



THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

Brought to You by The Druid Hills Civic Association

December 2023

Volume 38 | Number 4

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Birds of Druid Hills

By Linda DiSantis

We often celebrate our Druid Hills neighborhood for its abundance of trees. The canopy provides so much – beauty, shade, cooling. A terrific additional bonus is birds! The abundance of avian friends throughout Druid Hills is a treasure that we don't always take the time to appreciate as we should.

We are blessed with a wide variety of raptors hunting from the trees of Druid Hills. Almost any day, you may encounter a Red-shouldered Hawk with its distinctive “checkerboard” wings; or a Red-tailed Hawk with its red tail (of course). In addition, Cooper’s Hawks, and perhaps an occasional Sharp-shinned Hawk, much smaller raptors, can be seen hunting through the trees. One of these hawks’ favorite foods is songbirds. While you see Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks swooping down to snare a squirrel, chipmunk, mouse or vole, you may encounter a Cooper’s or Sharp-shinned hanging around in a tree near your birdfeeder looking for lunch. In addition, we have many Barred Owls (“Who cooks for you?”) and an occasional Great Horned Owl (“Who, Who”). Seeing any one of these big birds is an awe-inspiring event that will stop you in your tracks.

In addition to the big birds that are easy to spot and identify, we are blessed with so many others. If you take time to look, you will regularly see Northern Cardinals, American Goldfinches, House Finches, Carolina Wrens, White-breasted Nuthatches, Downy Woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and Eastern Bluebirds (to name a few). These birds are around all year and are a special blessing during the short, dark days of winter.

The passing migrants in the spring and fall will delight. Seeing a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the feeder is magical. Many warblers pass through our area during migration, challenging us to look in the trees (and occasionally at the feeder) for these little ones on their long journey north.

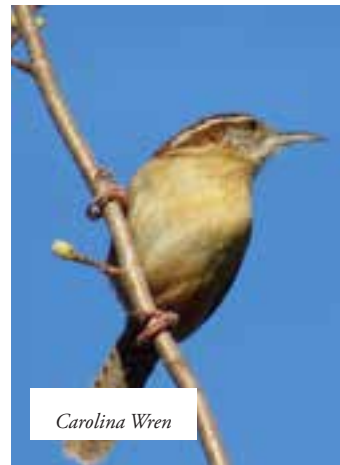
I have been interested in birds for a long time, but in 2012 decided to get a bit more serious about my birdwatching. I signed up to take the Atlanta Audubon (now Georgia Audubon) Master Birder class. It was a life-changing experience. When you learn to focus on habitat, behavior, sound and seasons, you learn there is much more than size and color to identify birds and to enjoy them. My joy of birding was born (or maybe enhanced), and I have been striving to learn more about birds ever since. My husband, Bob Kerr, and I travel to many places to see birds, but living among the birds of Druid Hills is a joy that I can experience every day when home.

There are many more birds I could highlight, but my space is limited. I hope this little taste of what is living around us in Druid Hills will inspire you to pay a bit more attention to these avian residents and visitors to our neighborhood; and to be inspired to help protect what makes Druid Hills a special habitat for them.

On a side note, Georgia Audubon officially changed its name to Birds Georgia in November 2023 to better represent the work that it does, to embody its organizational values and to be welcoming and inclusive to all Georgians.



Red-shouldered Hawk



Carolina Wren



Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Linda's Feeder



Fledgling Bluebird



American Goldfinch at Hummingbird Feeder

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Chair's Corner

By DHCA Chair, Van Biesel



Wondering why you should become a member of the Druid Hills Civic Association? I'd like to share a few reasons.

The DHCA continually strives, through our Board and its committees, our members, and other volunteers from the community, to:

- Keep abreast of events, developments, and laws which affect Druid Hills residents.
- Communicate with residents to keep them informed. We do this through this publication, our eNewsletter, on our website at druidhills.org, and even by knocking on doors to share important information.
- Listen to residents to help us understand the needs and priorities of the community.
- Advocate for the residents of Druid Hills to the best of our ability.
- Foster community through gatherings at walks, service events, and festivals.
- Help residents improve their properties and neighborhoods through DHCA programs like "Sidewalk Strides" and "Adopt a Road Triangle."
- Follow us on Instagram: druid_hills_civic_association and Facebook: Druid Hills Civic Association

DHCA membership is only \$50 per family. You can learn more about what we do at druidhills.org. Please join today!

STAY INFORMED!

Don't miss important information about neighborhood events and community concerns. Subscribe to DHCA's monthly e-newsletter at:

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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.

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:

MARCH 2024

DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 10

JUNE 2024

DEADLINE - MAY 10

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and Gary Tapp.



Troop 18 Scoutmaster Trey Palmer with new Eagle Scouts (left to right) Adam Lisi, Colin Ellis, Daniel Luo, and Josh Whitehead

Scout Troops Going Strong

By Trey Palmer, Scout Troop 18 Leader

Troop 18 first formed as an independent troop and has been continuously chartered since May 18, 1920. In 1926, Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church took on the charter of the Troop and in 1935, the church established Cub Scout Pack 6. Over their 103 and 88 years, respectively, these beloved scouting units have guided thousands of boys in service, skills development and outdoor adventure. In 2018, girls joined the boys in Cub Scout Pack 6, making official what had often been unofficial – scouting as a whole family experience. With Glenn as the spiritual and physical base for Troop 18 and Pack 6, Druid Hills and Emory have rounded out the nucleus of these scouting units which now also draw from Decatur, North Decatur, and Atlanta.


