

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

June 2019
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In the Shadow of the Metropolitan Opera Stars

By Jennifer J. Richardson

For many years, I have volunteered to perform music in one of the houses featured on the Druid Hills Tour of Homes. For the 2019 tour, I was assigned to a home on Lullwater. Later, I received a call from Lisa Hill, owner of Lisa Hill Photography and one of the tour sponsors. Could I possibly play at the SPARK School building on Ponce de Leon as well? There was a special reason for her request. Lisa's daughter, Kyla, a music major at Berry College in Rome, was willing to sing if I would accompany her. But there was more. Kyla is the great-great granddaughter of Mary Murphy Egart, who purchased 1274 Ponce in 1948—the home now a part of the SPARK school campus. Egart turned the home into a boarding house while she lived there; before that, it was owned by the Hirsch family. Harold Hirsch, the son of one of the brothers who founded Hirsch's Men's Store, was legal counsel for the Coca Cola Company and very involved in Atlanta's classical music scene.

During the time when the Hirsch family lived in the home (in the 'teens), Atlanta held what was called Metropolitan Opera Week. Stars from New York came to Atlanta and performed operas at the old Municipal Auditorium. Since many promoters of Atlanta opera were members of the Druid Hills Golf Club, the stars were always entertained there with dances, concerts, and a barbeque. The New Yorkers also performed in lavish Druid Hills homes, with concerts followed by dancing, a reception, or dinner party. The Hirsch family was one such host. In fact, their very long living room was designed as a place for concerts and the acoustics of the room are near perfection. The Met opera stars did perform in that room on many occasions for the Hirsch family and their guests.



At the Druid Hills Tour of Homes, Kyla Hill (left) performs with Jennie Richardson (right) in the Hirsch, Egart, and SPARK School house. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Hill Photography)

So when Kyla and I set up our music stands and other equipment, we were standing not only in the shadow of Kyla's relatives, but also in the very room where the Met stars had once sung. Relatives had brought over photographs, paintings, and furniture that had been in the home when Mary Egart purchased it, or later when other relatives came to live there. The memorabilia and other items—along with the actual presence of Egart's many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren—made touring this historic home especially enchanting. Lending an authentic 1920s-30s "look" to the mansion were two restored vintage cars parked in the circular drive in front of the house, courtesy of Jimmy Jones, a Druid Hills resident and antique auto collector.

Kyla Hill performed several arias from operas and then sang some more contemporary songs, as well as Celtic music, that reflect both Kyla's and my background. As Kyla's lovely voice echoed throughout the living room, I glanced up at the painting of her great-great grandmother, which the family had placed over the fireplace mantle. I wondered what Mary Murphy Egart would think of her talented relative singing opera in her living room. I also wondered what the Hirsch family might think of two women performing opera once again in their great hall. We weren't the Metropolitan Opera stars of old but, for one shining afternoon during two concerts, we were stars of Ponce de Leon.

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COMPASS

Greetings from the President

By Kit Eisterhold

The DHCA had an outstanding Tour this April. Perfect spring weather on Saturday, with light temperatures, a light breeze, and scattered clouds, helped drive near record attendance levels at some sites.

Hundreds of people were able to walk directly from house to house on the Twittens—cleaned up and made safe just in the nick of time by John Critz at Tilting Windmill—allowing them a leisurely stroll in the shade from the antebellum columned Georgian Revival on Springdale to the Oxford house, and on to the Oakdale Art House.

All the children I talked with loved the collection of vintage cars that graced the grounds of 1274 Ponce. A steady stream of curiosity seekers made the ride next door to 1200 Ponce to see the repurposing and renovation of the Druid Hills United Methodist Church by Minerva.

When I was finally able to spare some time away from “presidenting,” I spent an hour or so on the heights behind 992 Lullwater, where the lawns of

all the adjoining properties merge together without interruption, creating a beautiful open pastoral setting framed by mature hardwoods that would have made Olmsted proud. The weather was as beautiful as I could possibly recall in my most nostalgic and bucolic childhood memories.

For the first time in at least a month, I allowed myself to take a deep breath and completely relax for a moment. I have to admit it felt pretty good. I hope everyone who was on the Tour that day got to experience the same thing. The natural beauty Ol-

msted tried to create in his landscapes was about more than simply aesthetics: it was meant to restore the soul.

It stormed on

Sunday, but the Tour endured as always, ending with a Wrap party finale at the house of yours truly. Despite a power outage, we lit many a candle and enjoyed music provided via power from a neighbor's house and about 350 feet or so of extension cord. A good time was had by all!

Many, many thanks to all the homeowners who

Many, many thanks to all the homeowners who opened up their houses to all of us over that weekend, to our Sponsors, to our Friends and Patrons, and to anyone who attended the Tour.

Continued on page 5

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS - Newspaper of the Druid Hills Civic Association

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Thanks to all our writers, especially our new ones! Consider sharing your thoughts and write for the DHCA news. Deadline for the fall issue is August 16. Submit to JJRichar@bellsouth.net.

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Division 4 (Between Briarcliff, N Decatur & Lullwater Creek): Mike St. Louis (div4chair@druidhills.org)	Division 9 (DH Golf Course, Decatur fork of Peachtree Creek & RR Lines): Steven Misner (div9chair@druidhills.org)
Division 5 (Between Peachtree Creek N Decatur & RR Lines): Renee Nelson (div5chair@druidhills.org)	

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Tony Ragunas, art enthusiast and Druid Hills resident, participating in the 2019 Olmsted Plein Air Community Paint Quick™ | Deepdene Park



2019 Student Paint Quick Award Winners with Judges. From left: Audrey Felske, Judges Award of Merit; Nancy Franke, Artist; Robert Phillbury, Salmagundi Club of NYC; Kelly Kane, Editor-in-Chief Plein Air Magazine; and Cole McCord, First Place

2019 Olmsted Plein Air Invitational: April 28 – May 5, 2019

By Geri Laufer

The 2019 Week of American Impressionist Art has come and gone and Druid Hills participated in many ways!

