



# THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

Brought to You by The Druid Hills Civic Association

March 2023  
Volume 38 | Number 1  
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## GET DRUID HILLS SPRING CELEBRATION EVENT TICKETS HERE

(including the Home & Garden Tour, Gala, Guided Park Tours & Programming, and more!)



### APRIL 15 - 23 OLMSTED PLEIN AIR INVITATIONAL



Join some of the nation's top Plein Air artists at one or more events.

**LEARN MORE: PAGE 8**



**BUY TICKETS**

### THURSDAY, APRIL 20 PROSECCO IN THE PARK

Join Olmsted Plein Air and Olmsted Linear Park Alliance for a beautiful, vibrant PopUp petite gallery stroll to celebrate Olmsted, art, and community!

### SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 22 COCA-COLA "CLEAN UP THE CREEK" CONCERT

Emory Village Alliance and South Fork Conservancy will be hosting this FREE concert on the lawn in Emory Village featuring Canyonland...on Earth Day! Proceeds will go towards the Peavine Rainwater Garden project in Emory Village.



**LEARN MORE: PAGE 4**

### WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 26 DRUID HILLS GALA AT CALLANWOLDE

Celebrate Frederick Law Olmsted Sr's 201st birthday at this enchanting black-tie (optional) event. Enjoy wonderful food, drinks, and dancing with music by local jazz legend, Joe Gransden. Buy your tickets today!



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*Spring Celebration*  
HONORING OUR REMARKABLE  
HOMES, GREENSPACES & COMMUNITY

Presented by **Coca-Cola**  
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### FRIDAY, APRIL 28 - SUNDAY, APRIL 30 HISTORIC DRUID HILLS HOME & GARDEN TOUR



**LEARN MORE: PAGE 6**

In keeping with the Spring Celebration theme, this year's Tour has a decidedly "garden" theme! Tour-goers will explore gorgeous homes, beautiful grounds, several breathtaking private gardens & neighborhood parks. Thanks to Fernbank Museum, ticketed patrons will also have free access to WildWoods and Fernbank Forest!

### SPECIAL PROGRAMMING & GUIDED PARK TOURS

South Fork Conservancy will be hosting a special native specimen planting and guided tours along Peavine Creek Trail. Olmsted Linear Park Alliance will offer guided bird walks and history & nature tours in Deepdene Park. *Spots are limited - sign up to participate today!* Catch experts from Georgia Native Plant Society, Trees Atlanta, and Georgia Audubon Society in our various gardens and parks all weekend.

**LEARN MORE: PAGE 10**

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# COMPASS

## Dear Neighbors,

As we enter the spring market, I see another market surge with more buyers than sellers. The lack of inventory continues to drive the prices higher. The National Association of Realtors predicts that Atlanta's housing market will be #1 in growth for 2023. Atlanta's diversity, culture, and convenient location continue to draw significant companies to our market.

If you would like more specifics on the value of your home, I am just around the corner.

All the best,

*Natalie Gregory*



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# Much To Do IN APRIL!

## Chair's Corner

By DHCA Chair, Van Biesel



It's time for the Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens! We at the Druid Hills Civic Association are so privileged to highlight some of the many beautiful residences and areas in our historic neighborhood. This year we will also be focusing on trails and green spaces throughout the old growth forest in Druid Hills.

We are proud to partner with several organizations again this year for the 2023 Druid Hills Spring Celebration. We will be collaborating with the Emory Village Alliance, Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, and South Fork Conservancy, to name a few.

Many thanks to our sponsors and especially to the volunteers who give so much of their time and energy. Our wonderful volunteers not only make the Tour happen, but the Druid Hills Gala, the Emory Village Concert on the Lawn, the Artists' Market, architecture walking tours, and much more.

Please read on to learn more about each of the planned events. We look forward to seeing you in April!



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## DRUID HILLS NEWS WELCOMES YOUR ARTICLES

The Druid Hills News is published quarterly by the Druid Hills Civic Association. Articles are welcome for consideration. Please limit unassigned articles to no more than 600 words or notify the editor in advance. Submissions may be edited for length or grammar. Please send articles and photos to [editor@druidhills.org](mailto:editor@druidhills.org) or [JJRichar@bellsouth.net](mailto:JJRichar@bellsouth.net). Send copy as e-mail attachments and photos as jpg attachments if possible.

### DEADLINES

The Druid Hills News is mailed to be received in homes during the second week of the month of the issue. The following are the deadlines for the next two Druid Hills News issues:

**JUNE 2023**

DEADLINE - MAY 12

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

DEADLINE - AUGUST 11

### EDITORS

Editor: Jennifer J. Richardson  
Managing Editor: Fran Putney

### WRITERS/CONTRIBUTORS

We gratefully acknowledge the writers and contributors for this issue.

Lillian Ansley, Stephen Barwick, Van Biesel, Dana Borda, Angela Cassidy, Caroline Driebe, Kit Eisterhold, Fernbank Museum, Marilyn Geewax, Hillary Kilfeather, Sandra Kruger, Kirk Larson, Mary Leight, Dawn McEarchern, Rebecca Raciborski, Julie Ralston, Jennifer Richardson, Doug Rollins, Odette Diaz Schuler, Dina Shadwell, Donna Shapiro, Alida Silverman, Barbara Stafford and Gary Tapp.

## Peavine Creek to Get a Major Reveal at Emory Village

By Julie Ralston

You may not have noticed Peavine Creek flowing right through Emory Village next to Panera Bread, going under the bridge and onward next to Dave's Cosmic Subs and eventually meeting up with the South Fork of Peachtree Creek. This water feature in our midst is of great value and something that needs to finally have its day in the sun.

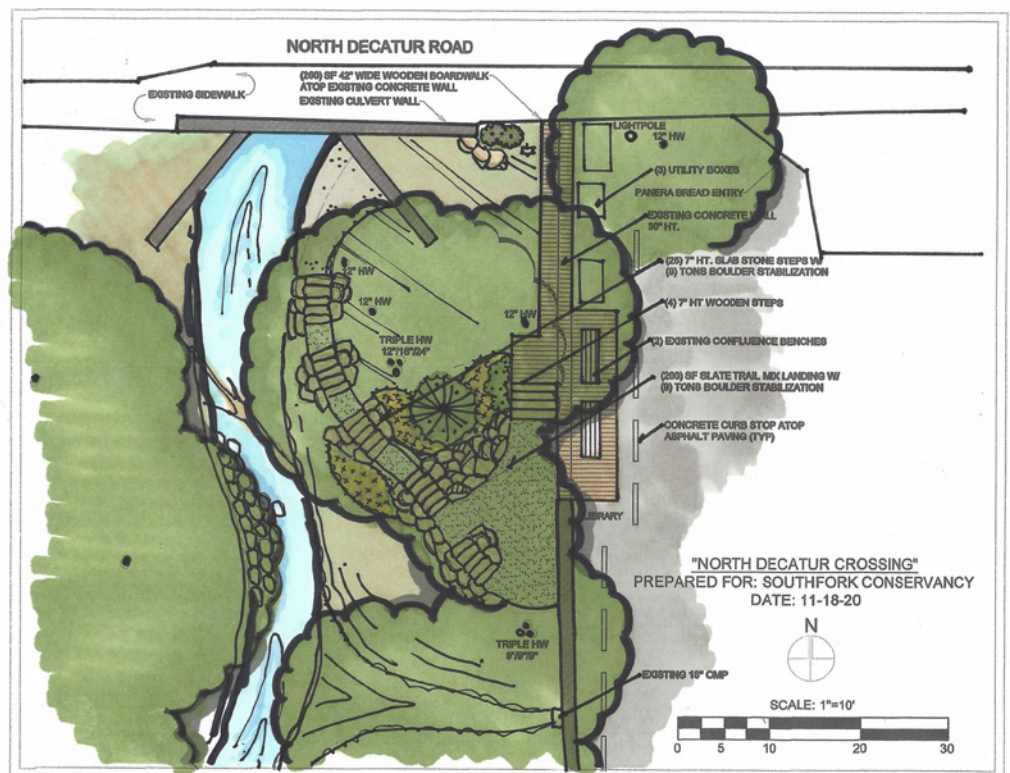
Thanks to the efforts of Kit Eisterhold of Druid Hills Civic Association and neighborhood entrepreneur, the Emory Village Alliance, South Fork Conservancy and most importantly, a grant from Coca Cola – the beautiful creek will finally be revealed in all its glory.

A concert to be held in Emory Village as part of the April 2023 Olmsted Celebration week, which includes the Druid Hills Tour of Homes and many other great events, will be called the "Clean up the Creek Concert," with Coca Cola serving as the premier sponsor. The design (featured here) and commissioned by South Fork Conservancy is intended to clean up invasives including kudzu on the creek banks, provide steps down to the creek, and a rain garden to help manage erosion.

No longer will kids (and big kids) have to scramble down the steep banks of the creek to participate in South Fork Conservancy's annual duck race during the fall Open Streets event in the Village. Also, creek clean-ups will be much more accessible for volunteers.

"This funding by Coca Cola and other organizations in our neighborhood will open up a new window to our abundant, natural resources in Druid Hills and Emory Village," said Eisterhold.

For more information about how you can become involved in the Peavine Creek transformation, contact Kit Eisterhold at 404-210-9155 or Kimberly Estep at 770-467-7493.



Patrick Hand design for Panera Bank, South Fork Conservancy N. Decatur Peavine Creek Crossing

CONGRATULATIONS

# Molly Carter Gaines

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## Fantastic 2023 Spring Celebration To Focus on Gardens

By Kit Eisterhold (Chair, Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens)

Spring is in the air and the Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens is right around the corner! This year we are partnering with virtually every environmentally oriented non-profit in Druid Hills (we are calling ourselves the “Canopy Coalition”) to put on a fantastic “Spring Celebration.”

The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, South Fork Conservancy, Fernbank Forest, Trees Atlanta, The Georgia Native Plant Society, and The Georgia Audubon Society are all taking part and will be hosting various events throughout the neighborhood to highlight the gorgeous natural gardens and greenspaces here in Druid Hills.

In keeping with the “Spring Celebration” we are having a decidedly Garden themed Tour this year. We are featuring homes like 1755 Ridgewood, a beautiful craftsman cottage with clinker brick and Tudor accents, set in a bucolic one-acre wooded garden with a creek running through it, directly adjacent to Vickers Park and Peavine Creek. We also have a rare true native plant garden down the street at 1721 Dyson Dr.

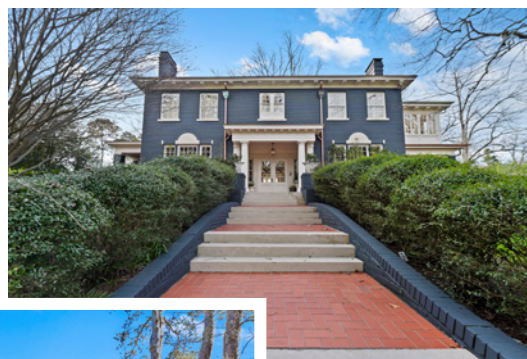


1355 Harvard Road

Before you go to the next house on the Tour, take some time to stroll through Fernbank Forest. The Fernbank Museum has agreed to open up Fernbank Forest, one of the last remaining stands of old growth forests in Atlanta, with 300-year-old specimen hardwoods, to the Tour going public. You will also be able to access the award-winning rooftop garden at Springdale Park Elementary (803 Briarcliff Rd).

We have a trio of cozy homes in my neck of the woods along Harvard Rd. A quaint Tudor at 1360 Harvard perched high on a hill overlooking the neighborhood, with a warm and inviting patio and pergola in the back which makes you feel aloft in the canopy of the hardwoods overhead. A recently renovated brick craftsman with covered front porch and rare jerkinhead dormer is just a few houses down the street at 1378 Harvard, and a gorgeous clinker brick Tudor with turret and crenelated porte-cochere which I and my neighbors affectionately refer to as the “Castle House.”