Troop 18 engages scouts in a wide variety of activities such as camping, hiking, boating and canoeing, skiing, and biking. The Troop takes 10 camping trips a year in which scouts practice life and leadership skills and teambuilding. Every other year, scouts can participate in High Adventure trips such as canoeing at Northern Tier, hiking at Philmont, or sailing at Sea Base. Scouts also give back to their community through service projects such as creek clean-ups with the South Fork Conservancy, serving dinner at Trinity Table, and packing snack and necessity kits for veterans. Troop 18 Eagle Scouts have initiated and completed a wide variety of service projects including trail, park, playground, and facilities improvements at locations such as Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve, Druid Hills High School, Glenn Memorial UMC, The Temple on Peachtree, Woodland Gardens, and the Toco Hills Community Alliance. Troop 18 shows its appreciation to the church and neighborhood through Scout Sunday, church pancake breakfasts, and by participating as the color guard in the annual

Druid Hills Fourth of July Parade.

Through all these activities, Troop 18 builds faith and reverence, appreciation for our community, nation and world, life skills such as first aid, cooking, and emergency preparedness, and leadership skills such as effective communication, team building, and project planning and implementation skills through rank advancement. As a result, over 200 boys in the Troop have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in scouting. At this date, we have 6 boys who have completed their Eagle Scout rank requirements in 2023 alone.

Cub Scout Pack 6 focuses on “fun with a purpose” as families interact together to build social, mental and physical skills in elementary-age children. On 6-8 campouts per year, Cub Scouts fish, hike, learn archery, woodcarving, and more. Highlights each year include the Pinewood Derby model race car event, the annual Talent Show, Spooky-ree Halloween campout and the Big Trip to Space Camp, the USS Yorktown, Lost Sea Caverns, or Coastal Georgia. Pack 6 also builds a sense of faith and community through participation in Scout Sunday services and pancake breakfasts as well as through service projects such as park and school clean-up days, supplies drives and crafts with senior citizens, and writing thank you notes to veterans.

Troop 18 and Cub Scout Pack 6 appreciate the resources provided by Glenn Church and the opportunities the Druid Hills, Emory and DeKalb County communities provide for children to grow into faithful, thoughtful and contributing youth and adults.



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Your Help Needed to Keep Druid Hills Patrol Rolling

By Marilyn Geewax

Druid Hills is home to thousands of us who appreciate its beauty, history and peacefulness.

And one reason it's a quiet place is the Druid Hills Patrol. Dedicated, uniformed officers regularly drive up and down our streets, adding a layer of protection against crime and providing home safety checks for residents away on business or vacation.

But none of those good things happen by magic. The Patrol has been able to function well for decades because residents have volunteered to keep it going. Now the organization needs an infusion of new directors and volunteers.

"We need as many volunteers as we can get," DHP President Kent Murphy said. "All skills and energies are requested – and appreciated!"

The Patrol has 11 director slots. Six of the directors are also officers: President; Vice President; Administrator; Recording Secretary; Treasurer and Marketing & Membership Chair.

Directors are elected for two-year terms, officers for one. Bi-monthly meetings are held via Zoom. The jobs involve a relatively minor time commitment, typically just a couple of hours a month. Even the toughest slots involve only a few flexible hours of work per week. In many cases, directors and officers stay on the job an additional period to help the Patrol stay stable. Now it's time to relieve those who have served beyond their terms.

Getting involved has its upsides. You get a chance to get to know neighbors and learn more about what's happening in Druid Hills. And you help keep our property values high and the crime rate low.

Real estate agents, teachers, marketing experts, bookkeepers, tech-savvy parents, long-time residents, new neighbors...any and all are needed to bring in fresh ideas and skill sets.

As we get ready to start a new year, this is the time to step up and do your part. Please consider volunteering for a position. And if you are not yet a member, please join so that the organization can hold down the dues rate and expand the hours of patrolling. Let's make Druid Hills even better. Thanks!

Here's how to get in touch for more information. Voicemail: 404-373-1060. Email: admin@druidhillspatrol.org



Fun for All at Fall Open Streets Event

Open Streets Emory Village returned on Saturday, October 21, 2023 with lots of live music, food, on-street activities for all ages, adult beverages, and neighborhood merchant specials. Based on feedback from previous years, Open Streets Emory Village was condensed to a smaller footprint on S. Oxford Road (the stretch with Domino's Pizza) which was closed to vehicles from the North Decatur Road roundabout to Clifton Road until 6 p.m. Music on the grassy lawn concluded at 8 pm.



All afternoon at Emory Village's Open Streets, Halloween-costumed children stopped by the South Fork Conservancy table to ask "When's the Duck Race?" Satisfied, when they were told "4 o'clock sharp," they walked on. At the appointed hour, they, their parents, and enthusiastic onlookers showed up at Burbank Park to race their numbered ducks down Peavine Creek. Cheering their ducks to victory, three happy kiddos took home prizes this year, but everyone had a blast. Simply ducky!