- The Collectors Preview Gallery Exhibition was held at Druid Hill Golf Club on March 8, which kicked off the 2019 event with neighbors, Sponsors, and FRIENDS of Olmsted Plein Air Invitational. Each Invited Master Artist presented one painting to familiarize collectors with their style.
- Certain lucky and gracious neighbors hosted invited painters into their homes, extending the legendary Atlanta hospitality to our out-of-town Master Artists.
- Deepdene Park was the location for the annual PaintQuick™, a 2-hour paint-in-the-park competition on Saturday, when 26 invited American Impressionists painted alongside 140 local enthusiasts and Paideia students.
- Paintings produced en plein air during PaintQuick™ were immediately judged (in their category) by a panel of heavyweight Judges in the world of Plein Air.
- Neighbors and the public were invited to purchase and take home their favorites.

An enchanted outdoor evening at the Smith Farm of the Atlanta History Center was the site of the Artists Welcome Party. With Druid Hill Billys band setting the mood, twilight fell and the artists' easels displayed their paintings of the day. Also, for the first time, a week-long Gallery was set up in 90,000 feet of retail space, through the sponsorship of William Word Fine Antiques on Miami Circle.

Hope you didn't miss any of these events in our neighborhood!

SAVE THE DATE!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE
6TH ANNUAL OLMSTED PLEIN AIR
ON APRIL 18-26, 2020!

The opportunities to host an Invited Artist or Judge in 2020 are limited, so please express your interest as soon as possible by emailing the 2020 Co-chairs: Kim Comstock at kocomstock@gmail.com or Jonathan Markham at jonathanmarkham@yahoo.com.



Congratulations to One of Our Scouts!

On May 2, Jack Ward—lifelong Druid Hills resident, freshman at Druid Hills High School, and Life Scout in Troup 231—was presented with Boy Scouts of America National Medal for Outdoor Achievement. This medal, which recognizes Scouts who demonstrate exceptional knowledge and experience in outdoor activities, is earned by fewer than 50 Scouts annually nationwide. Jack exceeded the requirements for this medal by camping more than 130 nights, trekking more than 300 miles, cycling more than 200 miles, and providing more than 100 hours of conservation-related service (many with the South Fork Conservancy and Druid Hills' own Friends of Burbanck Park). Jack would like to thank all his neighbors who have purchased BSA Popcorn and Camp Cards over the years, helping him fund many of these adventures!

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June 2019

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President's Column ...continued from page 3

opened up their houses to all of us over that weekend, to our Sponsors, to our Friends and Patrons, and to anyone who attended the Tour.

I'd also like to give a shout out to our Tour Committee, who are the hardest working crew in show business bar none, and who really rallied in the 11th hour to make it all happen. But most of all I'd like to thank Steven Mathias for sticking it out and pulling through all the adversity to make this one of the most successful Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens ever.

Before I forget, just a friendly reminder: The 4th of July is already around the corner, which means the DHCA is gearing up for the annual neighborhood 4th of July Parade at the corner of Oakdale and the By Way. Last year we had a Fire Truck, an honor guard, and a band playing Yankee Doodle Dandy. Hundreds joined in the parade, with kids dressing up their wagons, scooters, and bicycles with streamers, balloons, and pinwheels like miniature floats.

Please join us! It's totally informal. Like a Second Line during Mardi Gras, anyone is welcome to fall in and be a part of the parade. And there's no doubt that kids of all ages will love the watermelon, cookies, and punch afterward.

Thanks again to everyone who shows up for these events. Just by being there you add to the sense of community and of celebration, and contribute to what makes this neighborhood so special.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 4th!

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Summer at Fernbank Science Center

By Christopher Showalter

Fernbank Science Center's summer schedule began on Tuesday May 28, 2019. The center will open at 10 am daily (except Sunday). General admission to the center is free! The planetarium will have daily programs at 11 am, noon, 1, 2 and 3 pm. Admission to the planetarium is \$7 for adults, \$5 students and seniors.

Join us for two special events over the summer:

On June 29, we celebrate International Asteroid Day. The center will commemorate the 101st Anniversary of the Tunguska airburst of an asteroid above the skies of Russia. The planetarium schedule will be filled with shows about rocks from space. At 1 pm, David Gheesling from FallingRocks.com will present



a free talk about asteroids.

On July 20, the center will partner with Georgia Public Broadcasting to celebrate one of the greatest achievements in human history, the first time people set foot on a world beyond our Earth. In addition to showing the PBS series, *Chasing the Moon*, we are working on an incredibly

special lineup of planetarium programs, speakers, and visitors as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

Please stay tuned to our web site, www.fernbank.edu, for additional details as they become available.

Come Play and Learn at Fernbank Museum

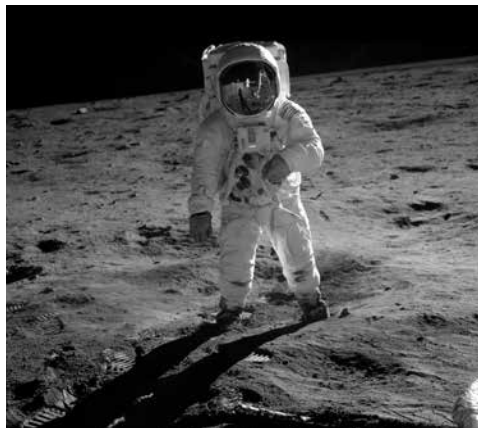
By Jessica Shock

Summer is just around the corner and Fernbank Museum is launching new events, exhibits, and movies to entertain the whole family looking for a satisfying stay-cation.

