*Nicole Monturo, Wells Fargo Branch Manager
Nadine Rivers-Johnson, Mainstreet*

Message From the Vice President

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Mainstreet Community for re-electing me to the Board of Directors. My commitment is to this Community and my fellow Board members in doing the work that must be done. These commitments include: (1) increasing the percentage of assessments paid; (2) increasing Community involvement through volunteerism; (3) getting our By-Laws revisions approved by the community; (4) working with our youth to development programs for their involvement and development; (5) looking at doing things/projects for and with our Senior residents; (6) working in conjunction with other surrounding communities to ensure our representation in DeKalb County; and (6) to have a united voice in dealing with our local elected officials and the Tucker Police Precinct. Last, I'd like assure you that your confidence in me, as well as my fellow Board members, will be well placed. We will strive to continue being transparent, available, and listening to you -- the reason this Board exists.

Again, thanks for the vote of confidence.

*Patrice Diamond
Vice President, MCSA , Inc.*

Hello Neighbors! Did you know there’s going to be a Concession Stand at the Mainstreet Clubhouse? Yes! It opens on May 1, 2011, and will be in operation through the Pool Season. (Although the community pools close on Labor Day, the Concession Stand will remain open until October 1, 2011.

Hours of operation will be from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays through Saturdays. Conveniently located at the Clubhouse, the concession stand will offer affordable prices for a variety of snacks, drinks, and refreshments. Mainstreet homeowners and residents can take advantage of our services while swimming or playing tennis, during weight room workouts, or in the course of jogging or walking through the community. So if you’re in the area, stop in and check us out!

*By Velvet Loyal
Mainstreet Concessioner*

Mainstreet Community Services Association, Inc.
Proposed Bylaws change
December 2, 2010

Article II, Section 1, Membership:

Add to the end of this Section the following: No owner, whether one or more persons, shall have more than one membership or vote per lot. The rights and privileges of membership, including the right to hold office, may be exercised by the name of the member on the deed. If more than one owner, only one owner on the deed shall be permitted to serve on the Board of Directors simultaneously.

Article IV, Section 2, Meeting of Members, Annual Meeting, Bi Annual Director Elections

Remove and Replace Section 2 with items (a) and (b) below.

Add (a) Annual Meeting of the Membership: There shall be an Annual Membership meeting scheduled by the Board of Directors during the first, (1st) or second (2nd) week of December of each calendar year.

Add (b) Election of Directors shall be held bi-annually at the Annual Membership meeting.

Article IV, Section 3, Meetings of Members, Special Meetings:

Scribner's error: Last sentence beginning with "only" should be "Only".

Article IV, Section 6, Meetings of Members, Order of Business.

Change: item (f) to Report of election of Directors, if such election is held.

Article IV, Section 9, Meetings of Members: Nomination of Directors:

Remove the sentence which begins: Should terms of varying lengths be open...

Add to this Section the following: Immediately after, "file a petition for candidacy," add the following: be a resident-owner in the community and not have their rights suspended as per Article II Section 2, of these Bylaws.

Add to the end of this Section the following: A Candidates' Night Forum may be hosted by the Elections Committee before the date of the elections to afford the membership the opportunity to question candidates regarding their platform.

Article IV, Section 10, Meetings of Members, Board Transition Meetings:

Add new Section: There shall be at least two (2) Board transition meetings, one each month in January and February in after an election year for new Director Orientation and training.

Article V, Section 1, Board of Directors, Number:

Remove and replace: members of the Association, "in good standing" with "in compliance with Article II Section 2 of these Bylaws continuously throughout their term(s) of office."

Article V, Section 2, Board of Directors, Term:

Remove and Replace section: Term shall be two years, elected every other year. Five (5) Directors shall be elected at every election.

Article V, Section 4, Board of Directors, Compensation:

Add to the end of this section the following: Furthermore, no Director and/or Officer shall receive compensation from any action(s) that can be construed as a conflict of interest by virtue of their respective employment, position, and/or personally owned business while serving on the Board as a Director of Officer. It shall be the responsibility of any Director/Officer to inform the Board if any such conflict should arise in the course of doing business and to reclude themselves from any decisions of the Board on any such matters.

Article V, Section 6, Board of Directors, Removal and Resignation of Directors:

Add to the end of this Section the following:

Any Director/Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice and/or by electronic receipt to all Directors serving on the Board at that time. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. A Director that submits a letter of resignation for whatever reason provided the Board, that Director cannot rescind his resignation, nor can he be reappointed to the Board, by the remaining Directors. Such Director may run for office at the next regularly scheduled general membership Director election.