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DHCA and Homeowners Partner to Improve Sidewalks

By Karen Hunter

If you've ever wondered where your Druid Hills Civic Association dues go, you don't need to look any further than our sidewalks as you walk and run in the neighborhood. This year, the DHCA launched Sidewalk Strides, a generous program that provides Civic Association members with the opportunity to apply for matching funds of up to \$500 per homeowner for the maintenance or installation of sidewalks associated with their homes. Cooler weather means a great time to address outside maintenance, and we encourage anyone considering updating their sidewalks to apply!

If you've been considering work on your sidewalk, now is the time to apply for Sidewalk Strides. Anyone who is a current member of the Druid Hills Civic Association can apply, and your dues give you access to great Druid Hills programs and amenities like Sidewalk Strides.

The Sidewalk Strides committee has also been collecting the names of local contractors who may be available for sidewalk work. We would be happy to share contact information so that individual homeowners can discuss their specific needs and pricing with those contractors. Feel free to reach out to the Sidewalk Strides team of Kirk Larson (runnerkirk1ok@gmail.com) and Karen Hunter (kshunter3o@gmail.com) for more information.

It is strongly recommended that the resident acquire a permit for the work planned for completion. Sidewalks are often in the county right of way, and having a permit will reduce liability issues. In DeKalb County, an expedited approval to improve a sidewalk can be obtained by completing a Right of Way Encroachment Permit, which can be provided by the Sidewalk Strides team, and emailing your request to Patrece Keeter (pgkeeter@dekalbcountryga.gov) with the subject line "Druid Hills expedited sidewalk permit". In the City of Atlanta, contact the Department of Transportation at 404-330-6165.

We ask that all interested homeowners:

- Confirm that you are a current member of the Druid Hills Civic Association, or if you are not, apply at www.druidhills.org/join-us today!

- Submit an application to the Druid Hills Civic Association for the Sidewalk Strides program before repairs begin. Contact either Kirk Larson (runnerkirk1ok@gmail.com) or Karen Hunter (kshunter3o@gmail.com) to request an application.
- In DeKalb County, you will need to apply for an encroachment permit, which Kirk or Karen can provide, along with guidance for contacting the county.
- Contract and manage the repair with their selected contractor. Again, feel free to reach out to either Kirk Larson (runnerkirk1ok@gmail.com) or Karen Hunter (kshunter3o@gmail.com) for contractor contacts.
- Submit proof of contractor payment, made in full, when the work is complete to the Druid Hills Civic Association by emailing Mike Murphey (mikemurphey2o5@gmail.com), copying Kirk Larson (runnerkirk1ok@gmail.com) and Karen Hunter (kshunter3o@gmail.com)
- At work completion, allow the DHCA to post a temporary sign indicating the Civic Association's financial support of the completed sidewalk repair. (optional but requested)

The Civic Association will:

- Review the application, contact the homeowner by email, and visit the address for a brief visual check before work begins
- Email the homeowner to confirm that reimbursement will be provided
- Visit the address following the repair to confirm the work is completed
- Assist those living in unincorporated DeKalb County with expediting permitting

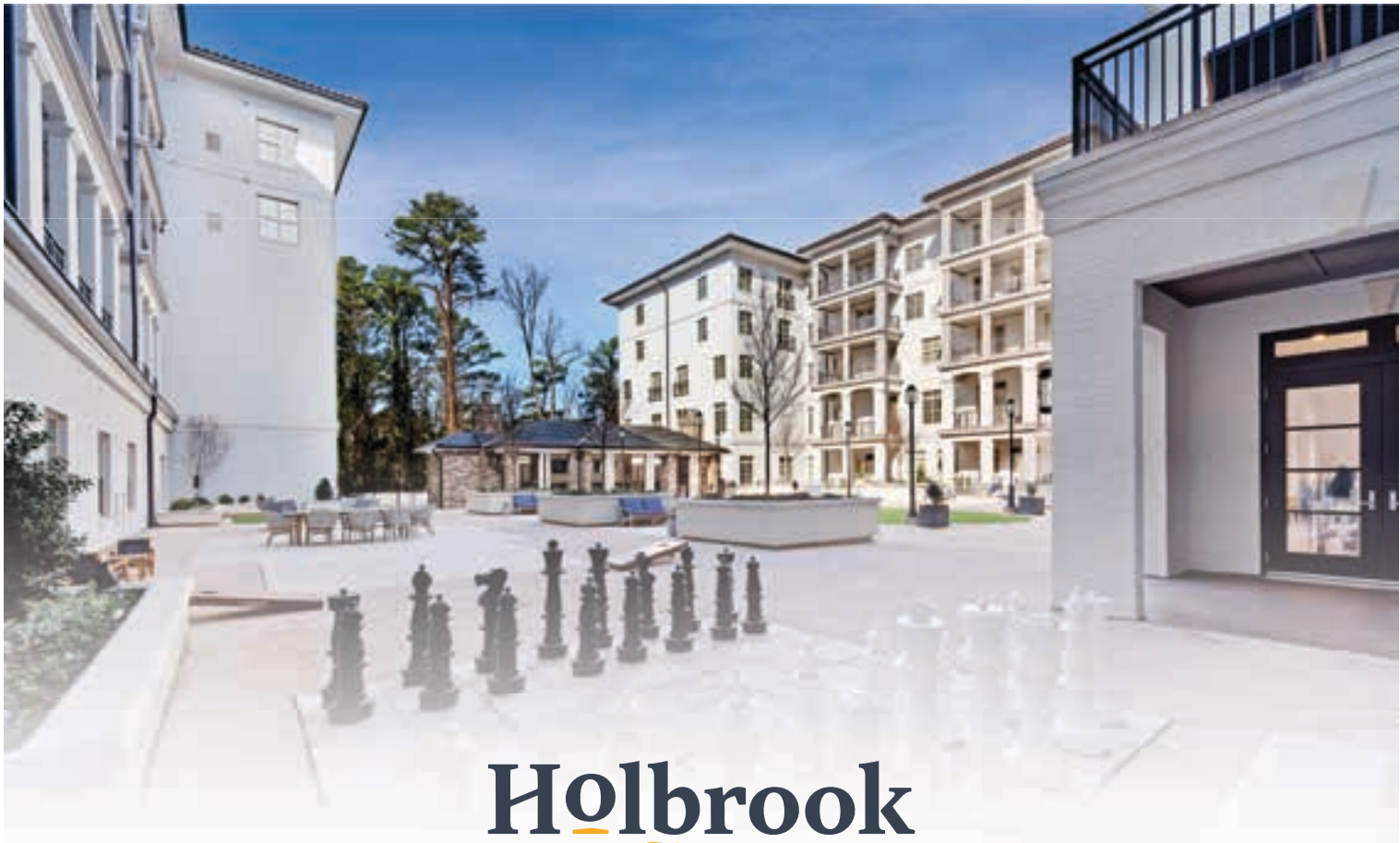
We're excited about the progress we are making to improve sidewalks in the Druid Hills neighborhood. Sign up today and help us make Sidewalk Strides!