Visitors can relax in the Giant Screen Theater and enjoy superhero-narrated films including *Great Bear Rainforest 3D* with Ryan Reynolds (*Deadpool*) and *Superpower Dogs 3D* with Chris Evans (*Captain America, Avengers*). Reynolds lends his voice to *Great Bear Rainforest*, a new 3D movie documenting Canada's largest temperate, coastal rainforest including views of salmon river valleys, ice-capped peaks, coastal wolves, and the fabled all-white Spirit Bear. In *Superpower Dogs*, Evans introduces viewers to six remarkable dogs and their life-saving day jobs requiring incredible feats like searching for survivors of earthquakes and avalanches, protecting endangered species, and transforming the lives of people with special needs. And rediscover the superhero feats of the first astronauts to walk on the moon in the documentary *Apollo 11: First Steps*, released in celebration of the 50th anniversary of NASA's moon landing.

For those looking for some REEL big adventures, Fernbank's newest special exhibit *Monster Fish: In Search of the Last River Giants* invites guests to dive beneath the surface of the world's rivers and explore the rare fish that Dr. Zeb Hogan has studied in the popular Nat Geo WILD show, "Monster Fish." Learn about the local culture surrounding more than 20 species, their habitats, and the people who rely on them with videos, interactives, and life-sized models.

Outside, WildWoods has been overtaken by David Rogers' Big Bugs outdoor installation (on view until July 21). See how many of these massive wooden sculptures you can find depicting the often-unseen



Buzz Aldrin walking on the moon in 1969



A sample of the Big Bugs!

animals who play important roles in our ecosystems like the ant, praying mantis, and daddy long legs.

During any visit to Fernbank, families have plenty to discover through multiple children's exhibits, including Adventure Outpost and Nature Stories in WildWoods, and NatureQuest inside the museum.

Fernbank also features adults-only programming on select Friday nights, giving guests ages 21 and older new ways to enjoy the museum after hours. Visit FernbankMuseum.org for tickets and more information.

Events

Dog Days of Summer (all ages)

June 2, 6pm-9pm

Monster Fish Opening Day (all ages)

June 8, 10am-1pm

Fernbank After Dark (ages 21+)

June 14, July 12 and August 9, 7pm-11pm

Adult Summer Camp (21+)

June 21, 7pm-11pm

Sensory Morning (all ages)

June 29, 9am

Reptile Day (all ages)

July 13, 10am-1pm

Double Feature: Monster Fish and Jaws (ages 21+)

July 19, 7pm-11pm

Moon Landing Celebration (all ages)

July 20, 10am-1pm

Dinosaur Birthday Bash (all ages)

August 17, 10am-1pm



Jazz in the Neighborhood

By Andrew Keenan

As Atlanta's traffic gets worse every day, it's nice to know there are fun cultural events right here in our neighborhood. Callanwolde has been hosting Jazz on the Lawn for many years. Although there have been improvements along the way, this year marks the first time the concerts will be held in the fall when the weather is more comfortable.

Experiencing jazz in Callanwolde's park-like setting is very relaxing and beautiful. Carved out of a hill, the venue holds 450 people. Everyone has a good view of the stage, whether down front at a table or up the hill on lawn chairs and blankets. This year, extra seating will be available under giant magnolias.

If the thought of carrying your own chairs and blankets does not appeal, VIP tables close to the stage can be reserved. Concert goers may bring their own picnic dinners and adult beverages. Food is also available for sale, courtesy of a generous donation from Fox Bros. Bar-B-Q. Wine, beer, and soft drinks can be purchased onsite as well.

Joe Gransden's Big Band, with special guest Robin Latimore, kick off the season on August 23. Eddie Lopez & Orquesta MaCuba, voted best Salsa band in Atlanta, performs September 6. The legendary Bob Baldwin and his band are scheduled for September 20. Iconic contemporary jazz trumpet player, Joey "Papa J" Summerville, performs October 4. Joe Gransden's Big Band closes out the season on October 11, with the amazing Francine Reed.

Ticket proceeds help Callanwolde offer high quality art classes, financial aid, and restoration of the Callanwolde estate. Support from Fidelity Bank, Epps Aviation, and Holland & Knight offset the cost of each performance. Tickets are available at Callanwolde.org.

Druid Hills Parent Network Update

By Emily Webb

The Druid Hills Parent Network hosted a St. Patrick's Day Treasure Hunt at Princeton Way Park in March. Children hunted for gold doubloons and beads hidden by leprechauns and enjoyed the pizza lunch provided by the Druid Hills Civic Association. The casual outdoor event was a great way to welcome the spring season and explore one of the parks in the neighborhood.

We also hosted a lemonade stand during the Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens. Tour goers were able to learn about the Parent Network while quenching their thirst with lemonade, also compliments of the Druid Hills Civic Association.

We are exploring options and gathering ideas for casual summer meet-ups on weekdays at locations such as the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Zoo Atlanta, Fernbank Museum of Natural History and more. If you are interested in attending these meet-ups, please sign up for our distribution list by emailing: parents@druidhills.org.