Down the street at 1491 Emory Rd., we have a rare private five acre wooded garden with a creek running through it, walking trails, and a magnificent koi pond and waterfall. Just a short walk away, you will find the Peavine Trail where you can take a guided tour with members of the South Fork Conservancy and the Friends of Peavine Trail. Bring your kids on Saturday and enjoy an opportunity to learn about hummingbirds and plant native flowers in the South Fork Conservancy’s Rain Garden, where they will be hosting music and plantings of natives and pollinator friendly plants.



883 Oakdale Road

We have an impressive true two-story brick Tudor with half-timber and stucco gables at 1169 Oxford Rd, and across the Twitten and a brisk walk down Oakdale, a magnificent



1169 Oxford Road

Walter T. Downing estate home on a grand nearly two-acre estate lot, with a spectacular garden in the back, that is not to be missed, at 883 Oakdale Rd.

On the Saturday before the Tour, Earth Day, April 22, OLPA, the Emory Village Alliance, and the South Fork Conservancy will be hosting the “Clean Up the Creek Concert,” sponsored by Coca-Cola. Proceeds will go to benefit the work EVA does in the Village and toward the development of the South Fork Conservancy’s Peavine Rainwater Garden in the Village.

Last year’s concert with Shawn Mullins was a huge success, and this one promises to be even better. I hope everyone makes plans to be there. A good time will be had by all, and it’s for a good cause.

Lastly, the Gala will be held at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center this year, on Frederick Law Olmsted’s birthday, April 26. Much appreciation to the “Olmsted 200” Committee for the precedent that they set with that auspicious date. We hope to do everything in our power to carry forward the legacy they created for us last year, as well as the legacy Olmsted bequeathed us here in Druid Hills, over a century ago.

It’s going to be a great Tour. We hope you will join us!

TICKETS



LEARN MORE



## HISTORIC DRUID HILLS *Home & Garden Tour*

APRIL 28 - 30, 2023

FRIDAY: 1-5pm, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 10am-5pm



### THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 TOUR SPONSORS



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## Plein Air Returns to Druid Hills

*Contributed by Lillian Ansley*

Mark your Calendar, April 15 - 23 | The 2023 Olmsted Plein Air Invitational is returning to the historic Frederic Law Olmsted, Sr. designed neighborhood of Druid Hills with scheduled events throughout the week.

### **The 2023 Olmsted Plein Air will Feature Nationally Juried Masters of Plein Air Artists.**

The Olmsted Plein Air Invitational starts at sunrise on April 15 and ends on April 23. Artists are allowed to paint anywhere in Georgia for the first three days (coast, mountains, small towns and urban) and must be back in Atlanta from Tuesday through Sunday.

### **GALLERY EXHIBITION & SALE**

Tuesday, April 18 - Sun., April 23, 2023 Druid Hills Golf Club. The Gallery will open with approximately 150+ paintings and will remain open until 5:00 PM on Sunday, April 23. Free and open to the public to view and purchase paintings. During the week of the competition, fresh paintings will be added daily. By the end of the week there will be 350+ paintings in the gallery for sale!

### **POPUP PROSECCO IN THE PARK & PETITE GALLERY STROLL**

Thurs., April 20 (TICKETED) Dellwood Meadow in the Olmsted Linear Park Ticket sales and a portion of painting sales will benefit Olmsted Linear Park. Petite plein-air paintings will be available first to event attendees.

### **ARTISTS AWARDS & COLLECTORS SOIRÉE**

Sat., April 22, 2023 (TICKETED) Druid Hills Golf Club. Artists will select their best paintings and we will create a 'Competition Gallery' within the gallery. This is the first option to see and purchase competition paintings before the public. Last year we awarded a \$40,000 purse and hope to do so again this year.

### **PAINTQUICK**

Sun., April 23, 2023 (FREE)

LAST DAY - GALLERY EXHIBITION & SALE. (Free) Druid Hills Golf Club. The Gallery will be active with artists live paintings and the esteemed Judges will present a panel discussion. At 5:00 PM the public is invited to a champagne toast before the gallery is dismantled!

### **GET INVOLVED!**

Be a housing host, Join Friends of Olmsted Arts, Sponsor an Artist Award

Be a SPONSOR

For a list of events and more details: <https://www.olmstedplein-air.com/events>



Olmsted Arts co-founder Lillian Ansley and the Judges, Dmitri Wright of Greenwich, CT, Billy Love of The Bascom and Bill Davidson, Monterey CA, present the 2022 Olmsted Plein Air Invitational Best of Show award to New Jersey artist Neal Hughes. Neal will be returning in the 2023 Olmsted Plein Air Invitational.



Festival attendees watch artists paint in the park.





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Deepdene Park

## Natural Areas in Our Neighborhood

*Contributed by Mary Leight, Rebecca Raciborski, Sandra Kruger*

The 2023 Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens is not just about homes and gardens this year. It includes three natural areas in the neighborhood. Visit the trail along Peavine Creek, the beauty of Fernbank Forest and the old growth trees in Deepdene.

The Peavine trail hugs the banks of Peavine Creek. Starting at the trail head across from 1454 Emory Road, walk down the steps to the creek. Follow the half mile trail, taking time to look at the cascading creek waters. You might even catch sight of a Great Blue Heron fishing for dinner on the rocks.

Further down the trail you'll come to a raingarden. Built by the South Fork Conservancy to slow the flow of water off the hillside, this area is home to favorite southern ephemeral plants including mayapples and trout lilies. The Friends of Peavine Creek have also planted native azaleas, serviceberry trees, and native dogwoods. Pay attention to the baby American Chestnut trees protected by cages. Wouldn't it be a beautiful sight to have full grown American Chestnuts in our neighborhood!

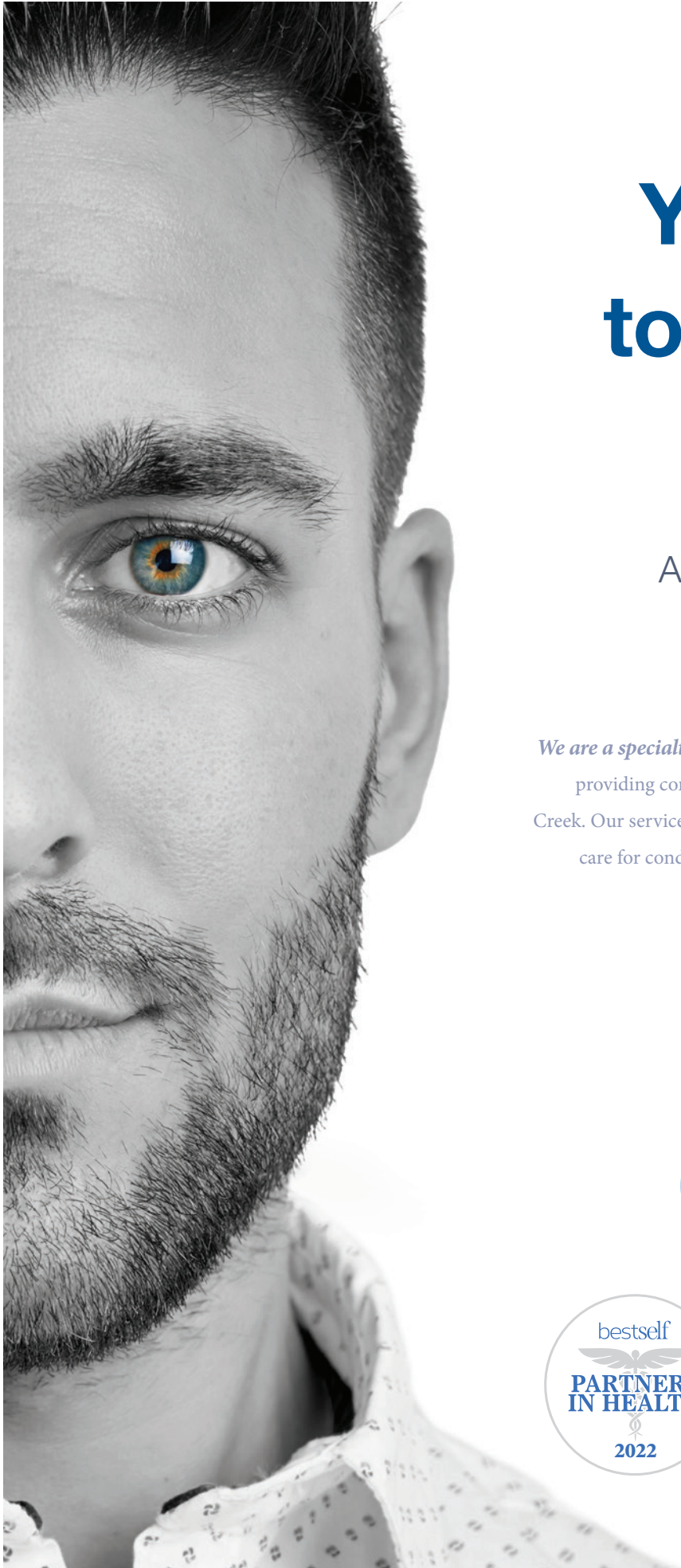
During this year's tour, kids will have a special opportunity to plant native violets and cardinal flowers on the rain garden hillside. Watch tour announcements for details about the planting. And whether you have kids or not, we hope you'll visit this gem of a space as part of your tour!

Docents for the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance will take visitors on a meandering journey through the Deepdene old-growth forest. Visitors will learn about the lush tree canopy, bird habitat restoration efforts and the stream restoration efforts. Deepdene is home to many amphibians including the red salamander and two-line salamander. April is a wonderful time to see native plants show off their vibrant blooms and unique characteristics. This quaint and tranquil forest is not to be missed. Tour Dates & Times: Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30: 10 AM and 2 PM.

## Olmsted 200 Update

Olmsted 200 continues! Through Frederick Law Olmsted's birthday on April 22 anyway. There is hope that Big Head Fred can be here for that Birthday week for our Tour of Homes & Gardens if not for the Birthday Party itself. Big Head Fred travels: last Fall he visited Riverside (IL) our "sister subdivision" that was Frederick Law Olmsted's first 'suburb' while we are his 'last.' He is pictured here with Riverside's iconic water tower.





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## Ponce Opportunity Corridor

By Doug Rollins

Following on the heels of our Transportation article in the Druid Hills News September issue, we wanted to now turn to the news along our busy Ponce de Leon corridor. Projects here run the gamut – from those happening as you read this article to projects that are still several years in the future – and we want to keep you aware of the projects so each resident has the opportunity to have their voice heard.

We can all attest to the frightening speeds and distracted driving of motorists as they hurry into town or back home. In fact, a recent resident survey indicated Ponce de

Leon was one of our greatest safety concerns. To address those concerns, improve safety and unlock our wonderful linear parks to those households north of Ponce, we created a plan that has been endorsed by our elected officials and reviewed by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Our strategy focuses on sidewalk improvements, advocacy for speed camera installation in school zones at SPARK, Paideia and even Fernbank and the installation of additional, signaled, pedestrian crossings.

In addition, we are tracking several major GDOT workstreams along the corridor including:

In the immediate term, GDOT has just completed work at the intersection of Ridgecrest and Ponce de Leon to turn in and right turn out only (limiting westbound cars from turning left at Ridgecrest and preventing left turns from Ridgecrest onto Ponce). GDOT is using this opportunity to install improvements to the adjacent intersection of Ponce and North Ponce at Deepdene Park. The DHCA and OLPA continue to advocate for a signaled, pedestrian crosswalk near this area to further reduce speeds and provide safer access to our wonderful Linear Parks.

Ponce storm water (mid-term): OLPA, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, DeKalb County and GDOT are working together to find alternative solutions to preserve Deepdene and the watersheds downstream.