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Holbrook

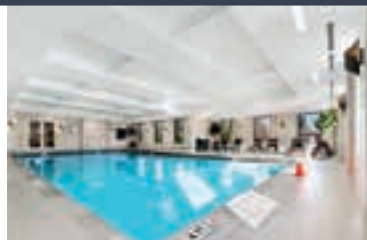
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Crime in Druid Hills: The Big Picture

By Gary Tapp, DHCA Public Safety Committee

The DHCA Public Safety Committee has been tracking reported crimes in Druid Hills since May 2018, and that gives us a chance to see some historical trends. Here’s a quick overview.

- Property crimes make up 90% of all crimes in Druid Hills. And 75% of all the property crime is larceny (primarily theft from motor vehicles).
- While residential burglary may be the crime residents worry most about, we have recorded only 45 residential burglaries in the 68 months of tracking, which is about 1.5 burglaries per month over the entire 105 street footprint of Druid Hills.
- Only 17 aggravated assaults have occurred in the 5+ years. At least six of those were domestic incidents, three were road rage where a gun was pointed, and two occurred outside Druid Hills but reported at Emory Hospital. We think only two or three were assaults committed by strangers. (We don’t always have details in the police reports.) All of the seven reported rapes or sexual assaults occurred at the behavioral health hospital on Briarcliff Rd.
- Of the 118 simple assaults, about 47% were domestic incidents, 33% were at various institutions or commercial locations, and 21% appear to have occurred between strangers.

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
2023 (thru Oct.)	0	1	23	3	3	30

	Resid Burg.	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
2023	8	153	9	40	210	240

*Includes Scams, Swindles, DUI, Vandalism, etc.