*Sadie and Franny Hughes
offering free lemonade*

Druid Hills History Is Coming

By Jennifer J. Richardson

My fellow author, Sue Sullivan, and I expect our Arcadia book *Druid Hills* to be released at the end of July 2019. Now that it's almost here, we have time to reflect on the long journey (over one year) toward publication. To start, Sue and I didn't even know each other before this project. I'd heard rumors about her—that she was a person passionately interested in history, an excellent researcher, and willing to contact longtime residents for interviews. We hit it off immediately and began interviewing residents, collecting photos, and sorting through my own archive of material that I'd collected through the years. We branched out to research in the Atlanta and DeKalb History centers and the Rose Library at Emory. Sue began seeking older residents, in person in the neighborhood and on the internet, and started her Druid Hills History web site. Soon, all sorts of tips, stories, and photos were pouring in. Meanwhile, I perused the internet and eBay in particular for old pictures and newspaper articles about Druid Hills. I had the advantage of having lived here most of my life and of having an excellent memory. While Sue researched, collected pictures, and completed oral history interviews, I began to write.

There were long days of planning, searching, and researching. There were tiring days of sorting. How do you decide which picture to put into a book, and which equally interesting picture to leave out? It's a long process and even at the end, you may change your mind. Every fact had to be checked and verified. There were late hours when my devoted husband brought take-out Chinese or pizza so we could eat while working. There was a mad dash at the time of each publication deadline, when—frantic, exhausted, and nearly brain-dead—we crossed the finish line with only minutes to spare.

Somewhere in the midst of writing and collecting, Sue and I became great friends. Perhaps that is the biggest gift that has come from this collaboration.



An exhausted Jennie (left) and Sue (right) work on the *Druid Hills* history book at Jennie's dining table.

Right now, we're in the process of booking lectures and book signings. Lectures are typically one hour in length, but can be adjusted to what your group wants. We only ask that you allow us to sell our book to those in your group who wish to purchase it. You can contact me (at JJRichar@bellsouth.net) or Sue (at her Facebook Page, *Druid Hills History*, suesullivan@kw.com, or 404-786-1039) to schedule us to speak to your group. Use the same contacts to let us know if you wish to be interviewed for the next volume of the story or allow us to copy your old photos and documents.

We regret that we couldn't include every story and every photo in the book, so if your favorite memory isn't included in this edition, look for it in the next. This was a labor of love and a present to you: our neighbors in Druid Hills. We hope you enjoy seeing *Druid Hills*, through the eyes of Sue and Jennie.

Artifacts of Druid Hills

This cedar presentation box once contained chocolate, nut and fruit candy made by the Norris Candy Company. Norris was owned by the two Lowenstein brothers, who both lived on South Ponce de Leon. The candy was made downtown in a building designed by Pringle and Smith known as the "Norris Building." The brothers lived in the former Boy Choir House, and in the Tudor Revival house now owned by Paideia School. Both homes were also designed by Pringle and Smith. After the Norris brothers died, the company was sold several times, the last time to New England Confectionary Co. (NECCO), maker of NECCO wafers, Valentine Conservation Hearts, and Mary Janes. Unfortunately, NECCO has ceased operating.



FLOCK Surveillance Cameras

By Anne Wallace

Would you and your neighbors like more FLOCK Cameras installed throughout Druid Hills?

Division 1 has had 11 cameras installed since October 2018. DHCA is considering matching funds if neighbors want to contribute and get cameras for their street.

One feature added recently to FLOCK is the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) "Hot List" of tag numbers wanted in connection with criminal activity. A kidnapped baby was reunited with parents because of a "hit" by a FLOCK camera of the license plate on the vehicle involved.

DeKalb Police and FLOCK are negotiating a similar surveillance agreement. Once that has been signed, the police will be able to receive real time alerts if wanted vehicles are captured by any DHCA FLOCK cameras.

Please email me at awallace@tloffices.com to share your opinions and let me know if you are willing to participate with a group to make this happen.



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Druid Hills Street Sign Cleanup and Repair Campaign

By *Thea Roeser, DHCA Public Safety Committee Chair, and Ellen Meshnick, Druid Hills Neighborhood Watch Leader*

Last year the Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA) reinstated the Neighborhood Watch program. Ellen Meshnick, the Neighborhood Watch Leader, has been very successful in getting street captains on board (31) and is still continuing to add streets. Once a street has joined Neighborhood Watch and has a street captain in place, the DHCA Public Safety Committee places a new black and yellow Neighborhood Watch sign on their street. It was during this process of installing the Neighborhood Watch signs that we began to notice many other street signs hidden by foliage or in need of repair, cleaning, or replacement.

We decided to come up with a plan that would make it easier for both DeKalb County and the City of Atlanta to maintain the signs in our community. The first step was a pilot program covering Cornell Road, Harvard Road, Emory Road, and the short side of Springdale Road.

The Neighborhood Watch street captains notified the residents on these streets that DHCA committee members, joined by a Cornell resident (Kelley Granish), would be doing a sign repair survey on April 27. We spent part of that Saturday morning surveying these four streets noting and photographing which signs needed to be repaired, replaced, or removed and which needed foliage trimmed for better viewing. The gathered data and photo file was sent to DeKalb County Engineering and Traffic Department, since the streets in the pilot are located in DeKalb County.

Typically, DeKalb County and City of Atlanta are very good about quickly replacing or repairing signs that pose a real safety risk for drivers or pedestrians, like stop signs, pedestrian crossing signs and so forth. However, parking signs and other signs that are not high level safety risks do not get replaced as often and seem to be in need of repair or just a good cleaning.

During this pilot program, the DHCA Public Safety Committee will work directly with DeKalb County. We hope to make it easier for them to maintain our signs by giving them a list of streets with photos of signs that need to be repaired. If the pilot program is successful, we will survey other streets in our community, a few at a time, and send the information over to DeKalb County or City of Atlanta.

Do you find that your street signs
are dusty and gray?
Use some elbow grease, go
out and clean them today!
If one's faded beyond
recognition to all,
Please request a replacement and we will install.



