

On the Agenda

What's Happening in
OCTOBER

1 Happy 81st birthday,
JIMMY CARTER!

1 (Sniff.) With the kickoff of the CDC's influenza campaign today, it's officially **FLU SEASON**.

6 The neighbors battle it out at the **TASTE OF NEWNAN's** chili cook-off.

8 The **THRASHERS** hit the ice at Philips for the first time in more than a year at the home opener against the Washington Capitals.

11 City-dwellers, take note: Today is the last day to **REGISTER TO VOTE** in November's mayoral election.

15 It's the **GREAT DECATUR BEER TASTING FESTIVAL**. No dogs or kids allowed... we're guessing to prevent DWULs and SPULs (dog-walking and stroller-pushing under the influence).

16 **AIDS WALK ATLANTA**—led by supermodel Naomi Campbell, Dallas Austin and Leslie Jordan.

20 (20-22) **IKEA** finally meets its neighbors (and so does everyone else) at the **ATLANTIC STATION GRAND OPENING**.

24 **DALLAS AUSTIN's** Atlanta theme song debuts at the Falcons' Monday Night Football game at the Dome.

30 325 laps, 500 miles and more beer than the Chattahoochee has water. It's the **BASS PRO SHOPS MBNA 500** at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

OUR★TOWN

FEEL-GOOD STORY OF THE MONTH

WORD OF MOUTH

Radio station

V-103 helped save

a center for

special-needs kids.

By Chandra R. Thomas

RADIO STATIONS ARE OFTEN bombarded with requests for help from listeners, but V-103 radio personality Wanda Smith said she had a "special" feeling about an especially touching letter she received earlier this year.

That hunch ultimately inspired Smith to coordinate a campaign that, with the help of local celebrities, raised more than \$200,000 in one week to keep a center for special-needs children open—no small feat, even for a media giant known as "the big station."

Lisa Conley—administrative program director of the Metro Atlanta Respite and Developmental Services Center (MARDS), a southwest Atlanta center that provides day care, after-school care and even around-the-clock weekend care for infants and children with developmental and physical



A staff member and kids with actress Jasmine Guy at MARDS; right: Wanda Smith.

disabilities—had written to Smith and her co-host Frank Ski, asking for help raising money and explaining that MARDS had lost a huge chunk of the grant it depends on to stay afloat.

"Many of the families we serve are low-income and they wouldn't have anywhere else to bring their children if we close down," Conley wrote.

A month later, Smith and Ski launched an on-air campaign to save MARDS, spending a week interviewing the center's staff and the families who depend on its services.



The next week, they collected money during their show at locations across the city—from the McDonald's on Cobb Parkway to the Chick-fil-A at Camp Creek MarketPlace.

Donations rolled in all week—\$5,000 from the owner of Fatburger in Buckhead and \$5,000 from Johnnie Cochran's law firm—but the effort remained alarmingly short of its \$200,000 goal until just minutes before the end of the last live broadcast. That's



when Atlanta native R&B singer Usher Raymond donated \$70,000 (his mom had already given \$50,000). That was topped off by donations from Ski and V-103 afternoon show host Ryan Cameron.

The fact that the center will be able to stay open, at least for now, is especially important to MARDS Weekend Respite Program Director, Ann Phillips, who, 20 years ago, had grown so weary of the demands of caring for her son Edward, who has cerebral palsy, and her three other children that she twice nearly took her own life and the lives of her children. That changed when Conley's mother, Gwendolyn, introduced her to MARDS.

Tears in her eyes, Phillips says, "MARDS literally means life to me and so many others who depend on it." ★



Ask Atlanta Magazine
Who is Bobby Brown Parkway named after?

NOT WHITNEY'S HUSBAND. According to a February 1992 article in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, The East Point City Council voted to name the then-new road between Norman Berry Drive and Willingham Street after a former colleague. The article states: "The road will be called Bobby Brown Parkway, in honor of the **Ward C councilman** who died of cancer last September." —JUSTIN HECKERT

OUR★TOWN

CITY OBSERVED

TICK...TICK...TICK...

Playing the waiting game all over town

BY JENNIFER SENATOR



WHAT

TIME

COMMENTS

To get an appointment with über hair stylist **Carey Carter** (new client)

About one month

Receptionist: "If you have a referral I can leave a note with his assistant and have him call you." **Caller:** "So, if I get a referral, about how long would it be before I could come in?" **Receptionist:** "About a month."

To get reservations for two at **Seeger's** on a Saturday night

Two weeks

"That's pretty typical, but it depends on which Saturday you want to come in."

To get DeKalb County to turn on **water service** in a new home

One week

"Our system is busy, please call again later."

For **Comcast** to arrive to hook up cable

From as little as 15 minutes to as long as 48 hours (from the time called)

"We can be there between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m."

For the "Hot Right Now" sign to come on at **Krispy Kreme** on Ponce de Leon Avenue

About six hours

"It comes on at 5:30 a.m. then at 11 a.m., then again at 5 p.m. It's a constant until 11 p.m."

To transfer an out-of-state driver's license at the **Fulton County DMV** (downtown location)

3 1/2 hours

"If it was in-state it would be 30 minutes or less."

To get a license at the **DMV** in **Madison, Georgia**

5 minutes

"But it took me two hours to get here!"

To get through the Sunday buffet line around 1:30 p.m. at the **Piccadilly Cafeteria** at Greenbriar Mall

46-50 minutes

"It's the place to be after church."

To take **MARTA** from the North Springs station to the airport

According to MARTA's schedule: 43 minutes
Actual time: 52 minutes

"At least the TVs make it bearable."

To speak to a **BellSouth** operator to set up new service

15 minutes

"If you don't want to wait on the line, BellSouth can call you back as soon as a representative is available. Would you like to schedule a call back?"

To get through the security line at **Hartsfield-Jackson** on a Tuesday morning

45 minutes

"Please keep your boarding pass and I.D. in your hand... I said KEEP THEM OUT!"

To get a parking space in front of **Lenox Square's** main entrance on a Saturday

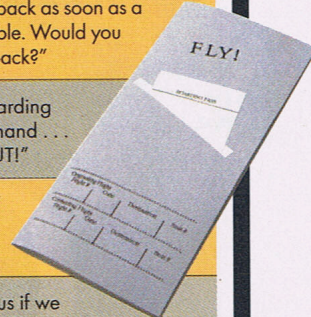
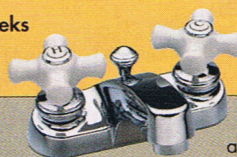
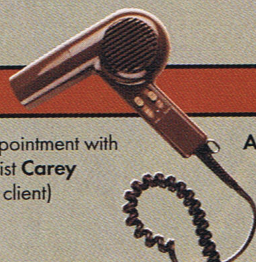
12 minutes

"I had my blinker on!"

To get the bartender's attention at **Shout** on a Saturday

If it's packed: 11 minutes
If it's not: 5 minutes

"Maybe she'll notice us if we move to the other side of the bar."



CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: SHYRA PEYTON AND RYAN SIEVING; KEYS: BURKE/TRIOLO PRODUCTIONS