Roundabouts (longer term): GDOT has shared conceptual ideas for roundabout installations at the intersections of Ponce and East Lake and at Ponce and Scott/the Parkwoods. We solicited feedback from Druid Hills residents in impacted areas, aggregated that feedback and shared it with GDOT. Both of these initiatives remain in conceptual planning phases and most recently, GDOT has suggested the next iteration of designs could be available to share by June.



Ridgecrest intersection at Ponce.



The new cross walk and medians being installed at N. Ponce and Ponce.

## Sidewalk Strides Is Up & Running!

By Kirk Larson

As anyone who lives in Druid Hills knows, we are lucky to have so many streets with sidewalks, making our neighborhood a great place for getting outdoors for a walk or a run. Over time, however, all sidewalks need upkeep, and you'll notice stretches of sidewalk that are broken, crumbled and uneven. This presents both an aesthetic and, more importantly, a safety hazard. With spring in full bloom, it's a great time to be thinking about sidewalk maintenance.



### What is Sidewalk Strides?

Sidewalk Strides is a matching fund program, available to any homeowner who is a current member of the DHCA. Owners who choose to have their Historic Druid Hills sidewalks repaired can apply to the DHCA for up to \$500 in matching funds to have the work done.

### How does it work?

The process is fairly simple. The homeowner contacts the DHCA by emailing [publicsafety@druidhills.org](mailto:publicsafety@druidhills.org). Just let us know the following:

- Your address
- Whether you are in the city or you are in unincorporated DeKalb County
- The extent of the repairs (replacing the entire sidewalk, repairing several feet, installing a new sidewalk, etc)
- If possible, send a few pictures of the area

A Druid Hills Civic Association representative will be in touch and will come by to make a quick visual inspection of the area that will be fixed or replaced. The owner can then arrange with a contractor of their choice to perform the work. The homeowner will supervise the work and make all financial arrangements and payments to the contractor. At the end of this process, the homeowner simply submits a copy of the bill for the work performed and proof of payment to [publicsafety@druidhills.org](mailto:publicsafety@druidhills.org). The DHCA will verify the work has been done, and the reimbursement will then be mailed to the homeowner. Our first participant in the program, Jim Roark, had this to say: "I had been planning to fix my sidewalk for some time, but the generous DHCA Sidewalk Strides subsidy has built a fire under me. The project will be completed in the next month."

It is strongly recommended that you get a permit for the work you will have done, which greatly reduces any liability issues. In DeKalb County, an expedited approval can be obtained by completing a Right of Way Encroachment Permit, which can be found on [DHCA.org](http://DHCA.org), and emailing your request to [Patrece Keeter—pgkeeter@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:patrece.keeter@dekalbcountyga.gov) with the subject line "Druid Hills expedited sidewalk permit". In the City of Atlanta, contact the Department of Transportation at 404-330-6165.

The DHCA would also greatly appreciate any homeowner who takes advantage of this program allowing us to post a small yard sign indicating the support of the Sidewalk Strides program. The more word we can get out to the neighborhood, the better our sidewalks will be!

# Beech Hollow

*wildflower farm*



Nursery opens March 11  
Thursday through Sunday 10 – 4  
389 North Clarendon Ave.  
Scottdale, GA 30079

[www.beechhollowfarms.com](http://www.beechhollowfarms.com)

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# Crime in Druid Hills in 2022

By Gary Tapp

Violent crime in Druid Hills declined in 2022. Property crime, largely car break-ins, increased from 2021s level but was below the pre-pandemic high of 2019. Table 1 presents a summary of the number of crimes in each category for each year in Druid Hills (note that 2018 data is only from May-December). Top five rows are violent crimes, and bottom five are property crimes.

Chart 1, below, shows the historical trend in Druid Hills for all crimes and for crimes on single-family streets. The average since May 2018 has been about 29 crimes per month for all 105 streets of Druid Hills and about 16 per month for single-family streets. The number of crimes spiked to 83 in November, driven by car break-ins, and fell back to 40 in December.

Focusing on 2022, we see the following totals.

Violent Crime Declined in 2022		
	2022	2021
<b>Murders:</b>	0	0
<b>Robberies:</b>	1	3
<b>Simple Assaults:</b>	18	24
<b>Aggravated Assaults:</b>	5	4
<b>Rape:</b>	2	2
	325	269
<b>Total:</b>	26	32

Violent crime is extremely rare in Druid Hills. Only 26 (7.3%) of the 352 crimes reported in 2022, were violent crimes. We don't always get sufficient detail in the police reports, but of the 18 simple assaults, we can find only two that appear to be simple assaults on single-family residential streets. The other 16 were domestic disputes, in apartment complexes, in health care facilities, or in Emory Village. Most of these simple assaults consist of shoving, with an occasional punch or fist fight.

Of the five aggravated assaults in 2022, only one appeared to be by a stranger, and that was a

road rage incident at Briarcliff and Ponce de Leon, where a motorist pointed a gun at another driver. The one robbery occurred when the victim was walking her dog at 1 AM on Rock Springs Court. Of the two rapes, both actually occurred outside of Druid Hills but were reported when the victims went to Emory Hospital.

Property Crimes in 2022		
	2022	2021
<b>Residential Burglaries:</b>	4	8
<b>Larceny/Theft:</b>	258	167
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft:</b>	18	18
<b>All Other:</b>	45	44
	0	1
<b>Total:</b>	325	269

About 93% of all crimes reported in Druid Hills in 2022 were property crimes and 70% of all crimes were auto-related. Of the 271 auto-related crimes in 2022, only 18 (or 7%) were stolen vehicles and the other 93% were car break-ins. Some of the 18 stolen cars had keys left in the vehicles, but we don't always have that information included in the report. Car break-ins increased from 2021 levels, when more people were working at home during the pandemic. Since May 2018, roughly half of all crimes in Druid Hills have occurred in apartment complexes, health facilities, and shopping areas.

As we noted in our Four-Year Crime Report for Druid Hills (available on the DHCA website), when the Justice Department compares surveys of the population with crimes reported to the police, they estimate that only about 32% of property crimes are reported to police. And FBI statistics indicate that only about 17% of these reported property crimes are cleared (solved) by police.

Criminals know from experience that their risk of being apprehended for a property crime is not high. DeKalb and Atlanta Police are under-staffed

and don't have enough capacity to patrol residential areas frequently. Police advise that the best things residents can do to avoid being a victim of a car break-in are:

- Never leave anything in your car, day or night.
- When possible, park your car off the street and as close to the house as possible.
- At home and in commercial areas, good security lighting and surveillance cameras can deter criminals.
- Tell guests to empty their cars and service people to lock their vehicles.
- We have heard mixed advice from police agencies on whether to lock your car or not. Keep in mind that 18 vehicles were stolen in DH last year.
- Know your neighbors and communicate quickly if you see suspicious activity.

Only four burglaries at residences were reported for the 105 streets in Druid Hills in 2022, a statistic that underscores the relative safety of Druid Hills homes. Two of those were in apartments, one was a break-in at Emory Village, and one was believed to be related to a house-sitter on Emory Rd.

The second largest category of property crimes is the "all other" category, which is where police put impersonations, scams, swindles, fraud, and vandalism. This category, which includes credit card and ATM scams, has been growing in recent years and accounted for about 14% of the property crimes in 2022.

Each month, the DHCA Public Safety Committee releases a detailed report on crimes, and streets with Neighborhood Watch Street Captains receive it via e-mail. It also is posted on the DHCA web site and on Next Door. If your street doesn't have a street captain, please volunteer and help keep neighbors informed and alert.

Table 1						
Year	Murder	Robbery	Simple Assault	Agg Assault	Rape	All violent
2018	0	0	12	0	0	12
2019	0	2	21	1	0	24
2020	0	3	24	4	1	32
2021	0	3	24	4	1	32
2022	0	1	18	5	2	26

	Residential Burglaries	Larceny/theft	Auto Theft	Other	All property	All Crimes
2018	5	157	12	40	214	226
2019	13	291	14	35	353	377
2020	8	225	20	51	304	336
2021	8	167	18	44	237	269
2022	4	258	18	45	325	352



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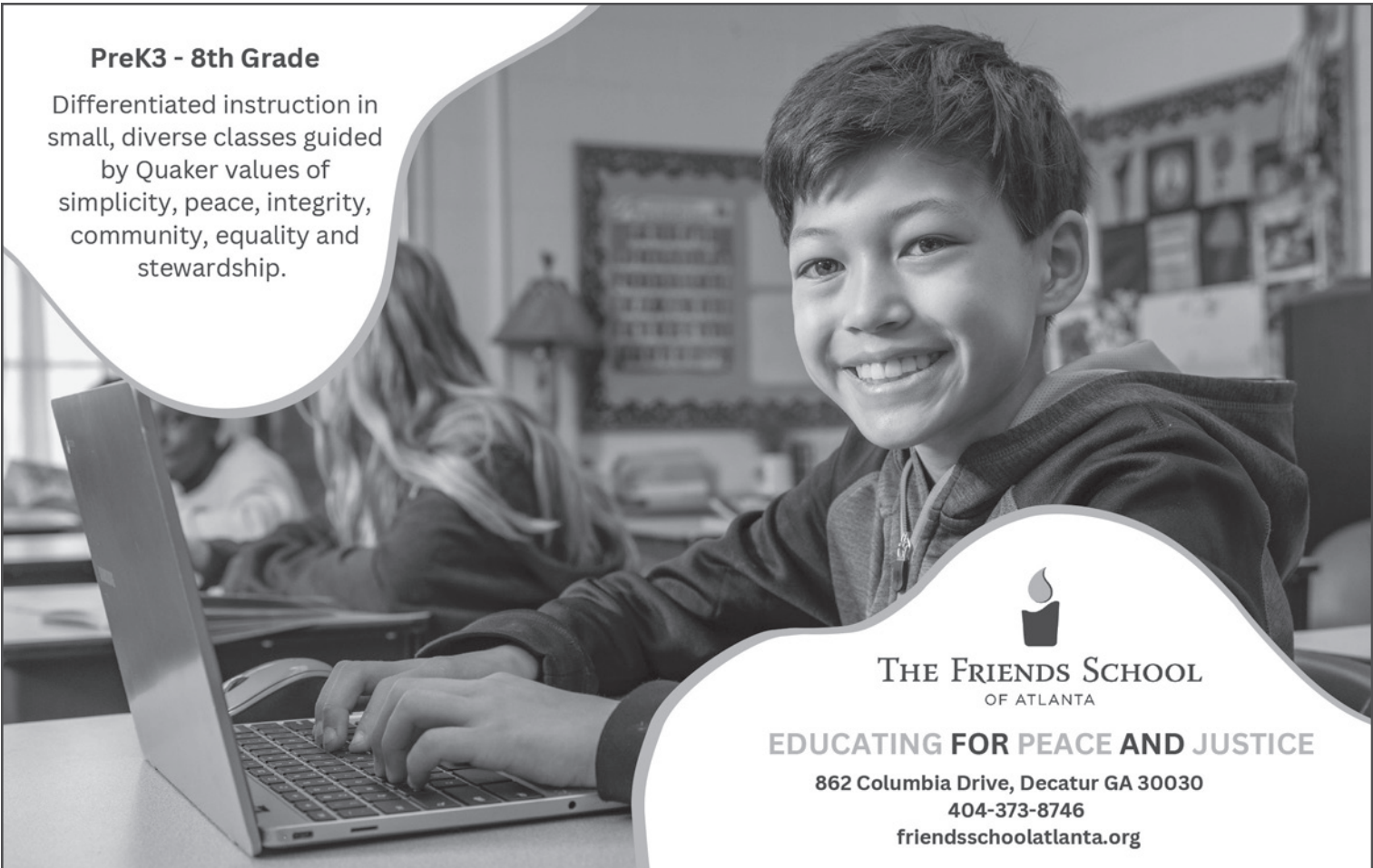
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*Grammy award winning singer Samara Joy performed at Callanwolde.*



## Music Under the Stars at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

*By Stephen Barwick*

Callanwolde's 2023 Spring Concert Series, now in its third year, will bring regionally renowned musical acts back to Druid Hills beginning on March 31. This year's series showcases folk, rock, and R&B acts in the one-of-a-kind musical setting of Callanwolde's outdoor amphitheater.