© 2019 Ellen Meshnick

Druid Hills residents can help with this campaign by checking the signs located near their property. Cut back any foliage that might block the signs. If a sign is dirty, consider giving it a good wipe down. One community resident, Victor Gerhardstein, occasionally goes out into the community and cleans street signs. He uses a product called KRUD KUTTER House and Siding wash, which he dilutes with water 1:1. If you see a damaged sign that poses a real safety risk, please contact the DHCA Public Safety committee: druidhills.org/DHCA-SAFETY.



Captain Tony Singh, Druid Hills Patrol
Officer-In-Charge

Druid Hills Patrol: *Visible Force in the Neighborhood*

Druid Hills Patrol (DHP) continues to deter crime in the neighborhood. Captain Tony Singh, DHP's officer-in-charge, recently stated the following, "DeKalb Police Department and Atlanta Police Department have found that during this season there is a rise in petty crime and here are some things you can do to avoid becoming a victim: Tell your lawn services/landscapers/contractors to not leave any tools unattended and also to not leave keys on the floorboard of their vehicles. If you are expecting a delivery, please have specific instructions as to where they leave it.

Follow the clean car campaign. Tell your guests and family members to not leave ANY bags in the car."

Comprised of DeKalb and Atlanta police officers, DHP monitors our homes day and night. They offer home security assessments and vacation patrols to DHP members, along with being a resource in an emergency. Join today and your annual membership will be pro-rated. Go to www.druidhillspatrol.org to find out more or email admin@druidhillspatrol.org.

Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens Recap

By *Emily Webb*

The 51st Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens was an unequivocal success! On the heels of last year's 50th anniversary extravaganza with 11 featured homes and gardens and a full weekend of special programming, the planning committee was feeling some fatigue. Thanks to our determined and dynamic team, the 2019 tour went off without a hitch.

A total of 12 homeowners, 39 sponsors, 22 friends and patrons, 9 house managers, and 230 docents all pulled together to execute the 2019 Tour of Homes and Gardens. A highlight for many of the more than 900 tourgoers was the walkability of this year's tour—particularly the homes situated near the center twitten paths on Oakdale, Oxford, and Springdale. The twittens were the stars of the weekend!

Additionally, this year's tour marked one of the highest net profits ever recorded since the tour began in 1968. This revenue enables the Druid Hills Civic

Association to support and preserve our unique neighborhood. The tour committee is sincerely grateful for all of our friends and neighbors who sponsored the tour, volunteered their time, and brought their friends and family to experience Druid Hills and celebrate that 'history happens here'! Your patronage is greatly appreciated.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE 2020 TOUR COMMITTEE?

If so, please contact tour@druidhills.org.



Rebecca Verlander, whose family lives on Springdale, is modeling a dress provided from the collection of our very own Jennie Richardson. Car is a 1942 Packard 180 Limousine, owned by Jimmy Jones - a Druid Hills resident. Photo courtesy of Lisa Hill Photography

School News

Fernbank Elementary School

We had a wonderful year at Fernbank Elementary, filled with lots of learning and fun. As the year comes to an end, we are saying goodbye to our classmates who were temporarily redistricted from Montclair Elementary (to relieve overcrowding while a new elementary school was being built). We wish them all the best as they return to the Cross Keys cluster.



Fernbank students sorting waste into appropriate bins



Lunch remains ready to be composted and used in community gardens

ter. Although we are sad to say goodbye, we are also looking forward to welcoming many students from our own Druid Hills cluster, specifically from Laurel Ridge, Briar Vista, and McLendon elementary schools. Our cluster's boundary lines were redrawn to relieve overcrowding in these sister schools, while giving Fernbank a more permanent student population that will feed into Druid Hills Middle and High Schools. We have started welcoming these families

to Fernbank by hosting several school tours, a family open house, and a meet and greet playdate. Several redistricted parents have already agreed to take on leadership roles within our parent volunteer organizations. We are looking forward to building an even stronger school community with them!

We would also like to share one of our most exciting accomplishments of the year, thanks to Fernbank's Sustainability Initiative: *the complete overhaul of our cafeteria's waste line to eliminate styrofoam and single-use plastic, and to save unopened, uneaten food!* **Since our program's implementation, Fernbank has diverted over 25,000 pounds of food waste from the landfill and created over 2,500 pounds of healthy compost soil to be used in community gardens!**

It all started in 2015, with two moms having lunch with their children at the school. They observed a lot of trash and wondered: Where did it come from? How much waste was there? What could be done? Their first step was to create a recycling program with blue bins in every classroom. They then shared their observations—and a little frustration—with a few other moms and formed an official school committee. By 2018, six parents had formed the *Fernbank Sustainability Initiative* to raise awareness about resource responsibility across the school and community. Priorities were to: expand and enrich the school garden; create a responsible school supply recycling program; and eliminate Styrofoam from the cafeteria. The Styrofoam priority especially resonated with two moms who used waste audits and visuals to craft a proposal to the DeKalb County School District Nutrition department for a pilot sustainable cafeteria program. By demonstrating commitment, measures of success, and a credible plan, Fernbank was granted permission to pilot reusable silverware, compostable trays, and a composting service. The program launched in September 2019 with the support of the District, the administration, the cafeteria and janitorial staff, and many parents “working the waste line.” **The environmental impact is equivalent to NOT driving 138,000 miles!**

We have hosted over 15 tours of the waste line, including by other students looking to make a pitch to their own Districts or Administration. The Fernbank 5th Grade is using the program as their IB project to support other schools looking to launch a sustainable cafeteria program. Additionally, Fernbank is reducing single use plastics across school events; has installed a water refill station in the cafeteria for students to use their own reusable water bottles; AND will be receiving “No Idling” signs to encourage car-

poolers to avoid idling and improve air quality. The committee is also sharing best practices with other parents and schools and influencing positive change through the Atlanta Area Schools Sustainability Initiative. Ultimately, we hope our collective focus on sustainability and wellness will facilitate a culture shift within our school systems city-wide.