Article VI, Section 2, Meetings of Directors, Regular Meetings:

Add after the phrase: "...given personally or by mail," "e-mail,".

Article VI, Section 3, Meetings of Directors, Special Meetings:

Add at end of this Section the following: A Homeowners' quarterly meeting scheduled by the Board of Directors may be conducted specifically to accept homeowner concerns.

Article VI, Section 5, Meetings of Directors, Quorum:

Scribner's error: change after the phrase: "...and call "???" should be "for" its reconvening at...

Article VI, Section 6, Meeting of Directors, Action taken without a Meeting:

Add to the end of this Section the following: Such consent(s) shall be in writing or by e-mail and be signed by all Directors within thirty (30) days after receipt of the earliest dated consent, dated and delivered to the Association at its principal place of business in the State of Georgia. Such consent(s) shall be filed with the Minutes of the Association and shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Members at a meeting. Within ten (10) days after receiving authorization for any action by written consent, the Secretary shall give notice to all Members by mail, e-mail, telephone or telegraph summarizing the material features of the authorized action.

Article VII, Section 4, Officers and their Duties, Resignation and Removal:

Add after the phrase: giving written notice, “electronic mail to all members of the Board of Directors.” and remove “the Board, to the President or the Secretary.”

Article VII, Section 7a, Officers and their Duties, President:

Add at the end of this Section: The President shall serve on the Board of the 501c3 Mainstreet Scholarship Fund Inc. Corporation.

Article VII, Section 7c, Officers and their Duties, Secretary:

Add after the phrase: shall record the votes and... “record and” keep.

Add at the end of this Section: The Secretary shall serve on the Board of the 501c3 Mainstreet Scholarship Fund Inc. Corporation.

Article VII, Section 7d, Officers and their Duties, Treasurer:

Add after the phrase: matters pertinent to the Association, “shall lead in the development of and” shall cause...

Add at the end of this Section: The Treasurer shall serve on the Board of the 501c3 Mainstreet Scholarship Fund Inc. Corporation.

Article VIII, Section 4, Finances, Annual Budget.

Scribner’s error: Add (i) before shall set forth with particularity...

Replace and Remove after the phrase: ...proposed annual budget not later than, “the scheduled annual meeting notice”, remove “thirty (30) days”.

Add: after the phrase: ...budget as finally adopted, “no later than the adjournment of the December regularly scheduled Board meeting”

Article VIII, Section 7, Finances, Collection of Assessments:

Add at the end of this Section: An Owner of a lot that is on active duty in the United States Armed Forces may petition the Board of Directors to waive their general assessments for up to and including a 12 month period, providing that they are not delinquent at the time of the petition and that they submit certified verifiable orders to a combat zone. For active duty military members that own a townhome, their general assessment to Mainstreet Community Services will be waived from their total assessments as stipulated above. The general assessment to the Townhome community will still be payable during this period and cannot be waived.

Article VIII, Section 9, Finances, Loans to Directors and Officers: (New Section)

Add: No loans shall be made by the Corporation to any Director or Officer of the Corporation.

Article X, Section 4, Rules and Regulations, Enforcement:

Remove and Replace first paragraph. Add the following: A Homeowner that fails to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association established by the Board of Directors or the Architectural Control Committee, (ACC), after receiving proper notification from ACC in regards to the violation, is subject to having the violation abated, having the property restored into compliance, by order of the Board of Directors. The following procedure shall be followed before abatement is ordered:

Section 4a: Add the following after the phrase: the action required, “by the homeowner” also after the phrase: abated without further sanction, add the following: “The notice must also provide the homeowner the opportunity to have a hearing before the Board of Directors. The homeowner must submit in writing to the Board of Directors a request for such a hearing with 10 days of receiving the abatement notice.”

Section 4b: Remove this section in its entirety.

Section 4c to become Section 4b.

Article XI Section 1, Amendment, Procedure:

Remove Section 1 in its entirety. Replace with: Section 1, Special meeting of the Members to Amend the Bylaws as follows:

“These Bylaws may be amended at a special meeting of the Members, called for the purpose of amending the Bylaws. The quorum required at such special meeting shall be the presence, in person or by proxy, of Members entitled to cast at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of votes of the Association. An affirmative vote of two-thirds, (2/3) of the quorum is required to amend the Bylaws. If business cannot be transacted at the special meeting to amend the Bylaws because a quorum is not present, a majority of the Members present or by proxy, entitled to cast votes, may adjourn the meeting and may call a reconvened meeting which may be held no sooner than eight (8) days, but no more than thirty (30) days after the date of the adjourned meeting, subject to the notice requirements set forth in Article XII Section 1c. The quorum required at the reconvened meeting shall be not less than one-half (1/2) of the quorum required at the previous meeting, but shall be not less than one hundred (100) Members present, in person or by proxy, entitled to cast votes. If the quorum requirements of this section are not met at the reconvened meeting, the proposed Bylaw amendment may then be adopted only upon a unanimous vote of all of the Directors present at a special meeting of the Board of Directors called pursuant to the Section.