Callanwolde has long been known for its hugely popular Jazz on the Lawn concert series, which just last fall featured the Grammy-award-winning superstar Samara Joy. In 2021, while other venues were shut down during the pandemic, Callanwolde took advantage of its outdoor amphitheater and introduced an all-new Spring Concert Series.

The Spring Concert Series provides Druid Hills residents the opportunity to experience a truly unique evening of music without leaving the neighborhood. The Callanwolde Amphitheater is just a short walk from parking and affords guests an intimate and relaxed listening experience. Concertgoers are welcome to bring outside food and drink. The beautiful Druid Hills neighborhood and historic Candler estate make a perfect setting for a delightful evening out under the stars. General admission ticket buyers can bring their own chairs and blankets, while VIP ticket buyers can enjoy a reserved table near the front of the stage.

Executive Director Andrew Keenan explains, "The Spring Concert Series has given Callanwolde the ability to bring different styles of musical artists to Callanwolde. We're proud to provide these opportunities for our neighbors to come over and experience a concert in our amphitheater, which is one of the jewels of Druid Hills. We are lucky to have such a beautiful location with the space for guests to spread out and enjoy themselves."

Artists for this year's Spring Concert Series include Certainly So (March 31), Dwayne Shivers (April 14), Ruby Velle and the Soulphonics (April 28), and Luke Winslow-King (May 12).



*Callanwolde lawn seats provide attendees the opportunity to spread out and enjoy themselves.*

The concert series is just one piece of Callanwolde's programming for this spring. Spring semester art classes are open to the public and begin on March 27. Registration is now open. Callanwolde will also deliver community engagement programs providing free art classes and art workshops for underserved groups such as low-income seniors, U.S. Military Veterans, and Title I & III school students. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Callanwolde raises funds to keep all class prices affordable and offer arts programs to underserved groups at no cost to the participants.

To listen to clips from the participating artists and to buy tickets for the series, please visit [www.callanwolde.org](http://www.callanwolde.org).





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## PRESERVATION PERSPECTIVES

### Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee



*Typical Druid Hills front yard view. Photo credit: John Roger Palmour.*



## Druid Hills Landmark & Historic Districts – *Things to Know About Your Landscape Project* By Barbara Stafford

Spring is in the air and so are thoughts about landscaping and other outdoor improvements! But did you know that a landscape project might require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the city or county before you get started? Yes, landscapes in Druid Hills are protected under Atlanta's Druid Hills Landmark District ordinance and DeKalb County's Druid Hills Historic District. Here is a brief history to help explain why these landscapes are significant.

The Druid Hills neighborhood and linear parks along Ponce de Leon Avenue were designed in the late 1800s by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (1822 – 1903), who is considered the founder of American landscape architecture. He and his firm, which was carried on by his sons, were prolific, designing an incredible number of

well-known parks, academic campuses, civic and private designs. Some of the most notable are Central Park in Manhattan, the Emerald Necklace series of parks in Boston, the US Capitol grounds, and the Biltmore Estate grounds, along with park systems in Buffalo, Rochester, Chicago, Milwaukee, Louisville and other cities. Here in Druid Hills, his only neighborhood in the deep South, we are in impressive company!

Olmsted's style is often described as scenic, pastoral and picturesque. His designs reflect a flow without distinct borders throughout a place. These places are often linked together with parks and greenways to give the impression of continuous, boundless park-like greenspace, designed to be enjoyed by all. In the context of an individual yard, the sides of the yards were lushly

planted with soft shrubs to blur the boundaries between homes, with a sweeping lawn leading the eye to the front façade of each home. Large canopy trees were planted throughout to provide a visual ceiling to the outdoor spaces, as well as much desired summertime shade. Accessory structures for the sake of decoration were not used. Only those that served an actual function pertaining to the character of the land (bridges over waterways, walls to retain slopes) were incorporated. All of these attributes are clear throughout Historic Druid Hills and the Olmsted Linear Parks.

So what does that mean in 2023 and beyond? Olmsted's vision plus your historic property can be the foundation of your modern landscape design. Repeat design elements such as



# PRESERVATION PERSPECTIVES

## Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee

materials, lines and styles used in your historic home. Choices of plant material and availability have expanded exponentially while knowledge of sustainability best practices continues to evolve. Choose plants that are drought tolerant once established, that require minimal (or no) pesticides or heavy fertilization, and that promote pollinators and other native species to flourish in your yard. Choose native and naturalized, non-invasive plants that are suited to our distinct climate.

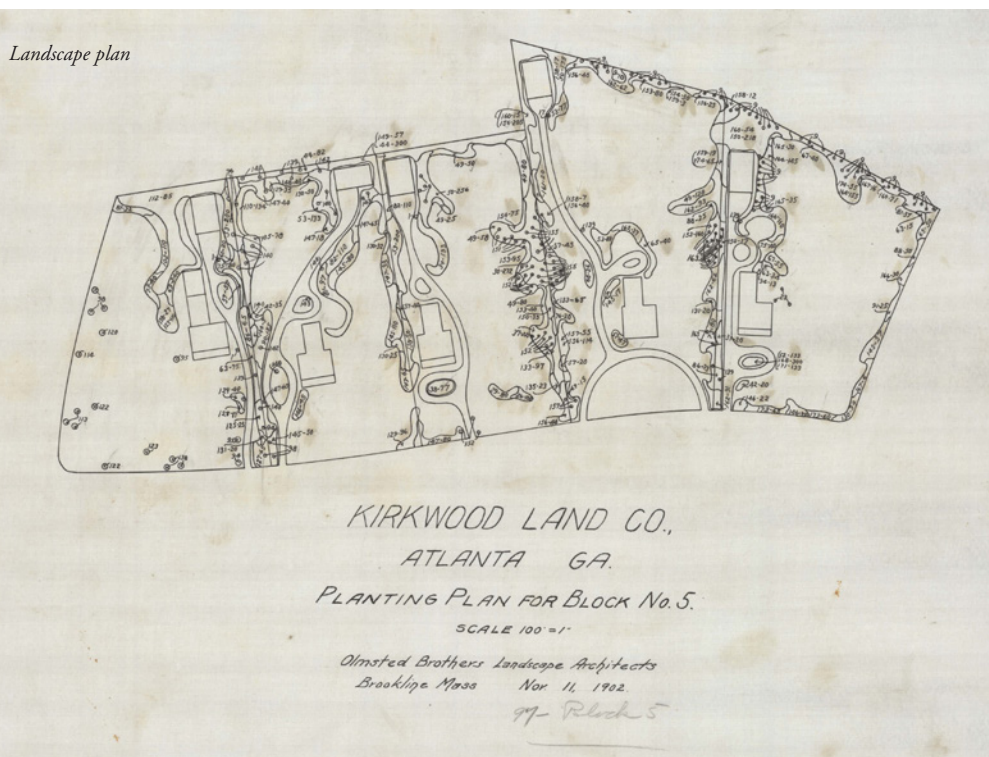
A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) must be obtained for site and landscape changes to properties in Druid Hills.

- Minimum landscape requirements for properties in the City of Atlanta are defined in the city's zoning ordinance CHAPTER 20B. - DRUID HILLS LANDMARK DISTRICT. Google "Chapter 20B Druid Hills" to see the code.
- Guidelines for DeKalb County can be found in the Druid Hills Historic District - Design Manual / 9.0 Cultural Landscapes Guidelines - Maintaining "The Look". Google "DeKalb County Historic Preservation" to find the design manual.

A very condensed list of site-related features that require a COA in Atlanta follows to help you plan your project:

### Regarding the Overall Lot:

- Overall lot coverage of impervious surfaces
- Minimum off-street parking requirements
- Driveways and parking pads
- Fences and walls
- Decks and patios
- Pools
- Accessory structures
- Removal of trees 6" caliper or greater (with an exception for dead, dying or hazardous trees)
- Alteration of existing grades (allowable only to protect and preserve the integrity of structures)



### Areas Visible from Right of Way:

- Retention of any existing historic circulation systems, including driveways, walkways and pathways
- Per City of Atlanta Landmark District ordinance: "The overall quality of the landscaped area visible from public rights-of-way should be preserved as an integral part of the historic character of the District. Any major alteration to the landscape or topography visible from the public right-of-way in the District shall maintain the general landscaping scale and character reflected in the original development of Druid Hills in order to preserve the historic landscape character of the District."
- Major plantings: "Plantings must be consistent and compatible with the overall landscape plan and design on the property and block; maintain the spatial organization of an open space in front of the house, asymmetrical plantings on the sides of the principal structure and a rear tree canopy."

- Removal of shrub massings or hedges over three feet high
- Demolition of any existing features listed above

To see images of 1970s Druid Hills street scenes, go to [DruidHills.org](http://DruidHills.org) and under the Resources tab, select Neighborhood History. There are three videos of the district in beautiful full bloom found at the bottom of that page.

Need help getting started? Reach out to your Druid Hills preservation organization. We are your advocate for a successful project in our beautiful, historic neighborhood. We are a group of volunteers that live in and love Druid Hills that can help guide you toward a successful project.

Additional information can be found at [atlantahistoric@druidhills.org](mailto:atlantahistoric@druidhills.org), [dekalbhistoric@druidhills.org](mailto:dekalbhistoric@druidhills.org) and

[DruidHills.org](http://DruidHills.org). Interested in more info about Frederick Law Olmsted and his many contributions? Check out [Olmsted200.org](http://Olmsted200.org).



## PARK VIEWS

### News from the DHCA Parks Committee

## The Movement against Gas-powered Leaf Blowers

*Submitted by the Parks and Greenspace Committee*

An increasing number of Druid Hills residents have been talking about how annoying the noise from gas-powered leaf blowers has become. Some residents are also concerned about the health and environmental effects of the blowers. Our committee decided to feature QuietGA, a local organization whose website has information about the health and environmental effects of gas-powered leaf blowers and also advocates for alternatives. This article does not constitute an endorsement of QuietGA by the Parks and Greenspace Committee; however, we are interested in knowing whether DHCA members are interested in exploring efforts to reduce the use of gas-powered blowers in Druid Hills. Please contact us at parks@druidhills.org with your comments and ideas.

The following comes verbatim, with permission, from the QuietGA website. <https://quietga.org/> The website also cites research that supports their efforts and a list of some landscapers who are “committed to eco-friendly yard services.”

QuietGA (Georgia) aims to educate our communities about the health, noise, and environmental harms that gas-powered leaf blowers create and to raise awareness of quieter, healthier, greener alternatives.

Our focus is to develop and organize inclusive, local efforts that are directed toward phasing out obsolete, two-stroke gasoline powered lawn equipment and making our communities aware of the importance of “leaving the leaves” when possible.

By replacing inefficient engines with clean, quiet battery-powered equipment, we can reduce toxic emissions and noise pollution in our communities as well as our carbon footprint.

### **Leaf Blowers – Did You Know?**

- Chronic noise: Analysis has shown that gas-powered blowers produce “sound energy” in the low-frequency range which has great penetrating power. It goes through walls, cement barriers, and many kinds of hearing-protection devices. The noise inter-

feres with communication, sleep, work and school work. The World Health Organization recently lowered environmental noise standards for healthy communities to 53 decibels, and leaf blower noise far exceeds those standards.