Paideia

Music Students Named to Youth Orchestras and Band. Paideia students have been selected to join the following local orchestras, chamber music programs and jazz orchestras: the Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Decatur and Atlanta, the Franklin Pond Chamber Music Program, the Emory University Vega String Quartet chamber music program, the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Rialto Youth Jazz Orchestra Combo, the Emory Youth Orchestra, and the All-State Band.

Environmental Poetry and Art Contest. Six Paideia students in the junior high and high school have received awards from the 2019 River of Words Environmental Art & Poetry Project contest in the state of Georgia. Elementary student Alex Huynh won one of the four National Grand Prizes for the contest, which promotes conservation.

Odyssey of the Mind. Three teams of elementary and junior high students will compete in World Finals of the Odyssey of the Mind, an international creative problem solving competition. The three teams competed in the State finals to advance to World Finals.

Academic and Fine Arts Achievements. High school students were recognized for academic and fine arts achievements, including UGA Certificates of Merit: Christina Aaron, Ellie Bond, Jordan Leslie, Charlotte Lewis, Mimi Wanamaker, and Anna Zheng. Anna Zheng was recognized by the Governor's Honors program for communicative arts and Ben Grooms for dance.

Students won first, second, and honorable mention awards at the 28th Annual Georgia Photography Awards and Exhibition presented by Atlanta Celebrates Photography.

Athletic Signers. Kai Carter signed to play basketball at the University of North Carolina at Asheville; Nora Lee Sampson signed to play soccer at Furman University; and Olivier Merlin-Zhang signed to play soccer at Davidson College.

School News ...continued from page 12

Druid Hills High School

As the 2018-2019 school year comes to a close, Druid Hills High School is finishing up strong with some remarkable student achievements.

Juniors Amelia Benjamin (french), Daniel Lee (engineering), Ted Shepherd (math) and Indira White (art) received Governors Honors. Three will be attending summer programs at Berry College, while Ted Shepherd will be in Moscow for a language and culture immersion program sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

The Class of 2019 has numerous Hope & Zell Scholars and over 100 academic and athletic scholarships. They will be attending some very impressive colleges next fall, as close as Georgia and as far as Dublin!

- Matthew Dacey-Koo and Carter Rathur are Georgia Scholars.
- Emmanuel Zelalem received the Posse Scholarship to George Washington.
- Cai Castillo received the UNC Chapel Hill Carolina Covenant Scholarship.
- Matthew Dacey-Koo is a PAGE (Professional Association of GA Educators) STAR State Finalist.
- Dylan Henderson received the Georgia State Presidential Scholarship and will be studying for a year in Morocco.

Our sports teams accomplished great feats this spring as well.



Druid Hills High School Ultimate Team

Ultimate: Placed third in the State competition. Co-Captains Isaac Huntington and Matthew Dacey-Koo, along with their teammate Carter Rathur, will be playing on the all-star team representing Atlanta at the National Youth Club Championships tournament in Minnesota in August.



BFA Philanthropy Club visit to CHOA. L to R: Dameron Black; Edward Ellis; Kate Vondrak; and Marianna Richman

Cross Country: Boys and Girls are team Region Champions. Carter Rathur is an individual Region Champion.

Track: Boys team placed 3rd in the region, Girls were Region Runner Up. Four students were Region Champs in their category: Carter Rathur, Siddhartha Narker, Asena Anderson, and Genevieve Ferrara.

Girls Basketball: The team qualified for State playoffs, first time in 15 years! Kyia Craft got All State Honorable Mention.

Varsity Boys Soccer: Coaches Thomas Bodnar and Josh Bagriansky led the team in a tremendous season. They advanced to the Final 4 of the GHSA State Tournament and bowed out after playing a 0-0 match against #1 undefeated Upson-Lee (decided by penalty kicks after 95 minutes). Nate Jackson made it to the All State Team.

Overall another great year at this amazing High School. Thanks to the families, faculty, administration, alumni, and community who have supported Druid Hills High School. See you all again in the fall!

Ben Franklin Academy

Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) celebrated its 32nd graduating class with a ceremony at Glenn Memorial Chapel, on the campus of Emory University. David Moore, Executive Director at Historic Oakland Foundation, was the commencement speaker.

The BFA Philanthropy Club recently visited Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA). BFA students

assembled and donated 36 care packages of onesies, bibs, socks, diapers, and blankets for babies who arrive at CHOA with life-threatening conditions and whose families haven't had time to worry about packing extra clothing. The club is working to create additional care packages to deliver before the end of the school year.