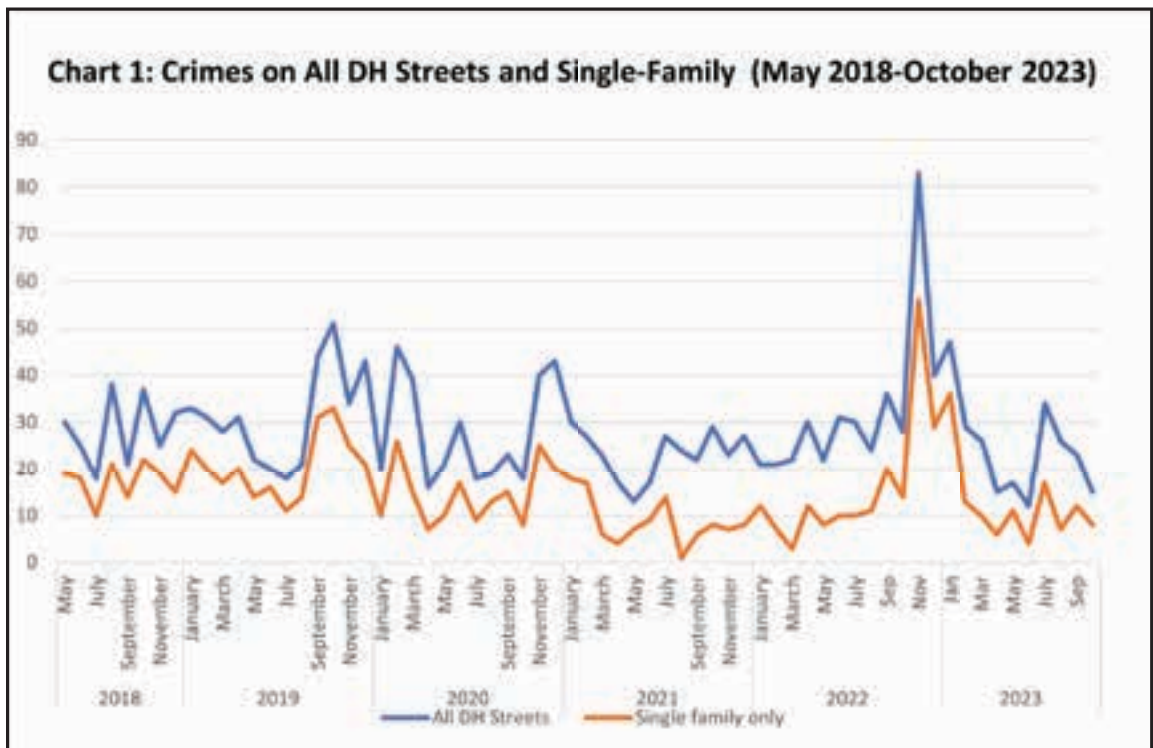


Chart 1 shows the trend of all crime in Druid Hills since May 2018, as well as crime reported on streets that are primarily single-family residences. It shows that crime is not increasing, and, in fact, has been slightly below average for most of 2023. The October total of 15 was the second lowest total DH crime figure since May 2018. The gap between the top line and the bottom line is comprised of crimes in commercial, institutional, and multi-family apartment areas. The average is 28.2 total crimes per month and 15 per month on single-family streets. In four of the five years, we see a temporary rise to above that average roughly in the September-February period. The exception was 2021, when the Covid restrictions were at their height. The spike in November 2022 was due to an outbreak of 66 car break-ins that month. We are now entering the period when we tend to see a seasonal increase, particularly in the car break-ins.



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The Paideia School Hosts An Evening with Chang-rae Lee

Submitted by Caroline Driebe

Chang-rae Lee will visit Paideia on February 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. as the Pepperdene speaker. A deeply influential writer on race, class and immigrant life in America, Chang-rae Lee has built a dazzling reputation. Lee's latest novel, *My Year Abroad*, was an instant bestseller. It examines a young American life transformed by an unusual Asian adventure that provides insight into Western attitudes, Eastern stereotypes, capitalism, mental health, mentorship, and more.

The Jane Pepperdene lecture series is sponsored by the Pepperdene Fund, a trust established in 2009 by Jane Pepperdene, a professor of English at Agnes Scott College and then a teacher at Paideia for 20 years. Professor Pepperdene's generous endowment allows Paideia to bring writers of distinction to the school for the benefit of students and the community.

An Evening with Chang-rae Lee is free and open to the public, and Charis Books and More will be selling books. There will be a book signing following the presentation, and light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Registration and more information will be available at paideiaschool.org/pepperdene.



Writer Chang-rae Lee will speak at Paideia on February 8. The community is invited.



USPS mail carrier Glenda Johnson delivered mail in the Druid Hills neighborhood for 36 years.

Druid Hills Bids Farewell to Beloved Postal Deliverer

By Marilyn Geewax

If you have a mailbox in Druid Hills, then you probably have waved to Glenda Johnson, the ever-smiling, always hard-working deliverer of the U.S. mail. She has been driving around this neighborhood in a USPS truck for 36 years.

Now her joyful run has come to an end. She retired on Oct. 31.

"I've enjoyed it," she said of her decades of service. "To me, it's like working in Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. Lots of good, moral people," she added.

Johnson said her entire Postal career had been focused on the 30306 ZIP code. Her sprawling route encompassed Fairview Road, Springdale Road, Cornell Road, Harvard Road and Briardale Lane. As she made her rounds, she often took an extra moment to mark what time the mail had been delivered or to assure the homeowner that an upcoming vacation "stop" had been noted.

A quick beep of the horn, the flash of a smile and a hearty wave of her hand were her signature moves as she drove along, getting out the mail in all types of weather.

As much as she enjoyed her work, Johnson, 63, says it was time to retire. "The work is physically hard," she said. And she wants to spend more time taking care of her elderly mother and other family members who need her help.

Still, she's so fond of the friends she's made in Druid Hills that she plans to come back from time to time to enjoy neighborhood events, such as the Fall Festival on Ponce and the Open Streets Emory Village gathering.

"I'll be back!" she said. And we'll all be happy to see her again when she turns up.

Thank you, Glenda Johnson, for making Druid Hills a happier place!



Druid Hills neighbors honored Glenda Johnson on Nov. 28 with a retirement party, held on a Springdale Road front yard, and raised money to send her off to a happier retirement.

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PARK VIEWS

News from the DHCA Parks Committee



Tree Health in Our Linear Park

By Anna Hauser

Olmsted Linear Park will sadly lose some of its long-term leafy “residents” in the coming months as we identify and implement risk reduction of older trees with failing health. This will be permitted and carried out in keeping with the respective municipal procedures for DDH (dead, dying, diseased and hazardous) trees on public property.