- Dangerous dust and exhaust: Toxic exhaust and particulate matter from gas leaf blowers is known to be dangerous to our health, according to the American Lung Association and American Heart Association.
- Detrimental to developing children trying to learn. Studies show sustained exposure to excessive noise has detrimental effects on children’s health and development, and young children are especially vulnerable because they are developing. Exposure to excessive leaf blower noise increases risk of harmful health effects, according to numerous journal articles and Children’s Environmental Health Network (CEHN).
- Most professional landscapers use loud leaf blowers that far exceed safe standards. Quieter battery-operated blowers are now available and affordable.
- Over 200 cities in more than 36 states across the country have enacted ordinances establishing rules for the use of leaf blowers to protect the public health of residents.

### **Quiet Alternatives Healthy Beautiful Yards and Gardens don’t need Gas Leaf Blowers**

- Using fallen leaves can be extremely helpful in maintaining a healthy and beautiful yard.
  - ▶ Leave the Leaves! It’s free mulch, provides for healthier gardens and you will see more pollinators and birds in your yard.
  - ▶ Rather than raking or blowing them

into huge piles for removal, leaves can be mulched and / or composted, with numerous benefits.

- ▶ By adding organic matter to the soil, mulched leaves improve soil structure and nutrient availability. Clay soils become looser and better draining, while sandy soils gain capacity to hold water. Beneficial microbial activity goes up. Compaction and crusting go down. Best of all, the mulched leaves work themselves into the soil naturally over time — no tilling needed.
- Battery-electric leaf blowers are powerful, reliable, and cost-effective.
  - ▶ For homeowners, good battery-powered equipment is widely available and affordable.
  - ▶ At the commercial level, batteries need to last for many hours, and performance needs to be extremely reliable. Fortunately, the last 10 years have seen a “battery revolution” in industry, resulting in rapidly accelerating gains in the power, longevity, and cost-effectiveness of battery-electric tools
- Manual Tools
  - ▶ Sometimes, old-fashioned tools still perform best. Especially for smaller jobs, rakes and brooms are often faster and more efficient than leaf blowers, which are better suited for large-scale tasks. They are of course cheaper, quieter, and cleaner, as well, with virtually no maintenance.



# PARK VIEWS

## News from the DHCA Parks Committee

### Environmental Justice

- Environmental justice is a critical element of the QuietGA effort to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.
- The use of gas leaf blowers poses serious health risks for the lawn care company employees. Employees of these crews, who often work all day, all week, moving from one property to another, are constantly breathing and inhaling known carcinogens such as formaldehyde, benzene, and other fumes.
- There is no evidence that regulations restricting gas powered leaf blower use have an adverse economic impact on lawn care companies, maintenance contractors or workers.

### Take Action

Most people find gas-powered leaf blowers annoying, but many of us don't know how dangerous they are to human health. Replacing them

with clean alternatives can make our neighborhoods quieter and safer. Please join us to eliminate gas-powered leaf blowers in Georgia.

- Share this information on your Facebook page and Nextdoor.com – people care about what their neighbors say.
- Follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/734678680493772>
- Ask your landscaping company to switch to electric powered equipment. More contractors are starting to move away from gas powered equipment. Tell them that you care about our air and their health.
- Hire a landscape contractor that is committed to quiet, safe, gas free yard care.
- Contact your local legislators and express your concerns with gas leaf blowers.

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## PARK VIEWS News from the DHCA Parks Committee

### Meet Anna Hauser, OLPA Maintenance Director

By Alida Silverman

Anna Hauser began as director of maintenance for the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) last winter. I had first met her on a walk-around with the maintenance committee several years ago when she was doing structural pruning under contract with OLPA. We all learned a lot on that walk-around. A brief review of her background will indicate why. Before attending UGA, Anna was in Longwoods Gardens' Professional Gardener Training Program and worked in Italy and Ireland. After UGA, becoming a certified arborist along the way, she earned master's degrees at Georgia Tech (City and Regional Planning) and the London School of Economics & Social Psychology.



identifying lost canopy trees and shrub material and replanting appropriate replacements.

The management of Deepdene is quite different from the five pastoral sections of the park. During the past year we have focused on the western woodland entrance as well as the southeastern edge of the woods near the intersection with Ridgecrest Road. Our strategy has been to attack the few remaining stands of woody invasives followed by subsequent efforts at English Ivy eradication. Invasives removal is a process. Our work in Deepdene has been largely completed during our monthly volunteer workdays. Additionally, we have partnered with the Audubon Society to supplement our efforts.

#### You grew up in Druid Hills?

Yes. I was born and raised here. One of my first memories is being swung around by my arms in the dell at the east end of Dellwood, perhaps age 3, while on a walk to the Cator Woolford Gardens. As a young girl, I spent my free time with my brothers following Peavine Creek from where it crosses under Clifton Road to where it enters the Frazer Forest. We were relentless rock-hoppers.

#### What is your goal for the linear park as Maintenance Director?

I believe that the park has a clear vision evident in both Olmsted's original design as well as the Master Plan and subsequent rehabilitation. I see it as my job to ensure that this vision is respected and maintained as the park matures. Management of historic landscapes is a unique challenge and necessarily a bit of a moving target. As trees mature and shrub plantings age or become shaded out, the conditions within a given bed or section will change. But despite this, the original vision remains—the interplay of both pastoral and picturesque elements; the mature stands of oaks amidst broad open spaces; the layering of native and naturalesque plant material.

#### What is your current focus?

We have spent the past year trying to get a hold on a backlog of outstanding mulching needs as well as a bumper crop of weeds. The weeds are largely under control now, but there are still many beds left to mulch. As we mulch we are taking the opportunity to properly edge and trench all path/bed edges. This work has largely been focused east to west, our attempt to have a clear visual impact in one section rather than scattering our efforts. In 2023 our immediate focus will be continuing to play catch up with the deferred maintenance of mulching, leaf management and turf management.

The plantings of 15+ years ago are now at a young adult stage where the conditions within beds and in turf areas have changed significantly. The most frequent challenge we face is increased shade as well as crowding and competition among plants. Some plants need culling. In other areas replanting is more appropriate. In some areas beds are being expanded and tree mulch rings are being enlarged to cover the dirt of shaded out turf. In the coming year we will shift our focus to

#### Tell me about the OLPA crew.

Our crew is composed of myself and two employees who each work 15 hours a week. We also occasionally have students or other short-term seasonal helpers. The crew focuses on the higher level maintenance tasks, while relying on the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County for the basics of mowing, weed eating and blowing. Additionally, we hire outside contractors for larger tree work as well as some seasonal tasks.

A major goal for me personally has been to refine how we work with our various partners and contractors in order to be both more efficient and more effective. Each partner has different resources and capacities that are necessary for maintaining the park. So if our crew is not able to do a task well, we look to others for help. And conversely if the City crews are stretched thin due to understaffing or rain, we are often left to take up the slack.

The park's overarching vision and plant palette is more sophisticated and nuanced than what many municipal or commercial crews are accustomed to dealing with. Our largest goal in this respect has been to communicate proactively in order to minimize the impact of other maintenance activities on the park. For example, making sure that beds of native grasses are not mistaken for weeds. Or that any large equipment does not compromise the critical root zones of valued trees. Or that routine mowing and blowing doesn't undo our time spent carefully mulching beds. I believe it is our role to set the standards for park management.


#### Ah, speaking of leaf blowers

Yes, we are very aware of the concern within the community for the environmental and sound pollution of blowers. In the past year we have invested many thousands of dollars on a variety of battery-powered tools for our crew, including two battery-powered blowers. Unfortunately, the blowers are not powerful enough to completely replace gas blowers for some tasks. We have been in conversation with contractors operating in cities where blowers have been banned to compare notes. The consensus is that the technology is not quite there yet when it comes to fully replacing professional-grade equipment.

For more information visit [finepruning.com](http://finepruning.com).



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An interactive shadow theater provides fun for all ages. Photo credit: D. Finnin/© AMNH



Fernbank's "Nature of Color" Exhibit features a red gown created by American designer Brandon Maxwell specifically for this exhibit.

## Fernbank's "Nature of Color" Exhibit Runs Until May 7

Fernbank Museum's newest special exhibit, "The Nature of Color," runs from Feb. 11 – May 7 and offers an in-depth exploration into the science of color and how color conveys information in nature.

"The Nature of Color" exhibit is a unique blending of science and culture, providing many opportunities for guests to learn not only about the science of color and light but also about the significance and symbolism attributed to color by people around the globe," said Bobbi Hohmann, vice president of programming and collections. "'The Nature of Color' really captures the essence of natural history explorations and we're excited to bring this engaging new exhibit to Atlanta."

Guests will discover how color not only helps organisms find food, warn off predators and reproduce, but how it also plays a significant role in human culture by conjuring different meanings, impacting emotions and influencing those around us.

This family friendly exhibit includes dazzling displays and hands-on components that will make guests ask how much they really know about the colors around them. Visitors can interact with activities such as "painting" on a floor-to-ceiling canvas using just their hands and a light lab experiment where they can combine colors to make white light to see how different colors blend or clash.

There are also three displays in "The Nature of Color" that delve into different areas of color in society. "Feeling Color" allows visitors to experiment with color combinations to see how each new one affects

their emotions, "Making Color" goes over the process of dyeing indigo fabric and its history and "Meaning of Color" demonstrates to visitors how colors can unite people together through the color red.

Additionally, "The Nature of Color" features two different artwork installations. The first is a collection of portraits by Brazilian photographer Angélica Dass that show the range of human skin tones to not only challenge socially constructed racial categories, but also celebrate the diverse beauty found around the world. The second is a red chiffon and organza gown created by American designer Brandon Maxwell specifically for this exhibit.

"The Nature of Color" intends to show how color influences every facet of our lives, from affecting emotions and animal interactions in nature to explaining the history behind color production. "We wouldn't have colors if it weren't for physics. We wouldn't have colors if it weren't for the evolutionary process. We wouldn't have colors if it weren't for the cultural attitudes of people," said Rob DeSalle, curator of "The Nature of Color" at the American Museum of Natural History, the exhibit's organizer. "We're all seeing a different world of color and that's what's really spectacular."

The Nature of Color is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York ([amnh.org](http://amnh.org)). Local presentation made possible by Behr Paint. Additional support provided by the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation.



## Frazer Center Is 74 Years Strong

By Dina Shadwell

It all started when one mother said NO. No, thank you, I do not wish to put my daughter with cerebral palsy into an institution.

In 1948, institutionalizing people with disabilities was considered a best practice. But Anne Lane wanted to give her daughter Anita a more inclusive life. Rather than sequestering her away, Anne wanted her daughter to live and thrive among her family and community. But options for Anita were minimal. Anne was forging a path that the experts weren't. So she corralled her network to gather resources, and in 1949 the Cerebral Palsy Center opened in the basement of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Peachtree Street.

The organization has changed names over the decades, from the Cerebral Palsy Center to REACH (Rehabilitation and Education for Adults and Children, Inc.) to the Frazer Center, but the vision has remained constant: to offer research-based education, vocational support, and therapeutic intervention to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

In 1952, the 39-acre Cator Woolford estate in Lake Claire was acquired, and the Cerebral Palsy Center moved into the estate house. As the organization expanded, plans for a new facility on the property were developed, and in 1961, the Cerebral Palsy Center moved up the hill into the Lane Building—Frazer's current location.

In 1975, a new law was passed to ensure that children with disabilities received a free public education, spurring the Cerebral Palsy Center to create two programs—one for children under five, and one for adults over 17—bookending the public school system. In 1989 a new wing was dedicated for the Adult Services department. By 1994, the organization made a shift toward inclusion by enrolling children without disabilities into the early education program for the first time.

The organization became the Frazer Center in 1999 and, to this day, continues to find innovative ways to make “inclusion” a way of life rather than just a buzzword. From our inclusion nature-based early education curriculum to our refugee intern program to our supported employment and community access programs, Frazer carries the torch that Anne and Anita Lane lit 74 years ago.