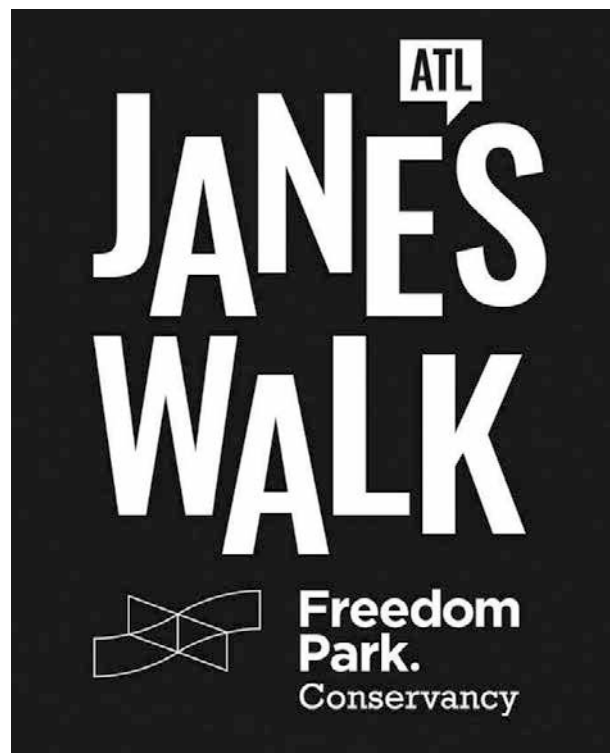
Awards reception at 5th Congressional District Art Show and Competition. Left to right: Katy Stallfus; Anna Taite Murphy; Cole Pinado; and Robin Olson

Two Ben Franklin students, Cole Pinado (senior) and Anna Taite Murphy (junior), were selected to be a part of the 5th Congressional District Art Show and Competition. Their art hung in the education wing of the High Museum of Art through the end of May, and the students will be considered for scholarship opportunities. Congressman John Lewis hosted the awards reception.

To learn more about Ben Franklin Academy, please visit our website at <http://www.benfranklinacademy.org> or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BenFranklinAcademyATL/>.



Freedom Park Conservancy Board Fundraising Chair Naka Nathaniel and Cub Scout Pack 586 conducted an Urban Hike through Freedom Park and picked up litter along the way!



Jane's Walk Atlanta

On May 3-5, over 200 Atlanta residents and visitors attended free walking conversations and other activities around the city in honor of famed urban activist Jane Jacobs. Jane's Walks occur in hundreds of cities around the world on this same weekend. Freedom Park Conservancy was excited and honored to be Atlanta's first City Organizer of Jane's Walk. The intent is to "encourage people to share stories about their neighborhoods, discover unseen aspects of their communities, and use walking as a way to connect with their neighbours." We look forward to continuing this amazing cultural initiative as an annual event and hope to see you next year! For more information on Jane's Walk, please visit our website at www.freedompark.org or www.janeswalkatlanta.com.

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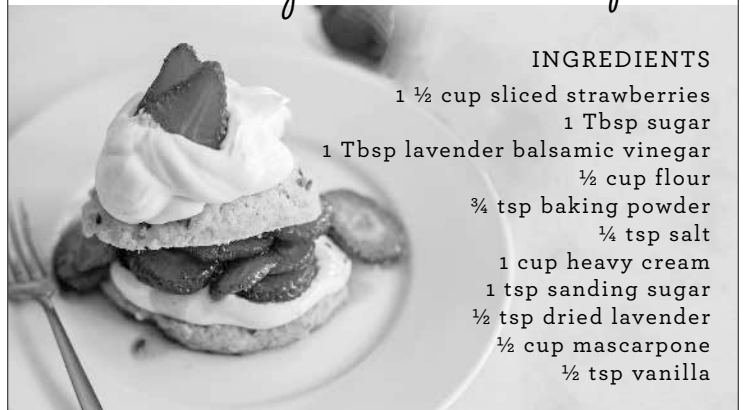
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GARNISH & GATHER'S *strawberry shortcake recipe*



INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cup sliced strawberries
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp lavender balsamic vinegar
- ½ cup flour
- ¾ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tsp sanding sugar
- ½ tsp dried lavender
- ½ cup mascarpone
- ½ tsp vanilla

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 400°
- Toss strawberries with sugar & lavender balsamic
- In a bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, salt & half of cream until just combined
- Drop onto a lightly greased baking sheet to make two shortcakes & sprinkle with sanding sugar & lavender
- Bake for 20-22 min, until lightly browned
- Combine mascarpone, vanilla & remaining cream in a medium bowl & whisk or beat until soft peaks form
- Split shortcakes, then divide strawberries & whipped mascarpone cream between bottom halves & top with other halves of shortcake. Enjoy!

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Paideia Interns Working in the Olmsted Linear Park

By Sandy Kruger

This past January, Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) welcomed the opportunity to work with three dedicated Paideia interns in Deepdene and Virgilee. Their assigned tasks were to clear out invasive plants and learn how much effort goes into taking care of a park in their community. They braved 30-degree weather and did not complain once. A lot of sweat equity went into their efforts and the areas they worked in look phenomenal. Walter Bland of Rock Spring Restorations was on hand to teach them about invasive plants and why native plants are essential to a healthy forest. They learned about the bio-diversity of the forest and the species of trees thriving throughout. Here is a reflection from one of the students, Leo Zamora.

What I Learned

During my time as an intern for the Atlanta Olmsted Linear Park, I learned many things. First and foremost, I acquired an appreciation for well-maintained natural spaces. Just yesterday, I strolled through a poorly-maintained park with my father and realized how lucky the residents living close to the Olmsted Linear Park are. I would find myself thinking "somebody should really take care of the ivy crawling up the trees" and "I can't believe how much Chinese Holly there is in this park" during the stroll. After uprooting countless English Ivy vines in Deepdene and mulching a substantial amount of trees in Shadyside and Dellwood, I have truly gained an appreciation for the arduous work the staff does every day to maintain the parks. Not only did I learn the value of a well-kept

park, but I also acquired an extensive knowledge about Olmsted Linear Park's wildlife and history with the help of the park staff. Walter, a wildlife expert, provided my fellow interns/classmates and me a wealth of knowledge about the plant and animal species residing in Deepdene. In addition to Walter, Sandy, our supervisor, gave us an understanding of the park's history and provided good leadership for us as we rid portions of the parks of their invasive species. Lastly, Matt, Augusto, and Doug gave us good conversation, but more importantly, led by example when approaching arduous tasks. All-in-all, I thoroughly enjoyed interning at the Olmsted Linear Park this short-term despite the cold mornings and countless pairs of socks I ruined from mud getting in my boots.