The majority of the trees in question are water oaks (*Quercus nigra*) which were planted extensively during early tree planting efforts in cities and towns across the South. The appeal was their semi-ever-green foliage, ease of propagation, and rapid growth in degraded soils. Despite these advantages, water oaks have a much shorter lifespan than other native hardwoods such as white oaks (*Quercus alba*), red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) tulip poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and hickory (*Carya* spp.), which can live for hundreds of years. There is now broad consensus that water oaks are undesirable due to their short lifespan, as well as their weak wood and a tendency to drop branches and debris. Water oaks are also exceptionally aggressive seeders, and many of the park’s water oaks emerged during decades of benign neglect during the mid-twentieth century.

The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance will work with the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County to select appropriate native overstory replacements for all trees that are removed. Tree locations and spacing will respect Olmsted’s pastoral approach—avoiding overplanting, maintaining open vistas, and creating a sense of place without defined park boundaries.



Druid Hills Tree Tour Showcases Fall Beauty

By Donna Sumner Shapiro

On a beautiful autumn Saturday, on November 4, a group of about 20 people gathered at the corner of Ponce de Leon and Oakdale Road for a walk with horticulturist, author and Druid Hills resident, Erica Glasener. Erica led us along Oakdale Road, pointing out various trees and shrubs that grace our neighborhood while offering interesting information about each.

We were fortunate also to be invited to visit the picturesque 2.6-acre woodland at the corner of Oakdale Road and The Byway. Here is a list of just some of the magnificent trees and shrubs along the way: White Oak; Tulip Poplar; American Beech, Pecan; Red Oaks; River Birch; Hemlock (enormous); Winged Elm; Hickories; Shadblow Serviceberry; Annabelle Hydrangea; Yellowroot; Sweet Shrub; and Winterberry.

The DHCA Parks and Greenspace Committee plans to offer walks with Erica (a member of the committee) in spring, summer and fall so that we can enjoy and learn more about the seasonal variety of our neighborhood’s magnificent flora. We hope you will join us!



Erica Glasener

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Images of a revitalized Emory Village created 15+ years ago. The new Zoning Overlay continues to share this vision.

Emory Village Zoning Overlay Approved!

By Mark Goldman

Following a three-year effort led by the Emory Village Alliance, with input from literally hundreds of stakeholders, the Emory Village Zoning Overlay has been approved by the District 2 Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners!

Involved stakeholders included the DHCA, its members and other Druid Hills residents, Emory University, Emory Village businesses and property owners, the Druid Hills Golf Club, the DeKalb County Department of Planning and Sustainability and the Law Department, former County Commissioners Jeff Rader and Kathy Gannon, and current Commissioners Michelle Long Spears and Ted Terry and their staff. With Spears and Terry's strong support, the BOC approved the new Overlay unanimously.

Since its inception in 2001, the primary goal of what is now the Emory Village Alliance has been to revitalize the Village as a safe and attractive place to meet others, dine, shop, live, and play. A Zoning Overlay was first developed in 2007, and this led to substantial improvements to public spaces: replacing a slow five-way traffic light with the most beautiful and efficient round-about in all of the metro area; a delightful plaza with fountain and sculpture made from trolley tracks found under our streets; new sidewalks and crosswalks, benches, trash cans, and bike racks; and over 50 street trees.

What has not been achieved is mixed-use redevelopment, envisioned to be a bit like a miniature version of downtown Decatur, with three- and four-story buildings largely containing restaurants and shops on the ground floor, and offices, condominiums, and apartments above. "Best Practices" from around the world indicated that this approach would help revitalize the Village.

Unfortunately and surprising to many, the 2007 Overlay did not result in developers moving forward with redevelopment of non-historical properties. Additionally, much had changed over time, so the

mix of businesses, restaurants, and offices needed to be rethought. With support from DeKalb County Commissioners and the Department of Planning and Sustainability, EVA took a second look. The aim was to remove unnecessary barriers to positive and successful mixed-use developments, while maintaining long-established objectives to keep the scale moderate (no more than four stories), for the Village to be pedestrian-oriented, to keep historic buildings, and to serve the community.

None of what had been controversial when the first Overlay was developed have been changed: number of building levels, building height, and the Village's boundaries.

Changes to the Overlay include:

- Allowing a food hall, a yoga studio, a day spa, a tutoring center, and centers for research.
- Permitting rooftop dining on the second, third or fourth levels.
- Further encouraging offices for attorneys, therapists, optometrists, and similar, primarily on the second floor.
- Prohibiting tattoo parlors, cigar bars, and smoke and vape shops (however the existing one is "grandfathered")
- Eliminating square footage requirements for apartments, condominiums, and offices.
- Allowing a few townhouses/rowhouses on the very edges of the Village next to existing single-family detached homes.
- Slightly reducing parking requirements, with most new parking in structures behind multi-story buildings.
- The new Overlay will soon be available on the EVA website (emoryvillage.org).



PRESERVATION PERSPECTIVES

Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee

A Reference Guide for Home Design Changes

By Alida Silverman

We all know that exterior changes to our houses in Druid Hills need a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before we can get a building permit, and we know that good information is at hand on the DHCA website. But there is also something on the City of Atlanta website that is an excellent resource for all homeowners in Druid Hills. The Historic Preservation Studio of the Atlanta Planning Department has provided a “Certificate of Appropriateness Reference Guide”. An easy way to find it is to search the web for “Atlanta homeowner resources” or scan the QR code right here on this page! There is also a link on the DruidHills.org site’s Historic Preservation page.