Anne Lane did not settle for status quo, and neither does Frazer Center. Our mission of fostering inclusive communities guides our every move and motivates us to create more and more opportunities for people with and without disabilities to gather, learn, and flourish. And with the support of our community, our inclusive future is bright.



Since 1949 as the “Cerebral Palsy Center,” inclusion is at the heart of Frazer Center's mission.

## Springtime Safety Advice from your Druid Hills Patrol

By Marilyn Geewax

As spring warms the earth, buds open and dapple Druid Hills with a mad mix of colors. White dogwood blossoms, fiery red azaleas and yellow tulips brighten our morning walks.

In coming weeks, as we plant flowers and spruce up yards, we also can take simple steps to make our neighborhood not only more beautiful, but safer. The Security Team of the Druid Hills Patrol is offering these tips for improving home safety as the seasons change:

- Thieves often target lawn-care equipment, such as leaf blowers, chain saws and hedge trimmers. Don't leave such equipment in plain sight or near the street. Close your garage door when you step away.
- When cleaning up your yard, check that your home address numbers are clearly visible on your mailbox, front door or another easily seen location. First responders need to quickly find your number in an emergency.
- If you belong to the Druid Hills Patrol and have an alarm company, be sure to prominently display their signs in your yard.
- Trim your home's shrubbery and other landscaping so that intruders cannot find areas to hide near a door. Be sure you can see out of your windows.
- Inspect and repair damaged fences that protect your yard.
- Check security cameras to be sure they are plugged in and pointing the way you want. Use a microfiber cloth to clean the lenses and check that the camera mounts are secure.
- This is a good time to change any access codes you may have given out to cleaning crews, contractors, dog walkers or others who no longer need access to your home.
- If you are planning to head out on spring break, ask a trusted neighbor or family member to pick up any packages, newspapers or mail that might be visible. As a member of the Druid Hills Patrol, you can request a “vacation check” by our officers.



Finally, if you aren't yet a member of the Patrol, please consider joining; visit [www.druidhillspatrol.org](http://www.druidhillspatrol.org) for more information. The more members, the more hours the officers can cruise the streets of Druid Hills and help prevent crime.

## The Out-of-Doors School

By Alida Silverman

I did not know in mid-1976 that Oakdale Road got its name from a very large old oak tree that a landowner refused to allow cut down so that the road could be cut through. (The road was re-routed.) I just liked the name and the look of the street and the whole neighborhood.

I did not know there was an Out-of-Doors School, the first private nursery school in Georgia, on the street. After closing on our new old home, we needed a place for our almost three year-old to spend some afternoons so when someone told me about the school's afternoon program, there she went.

I did not know there was an Oakdale Road book until we received one as a house-warming present. The author had grown up on Oakdale Road and started the school. With deep roots in DeKalb County, she turns out to have been a descendant of the man who sold his land to the Kirkwood Land Company except for the 10 acres around his homeplace.

The Out-of-Doors School opened in 1932 in the home of Antoinette Johnson Matthews at 1097 Oakdale Road. "Miss Annette" was a pioneering kindergarten teacher. She "had very definite ideas about how small children should be educated," she told a reporter upon her retirement. She characterized her approach as 'intelligent negligence' – "I won't amuse them. . . They initiate their own activities. If they are wrong I guide them to the right, if they are right I encourage it to become a habit. . . You guide them. They learn more and enter school with a feeling of adequacy. . . When they're ready you can't keep them from reading. It hits them, like cutting teeth, at different ages. We teach them to become independent individuals through cooperation rather than coercion. We teach them to respect the rights of others while standing up for their own, stressing liberty under law." (The Atlanta Journal and CONSTITUTION, Sunday, June 26, 1966) Another hallmark of her approach was to have her pupils out of doors as much as possible, weather permitting.

Miss Annette retired in 1966. There was a "reunion tea" for her former pupils on the grounds of 1097 – the front yard of the house and a playground area adjacent to the house. The School continued under the direction of a former pupil, Lillie Pace Scoville, who hosted one of the "era tables" where former pupils could sign in. Lillie Pace was the first child born on Oakdale Road in the first house built when Oakdale was still a dirt road.

The Oakdale Road book came out in 1973. It was Antoinette Johnson Matthews's "pinch of history" – a phrase she heard the then-president



The house at 1097 Oakdale from the "Oakdale Road" book

of Georgia State University, Noah Langdale, Jr. use: "If everybody does a little pinch of history, they will preserve the picture of the past."

I no longer own the Oakdale Road book; I thought it should go with our house and its future owners. Remaining copies of the book at the Atlanta History Center were transferred to the DeKalb History Center and offered at the Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens in the later 1980s. Miss Annette had gifted her book and all proceeds to the History Center. Copies have been found on EBay. If you have one, you are lucky.

*Note: This article was supposed to be written by Kate Dannenberg who lived on Oakdale Road and served on the DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission before moving away. She gathered newspaper articles and an "In Memoriam" by AJM's niece Jean Johnson Givens.*

**VERY DEFINITE IDEAS - Fifty Years in Kindergarten!**

**MRS. ANTOINETTE JOHNSON MATTHEWS AMID DISCARDED TOYS**  
In 36 Years of Teaching She Has Seen Many Tricycles Roll

When I first started I gave domestic programs—educational of grown up," Miss Annette said, recalling her 50 years of kindergarten teaching.

"It shows the Lord forgives me. It was a terrible thing to do."

Mrs. Antoinette Johnson Matthews is holding a reunion June 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. for all her former students public and private. They number "well over a thousand," she said. She and several friends and former pupils have contacted hundreds, but "we don't know the married names of so many." Personally invited or not, she hopes all that can will show up.

"LAST WEEK I quit," she says of her retirement. The Out-of-Doors School, which she founded in 1931 "because I had very definite ideas about how small children should be educated and my son was 18 months old," will continue for the first time without her.

Mrs. Matthews, "Miss Annette" to generations of young charges, actually began teaching little children at 14, when she rounded up all the children in the neighborhood during the summer and taught them.

"Their mothers paid me 25 cents a week" for each child. "Oh, I was rich," she never has been that "rich" again, though she has touched the lives of many of the area's most prominent citizens.

**BUT HER FORMAL career** began somewhat later. Following her graduation from Washington Seminary she attended the Atlanta Kindergarten Normal School. She served as demonstration teacher there in 1935 after her graduation.

Future summers found her at Asheville Normal & Atlanta University, Emory and the Normal of Georgia, plus three summers at the Institute of Education at Vassar College, but always she taught.

In 1932, when Atlanta instituted its first public kindergarten, she was one of the original 11 teachers, Highland school's first, where she remained for seven years until she took her maternity leave.

She opened the first private kindergarten in DeKalb County and the first private nursery school in Atlanta. "Be-

Her father, Ernest W. Johnson, was a planner and building supplies contractor and president of the Atlanta Sand Supply Co. A member of a pioneer family, she had eight great-grandchildren and 14 great-grandsons.

She is a great-granddaughter in DeKalb or neighboring counties by 1912, according to records by Miss Annette's Atlanta and Davison. "Atlanta and Davison," she says of Mrs. Matthews. "He says of

"She has participated in movements which have resulted in higher educational standards, in better films and in the effective use of films in the classroom and has also promoted the recording of local and state history."

Miss Annette plans to write a history of Oakdale Rd., including all the families who have ever lived there, now that she has retired. But get

## Druid Hills Luminary: James Flannery *A Man For All Humanity*

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Imagine you dream you're standing in the middle of a vast hall. You open your eyes to find yourself surrounded by the most illustrious poets, musicians, writers, artists, dramatists, and dancers of all time. "We're here to teach you." Says one, "What would you like to know?" You hear yourself say, "Everything."

James W. Flannery was born in Connecticut in 1936. His parents were both natives of Ireland. Jim attended Trinity College in Hartford, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and received a degree in music and English, followed by a master's in fine arts in acting and directing from the renowned Yale School of Drama. He received a Ph.D. in Anglo-Irish Literature from Trinity College in Dublin.

After teaching in Canada and Rhode Island, Jim came to Emory University, where he eventually held the distinguished chair of Winship Professor of the arts and humanities before his retirement. James met the lovely woman who would become his wife, Ildi, a native of Hungary, in Canada. The couple has one son (who is married to the daughter of Druid Hills resident Linda Hubert) and two grandsons.

During his teaching years in Atlanta, Dr. Flannery founded the W.B. Yeats Foundation, in an effort to increase knowledge and appreciation of the great poet, playwright and activist and of Irish culture in general. The Yeats Foundation sponsored such cultural performances as lectures, poetry readings, plays, concerts and other events for Emory students and the community. One priceless treasure produced by the Yeats Foundation was "Southern Celtic Christmas" which was first performed in Glenn Memorial auditorium and later in the Schwartz Center. Filmed in Ireland, The Appalachian Mountains, and at Emory, with a cast of musicians, storytellers, dancers and actors, the performance was a highlight of the Christmas season for 18 years. Critics called it "Enchanting," "Hauntingly beautiful" and "A Masterpiece."

In Southern Celtic Christmas, Flannery does a masterful job of correlating the folk music of the southern Appalachians with the traditional music of Celtic lands. Those mournful ballads and love songs the Carter Family sang, and the exquisite picking found in our Bluegrass music have close relatives in Ireland. And in Celtic Christmas, you hear it without a doubt. One of the most beautiful moments was hearing James Flannery recite poetry or sing Celtic



songs in his remarkable tenor voice. Why Emory University decided to discontinue it remains one of those unfathomable mysteries. Fortunately, it continues to be broadcast each holiday by PBS.

At this point in the article, I would usually recite all of the incredible awards, honors, and accolades given to Jim from colleagues and organizations throughout the world—all of them deserved. And I would list all the books and CDs he's produced, and the books he's working on now. Instead, I'll share about the man. Jim Flannery is one of those people with whom I could talk for hours and have it seem like minutes. His knowledge of the arts and humanities is astounding. I couldn't discover a subject on which he was not well-schooled, thought provoking and erudite. His myriad interests are widespread; and then

focused like a laser beam on his favorites: justice, honor, civility, theatre, poetry, music and Yeats. Though I spent 24 years in formal education, I found myself wondering, "Where were the mentors like Jim during my education?" And now I was blessed to have stumbled upon one right in my own neighborhood. My affinity and admiration for him were nearly instant, like discovering the pearl of great price.

So, what makes a person a brilliant teacher? Or an exemplary human being? It's part creativity; part gift; part determination to enlighten and enrich others; part sheer joy of continuing to learn and grow long after one's last "commencement"; part joy and kindness; and part collecting fascinating books, stories, songs and people and being willing to learn from them.

Today, many American universities are emphasizing the professions of medicine, law, science, artificial intelligence, and business over the liberal arts and humanities—and right at a time in our culture where the humanities may be needed most urgently. "The arts," said Dr. Flannery, "are an inspirational force that make life more intense and abundant—more livable and exciting." Flannery adds, "In the farthest of life's chapters, possibility is possible."

One of his students said of Dr. Flannery, "You are a professor of life." To fully grasp part of that humanity, find and read one of his favorite poem by Yeats: "The Song of Wandering Aengus" and experience, as I did when the good doctor recited it to me, "The silver apples of the moon; the golden apples of the sun."

## Elizabeth “Betty” Mackay Asbury:

1928-2023

By Jennifer J. Richardson

I suspect that Betty Asbury was the ideal mother, sister or grandmother that many in Druid Hills of my generation didn't have—but wanted. She perfected the art of nurturing, supporting, and encouraging others. Betty lived most of her life in Druid Hills, and there are few people and institutions she didn't touch.

She was the daughter of Rev Dr. E.G. Mackay (an Irishman and Methodist minister) and Beulah Mason Mackay. She was the sister of Rep. James Mackay, U.S. House of Representatives, Georgia's Fourth District, who also founded the Georgia Conservancy and was active (as was Betty) with the DeKalb History Center. Betty attended Druid Hills Elementary School and Druid Hills High School and then ventured to Macon to attend Wesleyan College, where she earned a degree in sociology.