Article XII, Section 2, Notice, Notice of Adoption of Rules and Regulations:

Add under Section 2a, the following: a. Via e-mail (electronic mail), website, or calling post.

Change Sections 2a, 2b, 2c, to Sections 2b, 2c, and 2d respectively.

Brown's Dojo of Karate, Inc.

Alvin Brown

Owner / Instructor

P.O. Box 870888

Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087

Voice: 770-355-6232

senseibrown@hotmail.com

www.brownsdojofkarate.com



Hello Friends & Neighbors! We have closed out 2010, and we are on our way into 2011. In preparation for a more meaningful year, many of us have taken on some of our personal challenges by establishing those "New Year Resolutions". These are excellent vehicles to get us "jump-started" into a healthier year. In doing so, I am hoping that some of you have considered improving your health, fitness, personal discipline and inner



peace through the Martial Arts. ***The Mainstreet Karate Program*** is held each and every Saturday for both children and adults from 9:00 am - 10:30 am for beginners and, from 10:30 am -12:00 noon for intermediate students. An "adults only" class is offered every Thursday from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Training fees have remained the same since 2004 when the program first began. The fee is \$45.00 for 8 weeks of training, which consists of 8 to 16 class sessions depending on if students choose to participate in both classes.

Each class session is geared toward developing physical abilities, stamina, personal discipline and inner peace. While developing these qualities, you will also benefit by learning how to protect yourself from harmful attacks by others. Students also have the option of taking part in local competitions and tournaments. These tournaments take place year round and are always a good measuring tool for a student's skills.

Mainstreet's first student to achieve the rank of 1st degree black belt, Sensei Damon Mitchell, proudly stepped up to serve his country by joining the United States Air Force. He shipped out to San Antonio, TX on December 6, 2010, to begin his military training. We proudly wish him the best.

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DEKALB COUNTY NEWS

DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis will visit the Mainstreet Clubhouse on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. This town hall “Meet and Greet” is open to all Mainstreet residents and the surrounding communities. We encourage you to take this opportunity to engage the Chief Executive Officer one-on-one. He will field questions, comments and concerns regarding community and County issues, as well as the 2011 DeKalb County Budget. For information on important news about the County Budget and water & sewer upgrades, visit his website at DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis [Burrell@BurrellEllis.com].



Did you know that the Mainstreet Community is located inside DeKalb County’s Fourth District? Sharon Barnes Sutton is the District 4 Commissioner for DeKalb County, and she is conducting a series of meetings that will give residents of District 4 a chance to voice their opinion on the 2011 DeKalb County Budget. The Town Hall meetings serve as an “open dialogue” on issues of interest to District 4 residents. Commissioner Sutton is responsible for the areas of Code Enforcement, Public Safety, Community Development, and General Government. Visit the DeKalb County government website for times and or you can email her office at sbsutton@dekalbga.gov or www.sharonbarnessutton.com.

Stan Watson was sworn in as DeKalb Super 7 District Commissioner during ceremonies held on Sunday, January 2, 2011. The event was held at the Porter Sanford, III Center for the Performing Arts Center located on Rainbow Drive in Decatur, GA, and Mainstreet was a member of the Hosting Committee for the event. Commissioner Watson was elected to replace former Super 7 District Commissioner Connie Stokes. District 4 is in the area covered by Watson’s jurisdiction.

Connie Stokes, a 16-year veteran of public service, was honored at a red carpet event on Friday, December 17, 2010, in Stone Mountain, GA. Connie served for several terms as the Super District 7 Commissioner and Chair of the DeKalb County Budget & Finance Committees. She also spearheaded the Foreclosure Registry Ordinance which was passed and put into effect as of October 24, 2010, just to name a few of her many accomplishments. Any property foreclosed after that date must register with DeKalb County within 30 days of the foreclosure or be fined \$100 per day up to a maximum of 90 days. Connie has joined the private sector as a professor of political and government policies. We wish her luck in her future endeavors.