Today, we have eight more interns working in the pastoral parks, clearing out weeds and mulching. If you see them working, please offer your appreciation!

Olmsted 2022

The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) is promoting Olmsted 2022 – The Legacy in conjunction with national, regional, and local participants. In the coming months, NAOP and others will begin to envision and plan for the bicentennial recognition of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth and the people, places, archives, and professions linked by the Olmsted firm's extensive legacy of design and planning in shaping the American landscape. (Visit the NAOP website for more detail: <http://www.olmsted.org/>)

The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance will be working with its National and local partners to host events in Atlanta that showcase Olmsted's Legacy. Stay tuned for more details. If you are interested in participating, please email Sandy Kruger at atlantaolmstedpark@gmail.com.



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CONDOLENCES

Former Druid Hills Civic Association President and Emory Law Professor Gary Smith has died. A tribute to Gary's life and work will appear in the next DHCA news.

Outdoor News from Frazer

By Dina Shadwell

Summer is a great time to take advantage of the shade of the Frazer Forest canopy. Soon, people who use wheelchairs will be able to access the forest and all of its benefits as well. The Frazer Center is working towards the creation of an accessible outdoor pavilion that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Visitors to the forest will have free access to the pavilion, which will also serve as an outdoor classroom for both Frazer's Child Development Program and Adult Program.

The pavilion will be named after two gentlemen who were recently honored at Gather in the Gardens, Frazer's annual fundraiser. George Atkins and the late Walt Moeling were often referred to as the right and left hand of co-founder Rebecca Frazer. They both served as Chair of Frazer's board, and their support of the Center continued over the course of five decades through many phases of Frazer's growth. Of the \$90,000 that was raised at Gather in the Gardens, \$22,000 is earmarked for the pavilion.

Lake Claire neighbor Carol Holliday says, "Being in a wheelchair often means that your view into nature is limited to parks and gardens that have been created with accessibility in mind and thus, while beautiful, are not nature in its natural form. It is not often that we have the opportunity to view an old-growth forest. Frazer Center has made an amazing commitment—to create access points into Frazer Forest while ensuring we maintain the delicate balance required to protect this very fine old growth forest. This is an amazing opportunity for Frazer Center clients—and for others since the Frazer Center has been so generous in



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opening their grounds."

Beyond the forest, Frazer has formed a Garden Advisory Committee in an effort to find ways of collaborating with other "green" organizations. With experts from Woodlands Garden, Fernbank, Olmsted Linear Park, Trees Atlanta, Lullwater Conservation Garden, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House, North Georgia Camellia Society, as well as several master gardeners, the committee is exploring ways to better leverage community resources and greenspaces, especially along the Ponce corridor.

This initiative has already created some collaborative opportunities, such as the recent international City Nature Challenge led by Fernbank in partnership with Frazer and many other local organizations. And while Ponce neighbor Woodlands Garden is under renovation, their volunteer team is hitting the road to help out other community organizations, including Frazer, until Woodlands reopens in the fall.

Frazer is fortunate to be part of a community that is committed to nurturing local greenspaces. Druid Hills neighbors are invited to be a part of that mission by signing up for the next Frazer Forest Stewardship Walk with Master Naturalist Kathryn Kolb of Eco-Addendum on Saturday, July 27, where you'll learn about tree species, "indicator" species, and how to "read" the forest in any season.

Visit www.frazercenter.org and join our Frazer Forest email list to stay updated on events and news. See you in the forest!



Frazer Center is committed to ensuring free access to the forest for all children and adults.

Lullwater Garden Club Elects New Officers

By Jennifer J. Richardson

The Lullwater Garden Club held its annual banquet and installation of new officers in the Bobby Jones Room at the East Lake Golf Club on May 15, 2019. Officers for the next two years will be: Connie Weimar, President; Kim Storbeck and Jennie Richardson, First Vice Presidents (Fundraising); Bobbie Cleveland, Second Vice President (Programs); Nan Loftis, Third Vice President (DeKalb Federation); Susan Forte, Conservation Garden Chair; Susan Peterson, Recording Secretary; Sally Clark, Social Secretary; Tricia Elam, Treasurer; Heather Ewing, Parliamentarian; and Becca Bracewell, Auditor. Congratulations to all our new officers!

Outgoing President Heather Ewing was presented with a turned wooden bowl made from a tree that fell in the Conservation Garden, and a watercolor painting of the formal entrance of the Conservation Garden painted by member Vivian Moody.



The Garden Club takes the summer off and meetings will resume in September. Until then, members suggest the following outdoor excursions around Druid Hills:



1. Take a walk through the Lullwater Conservation Garden located between Lullwater Road and Lullwater Parkway.
2. Stroll through the Cator Woolford Gardens located at 1815 South Ponce de Leon.
3. Walk the entire Olmsted Linear Park. Start in Springdale at Moreland/Ponce and go all the way to Deepdene.
4. Check out the interior "pocket parks" on Westminster Way and Princeton Way in Emory Grove.
5. Investigate Emory's Hahn Woods located on Houston Mill Road.
6. Enjoy two newer parks and one older one: Burbank Park at the intersection of Clifton and South Oxford, and Rutledge Park at 1812 Ridgewood Drive; and Heaton Park Bird Sanctuary on Heaton Park Drive.



These are just a few walks that will keep you in touch with nature this summer. For more outdoor activities, look into Southfork trails, Lullwater Preserve, and Freedom Park Path.

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