Betty loved swimming and won numerous awards for her skill. She also worked in her teenage years as a lifeguard at Camp Glisson, a Methodist camp near Dahlonega. Her father, Dr. E.G. Mackay, was responsible for buying the Cane Creek Waterfall for the camp from Preston Arkwright (president of Georgia Power) in 1946. When Betty learned her father had acquired the falls for the camp, she was ecstatic. Betty continued her swimming up until the last decade of her life.

Betty married Frank Logan Asbury, III in 1950. The couple eventually had five children and settled in in a lovely Cape Cod home on Clifton Road. Frank, who pre-deceased Betty, spent his career in the insurance business. All of Betty and Frank's children attended Fernbank and Druid Hills schools.

Betty loved discovering new parts of her Irish heritage. The Mackay clan held a reunion each year, which Betty enthusiastically attended. She and Frank also made many trips to Ireland, Scotland and England, to find distant and not-so-distant relatives. Betty spent years documenting all her findings in writing so



Betty Asbury

her family could have the benefit of her research.

Betty served for many years on boards in the Druid Hills and Atlanta areas. She was a faithful member and servant of the ministry of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church. As part of that commitment, Betty later attended Candler School of Theology at Emory, where she earned a Master of Theological Studies degree, being the oldest graduate, at age 69 in 1997, of the entire university. She also trained to be a lay chaplain through the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Emory University Hospital. Betty was a devout Christian and United Methodist. Despite knowing I was in one of my “rebellion against organized religion phases,” Betty invited me to her Sunday School class at Glenn. She said, “You'll like it because we never talk about Jesus!” I went and it was more like group therapy, which I enjoyed.

Betty was a huge resource for those of us seeking the history of Druid Hills. Since she grew up here, she knew everyone and everything. She helped with the Druid Hills movie; she worked with Sue Sullivan and me on our book “Historic Druid Hills” and she worked with me on my “Olmsted's Linear Park” book and my “Holy Dirt-- 75 years of Christian Outdoor Education at Camp Glisson” book—not just giving history, but contributing stories and valuable photographs to each project.

Those who knew and loved Betty are aware that there is no way I can list all her accomplishments and her support for friends and causes. Some in Druid Hills thought Betty was a single beautiful alabaster column supporting her portion of Druid Hills at all times. But they are wrong. Betty was the strength and support underneath all the columns that held up our neighborhood. We will not see her kind again.

## Remembering Michael Nelson Weathersby, Esq. 1956-2022

By Jennifer J. Richardson

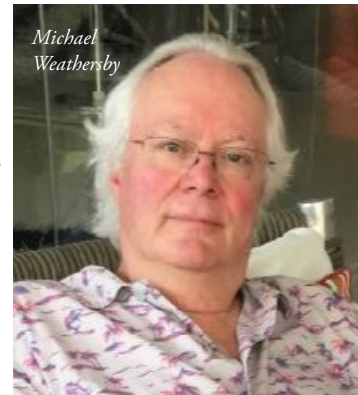
Mike Weathersby was born in Columbus, Ga. and grew up in southwest Georgia. Mike began what later become an illustrious career when he accepted his first job as a produce clerk at the Piggly Wiggly in Abbeville, Ala. From there, Mike entered the U.S. Air Force and then attended undergraduate school and finally the University of Georgia School of Law. Leaving the world of Piggly Wiggly far behind him, he founded the law firm of Evert & Weathersby (now Evert Weathersby Houff.) in Atlanta. Today, the firm has offices in Athens, Baltimore and Atlanta.

Mike was a valuable and loved member of the law firm he established. Nationally known for his success in the courtroom, Mike worked in the fields of product defects, civil rights, equal protection, due process and on defense strategies for companies in asbestos litigation. Mike was known as a gifted trial lawyer who practiced with skill and passion.

Mike had numerous interests including traveling the world, partaking of gourmet food and wine, his Presbyterian faith, quail hunting, country and Celtic music, and supporting the Georgia Bulldogs. He spoke fluent Turkish and especially enjoyed visiting Turkey amongst his travels. The music chosen for Mike's memorial service was especially moving and reflected his interest in folk music of the southern Appalachians.

Mike and his family chose Druid Hills to make their home. He cherished his family: wife Rise', sons James Michael, Alexander Hegwood, and John Thomas; and his two grandsons, Maxwell James and Malcolm John. He was an exemplary husband, father, grandfather, friend and attorney. Mike's beloved family and numerous friends are left to ponder why he left us so soon; but also with deep gratitude for the extent of his humor, intelligence, generosity, and strength. Mike and Rise' established a scholarship program to assist first year law students and veterans wishing to attend law school at the University of Georgia.

Mike died on November 3, 2022 at the age of just 66 from a bacterial infection that had invaded his heart—the big heart he showed to all who knew him.



Michael Weathersby

# The Lowenstein Lost Gardens and Norris Candy Company

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Max and Frank Lowenstein, owners of Norris Candy Company, and their families lived on South Ponce de Leon, in houses designed by Pringle and Smith. Max's home at 1487 South Ponce de Leon was of Tudor Revival style and had an English Cottage Garden in the rear yard, with trails, native plants, and a series of fishponds and fountains. Frank's garden, located at 1215 South Ponce had a patio, fishpond and fountains on the west side of the home, and formal gardens housing cutting flower beds, and rose gardens in the rear.

The Frank Lowenstein Garden was graded for a parking lot when his home was purchased by the Unity Church. Two concrete block additions were constructed for use by the church. Later, the home was used as the headquarters of the Atlanta Boy Choir, and recently, it has been restored for use by the Intown Montessori School. The Max Lowenstein home was later used as a boarding house, and then was cut up into apartments. The gardens were removed when the back yard was converted to parking for tenants. Today, the home is owned by Paideia School.

The Norris Candy Company was founded by the Norris family when they started making candy and selling it door-to-door. The Norris family turned it into a highly successful business and later sold to the Lowensteins. Frank Lowenstein served as president, A.L. Norris served as vice president and Max Lowenstein was secretary and treasurer of the company.

In its heyday, the Norris Company built a new skyscraper, which contained their candy-making plant, facilities to make the colorful boxes that held the candies, offices for the company, and offices rented to tenants. The eight-story building was designed by Pringle and Smith and was located on Peachtree Street.

In the beginning, Norris candies contained chocolate, nuts, fruit and flavored cream fillings. The candies were displayed in beautiful cardboard boxes with colorful scenes on the outside. For special days, such as Christmas, Mothers' Day and Valentine's Day, Norris candies were sold in presentation boxes made of metal or wood. They also made other candies such as peanut brittle and mint wafers. During the second world war, when sugar was rationed, the company simply added more fruit to their recipes and some customers said the candy was even better than before.

The Lowensteins proudly advertised their candy as "Norris Atlanta Exquisite Candies." Other slogans included "A triumph in good taste," and "Universally



*An advertisement, most likely designed by Marcelle Lowenstein, promotes the sale of Valentine's Day candies.*

accepted as the gift of gifts." Both Lowensteins were active in Atlanta society and business groups and were members of the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation (The Temple).

Unfortunately, neither Frank and Max enjoyed long lives. Frank, who was president of Norris Candy and also the Monarch Manufacturing Company, died in a hotel in New York in 1929. He was attending a business conference when "a stroke of apoplexy" caused his death at the age of 49. Max succeeded his brother as president of Norris Candy. Frank's wife, Marcelle, became vice president. Max died at the age of 50 in 1933 and Marcelle became the president upon Max's death. She was also the sister of The Atlanta Paper Company president, Arthur Harris, who lived on South Ponce next to Max Lowenstein in a home now owned by Paideia School.

In 1933, The Frank Lowenstein home was robbed. In an article in the Atlanta Constitution, the following items were listed as being taken: "A red leather box [containing] a wedding ring set with 30 diamonds; a gold chain and ruby and diamond medallion; a watch with 30 diamonds and a pearl bracelet; an oval platinum pin containing 100 diamonds; a band of emeralds; a large cameo; an expensive platinum bar pin with diamonds; and several smaller but valuable pieces." Nonplussed, Mrs. Lowenstein stated, "The loss was not particularly large."

Mrs. Marcelle Lowenstein had a natural ability at running a corporation. She was a genius at advertising and designed and wrote copy for the cardboard candy boxes. Marcelle was named "Businesswoman of the Year" in 1946. She called her company, "One big family." Marcelle died at the age of 64 in 1948.

The company was sold to R. Lawton and Blanche Henderson, who operated it for many years. At some point in the 1960s, its president was Richard T. Kent, who was also president of New England Confectionary (NECCO). Mr. Kent died of a heart attack at age 42. Norris then disappeared into the conglomerate of candy companies owned by NECCO. NECCO is the maker of Mary Janes, NECCO Wafers and Sweethearts Conversation Valentine Candy. NECCO was purchased by Round Hill Investments, who sold off several candy brands. After filing for bankruptcy, NECCO was purchased by Spangler Candy Co., which like Norris, is a family-owned company.

Today, Norris Candy lives only in memories and in ads for purchase of old candy boxes on E. Bay. Both Lowenstein mansions have been re-purposed, but alas, their gardens fell to parking lots.

## Druid Hills High School Update

By Odette Diaz Schuler

So much is going on at The Hills! DHHS is bouncing into Spring! Prom is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 at the Emory Convention Center & Hotel. Pre-commencement will be on Sunday, May 21 and Graduation will be on Wednesday, May 23. Our students continue to excel in academics and keep busy with clubs and sports. Spring teams like Ultimate, Tennis, Golf, Baseball, and Track & Field are deep into their respective seasons. Red Devil Productions is staging *Heathers: The Musical*. Our Fine Arts Department will host a Spring Open House and Art Show.

Our Benefit Auction earlier this month was a great success for the newly-formed Druid Hills Education Foundation. The Druid Hills Education Foundation was established this year to promote and enrich the education and development of ALL Druid Hills High School students. Its aim is to support the school's academics, athletics, the arts, and capital improvements. Through fundraising efforts, including the annual Benefit Auction, the Druid Hills Education Foundation will support the needs of the DHHS PTO and the Druid Hills Athletic Association. The establishment of the Druid Hills Education Foundation allows our parent organizations to focus on supporting DHHS and streamlines the parental and community asks for monetary support.

As you might have heard, the DeKalb County Board of Education formally approved \$50M for renovation and modernization of our campus. Our beautiful historic main building will be preserved and once again shine as a purposeful learning environment for our students and staff to enjoy. Keep up with modernization and school news via [www.dhhspto.org](http://www.dhhspto.org) and follow us on Instagram and Facebook @dhhspto.



*Paideia's 2023 Scholastic Arts & Writing Award Winners*

## Paideia Students Win Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Submitted by Caroline Driebe

The Paideia School is pleased to announce that 47 Junior High and High School students won 81 total awards from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and more art awards than any other independent school in Georgia. In art and photography, Paideia won 18 Gold Keys, 21 Silver Keys and 28 Honorable Mentions with 41 of the awards in photography. In writing, seven Paideia Junior High and High School students won multiple awards, including six Gold Keys, five Silver Keys, and three Honorable Mentions.

Of special note was Paideia senior Cassie Boulis, who won 17 awards overall and Gold Keys in both the art and writing categories. "I am incredibly honored to be recognized by Scholastic," said Boulis. My Paideia teachers taught me the value of centering identity in art and writing and encouraged me to be brave in my expression. This was important for my portfolios but even more important in shaping my sense of self-worth."

