

# The Insider



**Having an event?**

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## City may finally be catching the green wave

A national movement to green our cities is coming to Atlanta.

On March 17, Atlanta Mayor **Shirley Franklin** released a study showing the city government had greenhouse gas emissions of 540,000 metric tons. She recommitted the city's goal to reduce those emissions by 7 percent by 2012.

Earlier that same day, Chicago architect **Doug Farr**, who has become an advocate for the "greening of urban design," was speaking to a group of Atlanta leaders brought together by Park Pride and the Livable Communities Coalition about how other cities are greening their regions.

"We are in the middle of a heck of a ride," Farr said of national efforts to reduce carbon emissions by 20 percent by 2020. He described the trend as "sustainable urbanism" — cities that are walkable, transit-oriented with high-performance buildings and infrastructure.

Several cities are greening their building codes. For example, Austin, Texas, is requiring beginning in 2012 that all new homes built must be carbon-neutral. Denver is requiring a greater reliance on solar energy.

And Toledo, Ohio, is creating a greener infrastructure by spending \$400 million of its storm water and waste water improvements on creating green spaces that can filter and clean the water.

By comparison, the city of Atlanta's \$3 billion in sewer upgrades only included \$25 million in green space acquisition. But

Atlanta finally might be catching on. A major function of the Historic Fourth Ward Park, being built south of North Avenue along the Beltline, will have a lake that will help capture storm-water overflows while providing an amenity for residents.

And more national leaders are coming to Atlanta this month to share the latest efforts under way nationally to reduce carbon emissions and green our communities.

The annual Greenprints conference, organized by Southface, is bringing New

Mexico architect **Ed Mazria**, founder and executive director of Architecture 2030, as the luncheon keynote speaker on March 25.

Architecture 2030 has issued a challenge to architects, builders and developers to make new and existing buildings carbon-neutral by 2030. Buildings contribute half of all greenhouse emissions, and retrofitting existing buildings and creating new construction practices can become a major source of new green jobs.

"We know we can do better," Franklin said of Atlanta's efforts on energy efficiency and renewable energy. "We must operate in a different way."

**CAP ANNUAL MEETING.** Assuming its board can reach a consensus, the Center for Civil and Human Rights plans to announce the winning architectural team among five finalists at Central Atlanta Progress' annual breakfast meeting March 26.



**Maria Saporta**

The breakfast also will bring in a new CAP chairman — **Taylor Glover**, president of Turner Enterprises, who is succeeding **Tom Bell**, CEO of Cousins Properties Inc. It also will be the last CAP breakfast for Shirley Franklin as Atlanta's mayor.

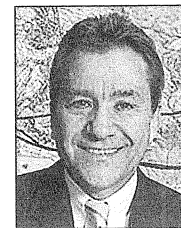


**Glover**

Turner Enterprises

Two individuals will be honored: businessman **Jesse Hill Jr.**, who will receive the award from former Atlanta Mayor **Andrew Young**; and **George Berry**, a retired Cousins Properties executive who served in the administrations of four mayors and one governor, who will receive the award from Metro Atlanta Chamber President **Sam Williams**.

**WAITING FOR THE RIGHT THING.** It's been more than a year since **Michael Coles** stepped down as CEO of Minneapolis-based Caribou Coffee, and he still hasn't figured out what his next move will be.



**Coles**

"This is the longest stretch I've ever had of not working since I was 11," said Coles, who is 65. "I've looked at a bunch of different things. They were either too expensive or just not the right kind of thing. I'm also being very cautious. I'm waiting for the right thing to come along."

Coles, who continues to serve on Caribou's board, said he has high hopes for the coffee company and has confidence in the management team.

Now that he is back living full time in Atlanta, Coles has agreed to be this year's co-chair the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival.

One thing the former Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate knows is that he won't be running for political office. But that doesn't mean he's not still politically engaged.

"I'm probably the only person in the country who had both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton at my house in 2008 — Hillary was in May and Barack was in July," Coles said of fundraisers he held for the two presidential candidates. He also was on Obama's national finance committee.

Asked whether he might join the Obama administration, Coles said nothing is in the works but "if the President asks you to do something, it would be very hard to say 'no.'"

**NATIONAL ROLE.** The head of the Children's School, **Marcia Prewitte Spiller**, has been elected to chair the board of the National Association of Independent Schools.

In her role, she will shape the priorities of the association, which includes 1,400 independent private schools nationally.

Spiller has been on the organization's board for six years. She also has been head of the Children's School, which is located on 10th Street in Midtown, since 1990.

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