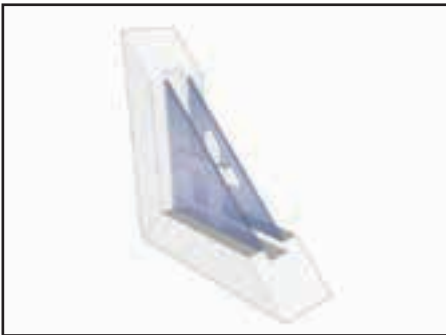
The opening “Manifesto” should have musical accompaniment, but the “Introduction” is very much worth a read. Then come the “parts of a historic home.” All exterior parts: windows, doors, roofs, porches, fences. Clear graphics and labels

and brief text convey what is important to know if and when you are thinking of changes. (And, of course, we all should think in terms of appropriate change.) Even if you have an architect or architectural designer working for/with you, it is good to know what you are talking about. It’s worth a read just for an education you can then take on the road to explore the details on all the splendid homes in our neighborhood. Check it out!

And please remember, faced with the bureaucratic maze, that you have local help, too, right here in the neighborhood. The Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee can take a look at your plans and let you know if there are parts that could pose a problem to the Urban Design Commission, who must sign off on your Certificate of Appropriateness.



Grille between Glass



Dividers are placed inside the glass.

True Divided Lite with Muntins



Panes of glass are divided entirely

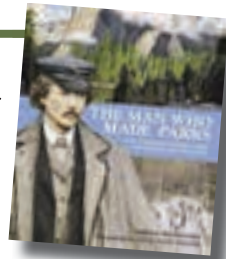
Simulated Divided Lite with Bars



Dividers are placed inside and affixed to the glass.

Children’s Gift Idea

To increase awareness of Frederick Law Olmsted’s legacy in our neighborhood, the DHCA’s Landmark District Preservation Committee offers a perfect opportunity for the upcoming holiday gift giving season! *The Man Who Made Parks*, a short and attractive book with illustrations and information suitable for kindergartners and older, is now available at Eagle Eye Books, corner of North Decatur and Clairmont Roads. Doug Robinson, the shop’s owner, is offering the book at a 10% discount off the \$10.95 price! The DHCA is also donating copies of the book to local libraries and schools.



Lost Gardens

Most of Druid Hills first learned about the “lost gardens” in a booklet done for a past Tour of Homes and Gardens and more recently in articles in *The Druid Hills News*. The Fall issue of “Garden Clippings,” the publication of the Cherokee Garden Library housed at the Atlanta History Center, features the second article about one of the “lost gardens” authored by our Druid Hills historian Jennie Richardson. This one is about the King garden behind the home of Clyde and Clara Belle King on Ponce de Leon at the corner of Oakdale Road (now the headquarters of Alpha Delta Pi sorority). The earlier article featured “Glenwoods” on Ponce.

WildWoods: AGLOW, Vikings and more at Fernbank Museum

Fernbank Museum is celebrating the winter weather with exhibits, experiences, events and more that are perfect for immersing you and your family in the holiday season.

Returning for its second year is the outdoor, nighttime experience “WildWoods: AGLOW.” Back by popular demand, this immersive adventure allows visitors to explore the wonders of nature through glowing displays and contemplative music, all uniquely curated to reflect the native flora and fauna found in WildWoods.

“WildWoods: AGLOW” helps reveal the beautiful and unexpected intricacies in nature — things we often cannot see happening with our own eyes,” said Fernbank Museum President & CEO Jennifer Grant Warner. “By immersing guests in the wonder of the natural world, we hope to spark our guests’ curiosity and inspire them to learn more about the world around us and our role in stewarding it for the future.”

Included with admission to “WildWoods: AGLOW” is after-hours access to the special exhibit open at the time (“Vikings: Warriors of the Sea” will leave on Jan. 1 to be replaced by “Spiders — From Fear to Fascination” on Feb. 10), the Giant Screen film “Fungi: Web of Life,” refreshments for an additional purchase in the AGLOW Lounge and hands-on activities, including a new mobile app that will provide trivia, challenges and additional discoveries to complete the experience. “WildWoods: AGLOW” is created in partnership with Thinkwell.

The special exhibit “Vikings: Warriors of the Sea” will remain open into the winter season. Guests can discover lesser-known truths about the culture, society and technology of the Viking people through 140 artifacts in this eye-opening exhibit. Visitors can also view “Vikings: Warriors of the Sea” during after-hours events, including Fernbank After Dark and “WildWoods: AGLOW,” until it closes on Jan. 1, 2024. “Vikings: Warriors of the Sea” was produced in partnership with the National Museum of Denmark and MuseumsPartner in Austria.

Opening on Nov. 18 is the annual holiday exhibit, “Winter Wonderland: Celebrations & Traditions Around the World.” This popular exhibit returns for its 14th year of highlighting celebrations, events and traditions through two floors of uniquely decorated trees and display cases from cultural partners such as Sweden, Mexico, India, Kenya and more. Guests can also view this exhibit during select after-hours events until its closing on Jan. 7, 2024. Lead support for cultural learning is provided by the Nissan Foundation.