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards recognize student achievement in the visual and literary arts in 28 categories, including drawing and illustration, photography, flash fiction, poetry, film and animation, journalism, and more. Notable Scholastic alumni include Amanda Gorman, Tschabalala Self, Stephen King, Kay WalkingStick, Charles White, Joyce Carol Oates, and Andy Warhol

All Gold Key entries are automatically considered for national awards, including Gold Medal, Silver Medal with Distinction, Silver Medal, and scholarship awards. Those who receive National Medals receive certificates and medals and are considered for national exhibition, publication, and scholarship opportunities. Gold Medalists and most scholarship recipients are also invited to attend the annual National Events week of celebration in New York City.

Gold and Silver Key Winners were honored at the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards ceremony for the Georgia region on Saturday, March 4 at SCAD. National Medals will be announced on March 22.



Sheveeta Bonner

## DH Middle School Announces New Principal

*Contributed by Hillary Kilfeather*

Druid Hills Middle School is thrilled to announce its new principal, Ms. Sheveeta Bonner. Ms. Bonner replaces Ms. Jaqueline Taylor, who was recently promoted to a district superintendent role within the DeKalb County Schools system. Many Druid Hills families with children that attended DHMS know Ms. Bonner very well for her outstanding work, most recently as Assistant Principal. Learn a bit more about her background and goals for the school in her letter below.

*Dear Druid Hills Middle School Family,*

*I am humbled and honored to have the privilege to represent Druid Hills Middle School as its new principal. I have been an educator for 21 years with 17 years at Druid Hills Middle School. During my time, I have had the opportunity to serve in several roles including Science teacher, IB Coordinator, Assistant Principal, and parent. The DHMS community is dear to my heart and very important to me. I am deeply invested in its continued success. My top priority is preparing all students to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens equipped to meet the challenges of a global society. This means continuing our excellence in education through our IB program, fostering a safe environment built on mutual respect, and ensuring that we are creating an equitable and inclusive environment for all members of our school community. I am committed to working with our families, staff, and stakeholders to reach these goals so that Druid Hills Middle School can continue to be a model of high academic achievement and greatness. Together, we will all embark on a journey of collective growth as we attempt to soar to new heights. We will continue to pursue excellence in all we do and reaffirm our commitment to quality teaching and quality learning. I look forward to all the great things to come.*

*With Dragon Pride,*

*Sheveeta C. Bonner*

## Fernbank Elementary Named One of America's Healthiest Schools

*Contributed by Dana Borda*

In October, Fernbank Elementary was named to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's 2022 list of America's Healthiest Schools. This recognition celebrates 406 schools nationwide for their achievements in advancing the physical, mental, and social-emotional health of students, staff, and families. Fernbank is one of only three schools in Georgia to achieve this honor.

After a three-year absence, our beloved "Film at the Fern" event was brought back to great acclaim. Fernbank students and families enjoyed watching a movie under the stars on our back field in November – complete with hot cocoa!

Our annual "Fund the Fern" fundraising campaign was also very successful. We met our goal, and we are grateful for the donations from our families and neighbors. We look forward to our annual auction in March.

The search for our new Principal has been underway since the departure in the fall of longtime Principal Joan Ray. We hope to be able to introduce the Druid Hills community to our new principal soon.

## Ben Franklin Academy

*Submitted by Angela Cassidy*

For more than 35 years Ben Franklin Academy has been actively educating high school students with Mastery Education within a small classroom environment. BFA continues to evolve in course and activity selections. This year Latin Dance, Entrepreneurship, and International Business have been added, while students continue to enjoy the following clubs - Art, Philanthropy, Green, Ancient Languages and Cultures, and Robotics.

Each January 17, students and teachers gather to celebrate Benjamin Franklin's birthday. His many accomplishments and ideas are discussed and reflected upon, as well as why the school is named for him. This year Benjamin Franklin would be 317 years old!

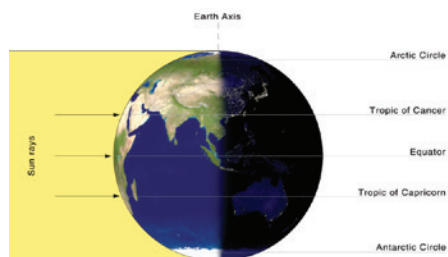
Ben Franklin Academy's STAR Student for 2023 is Pranay Pingali. Pranay excels in every subject, but she is particularly interested in mathematics and physics. She is jointly enrolled with Emory University and BFA. She is taking courses at Emory University in math and physics on the college level. Dr. Edward Ellis is her STAR Teacher. Pranay plans to major in physics in college.

# The First Day of Spring 2023 takes place on Monday, March 20

## ARE YOU READY TO SHAKE OFF WINTER AND CELEBRATE SPRING?!

This year, the Vernal Equinox takes place at 5:24pm ET on Monday, March 20.

The Vernal Equinox occurs when the sun's light is equally shining on both the North and South Hemispheres. This means neither the North Pole nor the South Pole are pointed towards the sun, and the sun's rays are directly over the equator.



On the day of the equinox, the length of day and night anywhere in the world is roughly the same. However, the true date of “equal daylight -- equal nighttime” occurs on the equinox, which takes place a few days before the Spring Equinox.

## FIRST DAY OF SPRING IN ATLANTA: WHAT TO EXPECT

The Vernal Equinox lands on Monday, March 20 this year, and the average daytime high in Atlanta on this date is 67 degrees; the average morning low is 46 degrees.

The warmest daytime high on March 20 occurred in 1907, when thermometers reached 86 degrees. The coldest morning low occurred on this date in 1923, when thermometers dropped to 17 degrees.



The average last spring freeze date for Metro Atlanta is March 23, however the latest spring freeze on record is April 25, 1910.



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# Working Inside and Out!

This month may be cold... but it could be 70 degrees most days. Surely it won't be as rainy as the 17 out of 31 drenching days of January. In February, it seemed to rain almost every Sunday and Thursday (the days of my ALTA tennis matches and split shifts. Go figure!).

No matter the weather, a gardener always begins to catch Spring fever about this time. Some plants began budding out as early as the second week of February, and that was a breath of fresh air for anybody who had concerns after that

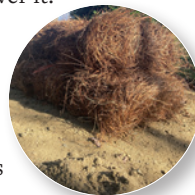
Christmas freeze. By now, cherry trees are flowering,



yellow daffodils have shown their bright faces, saucer or 'tulip' magnolias are displaying pastel flowers before they even leaf out, and yellow forsythia hedges wave 'hello' in the breeze.

The timing is right to prune woody shrubs that were bare all winter. This is easily done with sharp pruners and loppers in a matter of minutes. Things to tackle are lantana, butterfly bush, Knock Out roses, and most ornamental grasses, including liriop or 'monkey grass'. If maintaining a large area of monkey grass, raise the blade height on a mower and slowly mow over it.

Landscapes can quickly and easily be spruced up by adding fresh mulch or pine straw. Be cautious though of some scammers overinflating the number of bails of pine straw it took to cover an area. It is common practice to ask them to count the strings that came off the bails allegedly used.



Prevention is the best medicine when it comes to a healthy, lush lawn, whether it's preventing pests, diseases or weeds. Homeowners should always prioritize an application of a preemergence herbicide

at least twice per year. This granular application must be timed right so as to kill unwanted weed seeds right as they begin to germinate. Proper timing to prevent summer weeds is generally from mid-February to mid-March in our area. And to get ahead of annoying winter weeds like poa annua, an application of preemergence in late August to mid-September is just right.

So if even more rain is expected, no problem! Bring gardening efforts indoors and focus on houseplants. Just today, I breezed through the house and did three simple things for my houseplants in just 15 minutes.

1. Carefully wipe down (dust) the leaves of larger houseplants with a slightly damp rag. This allows those leaves to catch every bit of sunlight they can.
2. Water plants only if the top 1-2" of soil is dry sticking your finger in the pot. Remember to check those plastic trays beneath house plants. Don't let standing water remain there.
3. Rotate each pot. It's easy to tell when this hasn't been done because they develop a slight lean towards the sun. Usually just a half-turn of the pot will do.



Ashley Frasca is host of the radio show Green and Growing, heard on 95.5 WSB Radio every Saturday from 6-9:00 a.m. For gardening tips, information, and advice, follow her Facebook page: [Facebook.com/greenandgrowingwsb](https://www.facebook.com/greenandgrowingwsb)



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# SELLING OR PURCHASING A NEW HOME?

You hear people talk about 'termite letters' all the time. So what exactly are they talking about?

Well, a termite letter is a report that a pest control company will create after doing an inspection of a house. Some states have actual forms that this is supposed to follow by state law.

Georgia is a prime example - we have the "Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report" which is required for any home sale in the state. Without going all Georgia Tech on you, here is part of what it says.

*"The Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report shall be the written instrument for the purpose of certifying that a structure is apparently free from wood destroying organisms as a basis for transfer of real property and shall be issued only by a pest control operator certified in Wood Destroying Organisms. Such instrument shall carry a guarantee that, if an infestation of wood destroying organisms from which apparent freedom is certified, is found within ninety (90) days from date of issuance, the infested structure(s) shall be treated by the licensee, free of charge subject to the following:*

*Subterranean Termites  
Powder Post Beetles and Wood Boring Beetles  
Wood Decaying Fungi  
Dry Wood Termites..."*

If you want to read the entire rule, or get the official form, simply go to <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/> then look for **Rule 620-6-.03**. Happy reading. Write a report and have it on the teacher's desk before 2nd period on Tuesday. Or make a diorama. Be sure to use an old shoe box for the background and raisins to symbolize termites.

The termite inspection letter should disclose everything that was found by the inspector, whether the house is currently infested with termites or has been in the past, and will also usually note if any parts of the house were inaccessible for inspection.

If you are the buyer, your bank may require you to have a termite letter before you close on your house. There can be restrictions, and they may require it to have been within a certain time period before the loan closes (so they essentially "expire").

If I was the buyer I would make sure I saw that form and have any part of it that I don't understand explained to me by a third party pest control expert, just so I understand it.

One very important piece of advice: get your termite letter done in advance of the closing date.

**One more important piece of advice to the home owner, get your home checked every year for termites and/or any termite damage. It makes getting and dealing with the termite letter a whole lot easier to do.**



Grab your hammer and join the show! In Atlanta, 404.872.0750 or 1.800.972.8255. Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Dave Baker is WSB's resident

household repair and home improvement expert! He provides a multitude of tips and advice on planning, building and fixing up around the house. Follow Dave on his Facebook page: [Facebook.com/thehomefixitpage](https://www.facebook.com/thehomefixitpage)

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Windward Pest Services	404-545-1651

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Serv'all Plumbing & Rooter Service	770-917-1852
Shumate Plumbing Services	678-584-0880
<b>The Plumbers Guild</b>	404-694-5128

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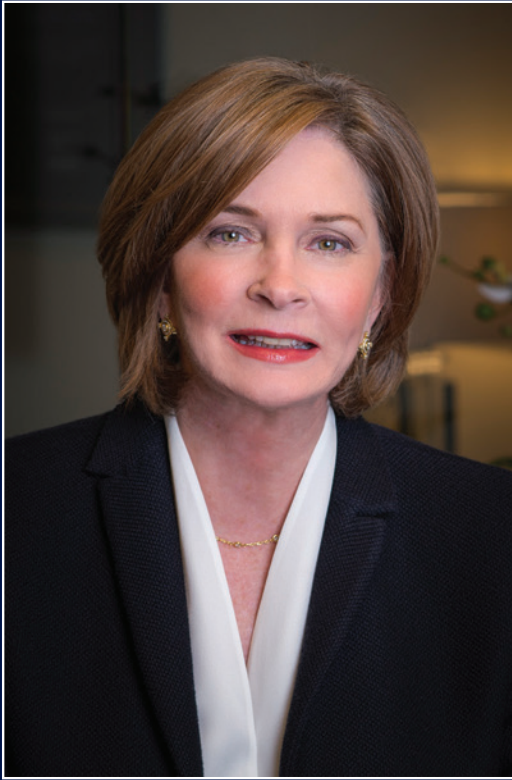
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