GA Rep Michele Henson, Gov. Nathan Deal, Nadine Rivers-Johnson, Representative Henson’s Aide Michelle Muse



Representative Henson’s Aide Michelle Muse, Calvin Sims (Chapman Mills/Redan Park), GA Rep Michele Henson, Nadine Rivers-Johnson



Congressman Hank Johnson, Nadine Rivers-Johnson

Mainstreet Community After-School Enrichment Program

After-school hours are a critical time for children. These hours represent either an opportunity to learn and grow, through quality programming, or a time of detriment to youth's health and safety, if they are not involved in quality after-school programming. The Young Men's Leadership Academy (YMLA) and Diamonds & Pearls are boys and girls after-school programs held Monday-Friday from 2:30p.m.-6:30p.m.at the Mainstreet Clubhouse. These two award winning after-school programs are designed to strengthen the lives of both male and female students between the ages of 7-16 who are in elementary, middle and high school. YMLA and Diamonds & Pearls exemplary curriculum is formulated to enhance academic achievement and leadership. Students also receive SAT and CRCT preparation, homework assistance/tutorial, entrepreneurial training, indoor recreation, outdoor recreation, daily snacks and much more.

Research has shown that gender-separate learning increases student achievement and broadens educational horizons. We also believe that girls and boys have different ways of learning, and because of that, a single-gender after-school academy gives each the ability to develop and learn in an environment that understands these differences.

Young Men's Leadership Academy and Diamonds & Pearls environment allows students to become engaged learners and positive risk takers. Most importantly, the culture of YMLA and Diamonds & Pearls helps students to acquire confidence in themselves and their abilities, learn healthy and virtuous habits, and develop a sense of personal responsibility as well as a commitment to the larger community. The benefits for enrolling your child in YMLA or Diamonds & Pearls are far-reaching to include but not limited to: *(1) Increased achievement in math, reading, and other academic subjects; (2) Enhanced reading ability and motivation, and greater self-confidence in reading; (3) Completion of more and better-quality homework; (4) Reduced in-grade retention and placement in remedial classes; and (5) Increased commitment to schooling and subsequent development of higher aspirations for the future, including the intention to complete high school and college.* The after-school academy -- which is located in the Mainstreet Community Clubhouse -- is a self-funded, non-profit academy that has received numerous National and local endorsements.

WHAT ARE OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS SAYING ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

"This award winning program is certainly meeting the needs of young girls" Lisa Rayam, Fox 5 News Anchor

"This program has responded in fulfilling a need by helping students better resolve conflict, excel academically, and become outstanding leaders and role models." Michele Henson, 87th District Georgia State Representative

"I believe much of today's youth that I have seen get involved in illegal activities or engage in inappropriate behavior would be much more likely to have not taken those actions had they been afforded such an opportunity as the Young Men's leadership Academy." Major S.R. Fore, DeKalb County Tucker Precinct

WHAT ARE PARENTS SAYING ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

I am the legal guardian of Myers and a resident of the Mainstreet Community. YMLA is exactly what is needed in a time where certain principles are not taught in schools...values such as self respect, leadership, entrepreneurship, and financial knowledge." Williams Mayweather

"After the first day, my son Jared was hooked. We absolutely love it! Mr. Hill and his staff are very professional and personable. The organization of this program is outstanding. If it were not for positive programs like this one, some of our children may not ever learn entrepreneurship, television production, learn how to play the piano, and get homework assistance." The Benton Family

Register Today!! Transportation is provided from your child's school to the after-school program at the Mainstreet Clubhouse. We pick up from the following schools: E.L. Miller Elementary, Redan Middle, and Redan High schools. We also offer a *limited* amount of scholarships. Please register your child today for this rewarding after-school program by contacting Derrick Hill at either (770) 465-3819 or (678) 463-1497 to receive an application or send your request via email to dhill@atlantaymla.org.

Derrick L. Hill, Executive Director
YMLA and Diamonds & Pearls

REGENCY HOME SERVICES

Regency Home Services
Owner, Rodney Middlebrooks
Telephone: 678-851-1754
Email: rodeostyle@comcast.net

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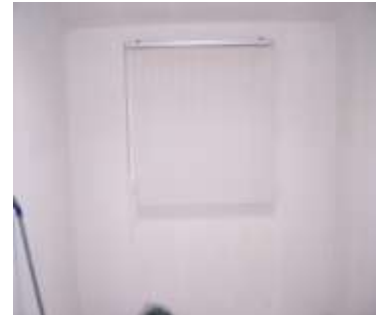
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THE MAINSTREAM NEWSLETTER Spring 2011 Edition deadline for the submission of articles and/or vendor advertisements is Tuesday, March 29, 2011 by 3:00 P.M. All advertisement payments must be made by check or money order. Homeowners are encouraged to submit articles of interest to the editor of **The Mainstream**, Nadine Rivers-Johnson, at nadine@mainstreetcommunity.org. (Editorial licensing strictly enforced.)



Mainstreet Clubhouse on the Lake
"WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND"

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The voice of
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