For more information on Fernbank’s programming, please visit www.FernbankMuseum.org.



Artifacts from Vikings: Warriors of the Sea sit in a display case. Photo Credit: Fernbank Museum



Larger-than-life mushrooms are alight in WildWoods. Photo Credit: Fernbank Museum



Frazer Center fosters inclusive communities through services such as (L-R): Supported Employment and Community Access for adults with disabilities; our Refugee Intern Training Program; and our inclusion nature-based curriculum for early childhood education.

Upcoming Festivities at Frazer Center

By Dina Shadwell

On January 3, 2024, Frazer Center turns 75 years old, and we're turning this milestone year into a celebration of our community. That includes our Druid Hills neighbors! Whether you grew up in the neighborhood playing on the Cator Woolford estate as a child, or whether you just moved in and don't even know where Frazer Center is yet, we hope you will participate in our upcoming celebrations.

On Sunday, January 21, 2024, Frazer Center is hosting a family reunion-style gathering for our friends and neighbors. Anyone with ties to Frazer Center and its greenspaces—former staff members, participants, volunteers, and neighbors—are welcome to attend. We want to get to know you and hear your stories of your time with Frazer and Cator Woolford Gardens.

Save the date for Gather in the Gardens happening on Saturday, April 20, 2024. We're continuing our 75th celebration with an extra special version of our annual fundraising gala. It's always a fun and festive event, and our diamond anniversary gives us a great excuse to step up the sparkle for this springtime soiree.

If you'd like to get involved with Frazer but parties aren't your cup of tea, consider joining our monthly volunteer events in Frazer Forest. On the first Saturday of every month (unless otherwise noted), our partners at Trees Atlanta lead a volunteer workday as part of our ongoing old-growth forest restoration project. Frazer Forest is open to the public, yet it is not a publicly

funded park. Frazer Center rents the land and is charged with maintaining the property. We can only do this with the help of our partners and volunteers. We'd love for you to join us!

If parties and playing in the dirt are not your style, but you still want to show your support for Frazer's mission of fostering inclusive communities for children and adults with and without disabilities, perhaps you'd like to become a founding member of our 1949 Innovators' League. Your \$750 donation during our 75th year not only supports our innovative inclusion programs, but it comes with several perks. Visit frazercenter.org/give/1949-innovators-league for more information.

Over the past 75 years, Frazer Center has provided support to over 6,000 families with loved ones with disabilities. Thanks to our volunteers, donors, community partners, dedicated staff, friends, and neighbors, we are standing strong and looking forward to the next 75 years of fostering inclusive communities.

If you have questions about these events or the 1949 Innovators' League, feel free to contact Tonja Holder, Frazer Center Vice President of Development, at t.holder@frazercenter.org.

The best way to stay informed about Frazer Center happenings is to subscribe to our newsletter at frazercenter.org/contact/get-in-touch. We hope to see you soon!



PreK student Gwen Uptegrove makes pumpkin slime for STEAMtopia.

Fernbank Named One of America's Healthiest Schools

Submitted by Dana Borda

Fernbank Elementary has been named to the 2023 list of America's Healthiest Schools by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. We are one of only three elementary schools in Georgia to receive this honor. This recognition celebrates schools nationwide for their achievements in advancing the physical, mental, and social-emotional health of students, staff, and families.

In October, we held our first STEAMtopia day, with each grade level conducting different science experiments and fun engineering activities, all with a pumpkin theme. STEAMtopia was a hit!

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.



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An Active Fall at Ben Franklin Academy

Submitted by Angela Cassidy

Ben Franklin Academy is busy with lots of activities and celebrations. The annual Ben Franklin birthday bash was held in the Founder's Courtyard with cake and drinks for all. The Drama department's Franklin Players presented their fall production of SPYDER. It was a huge success.

Other enriching activities at BFA include:

- The Ancient Cultures Club, which is focusing on ancient Western civilizations. The students learned to play games from long ago yet felt like many modern board games.
- The Philanthropy Club, which collected and donated much-needed items to the Fulton County Animal Shelter. During the Thanksgiving season students crafted and designed cards, including pop-out flowers for residents at Wesley Woods.
- The Arts and Crafts Club exemplifies BFA's commitment towards STEAM. Students built terrariums and wooden ferris wheels, while exploring the world around them. They worked on canvas paintings and created structures with polymer clay and 3D tiles.
- The Robotics Club is active using Legos to develop an understanding of mechanics with projects ranging from functional pulleys to operating carts. They will also learn to design and build robots that can move from one place to another while learning the coding behind this which will put their knowledge to the test in building their own robots.
- The Nature/Green Club has enjoyed time outside around the Organic Garden. The students have added a new plant bed and once fully grown, everyone will enjoy eating the produce! The Club has taken the initiative to improve the BFA recycling program while reducing waste into our mainstream.
- Latin Dance has come to BFA. Students have enjoyed learning new dance moves and practicing them to well-known modern pop songs and Latin American music. The Band has been practicing hard and learning a lot in preparation for various events throughout the year.
- The Golf Team BFA is in full swing, and the Cross-Country team has been conditioning and running on a regular basis throughout the season. They love running through Lullwater Nature Preserve while getting exercise and releasing energy. There are several competitions throughout the season.

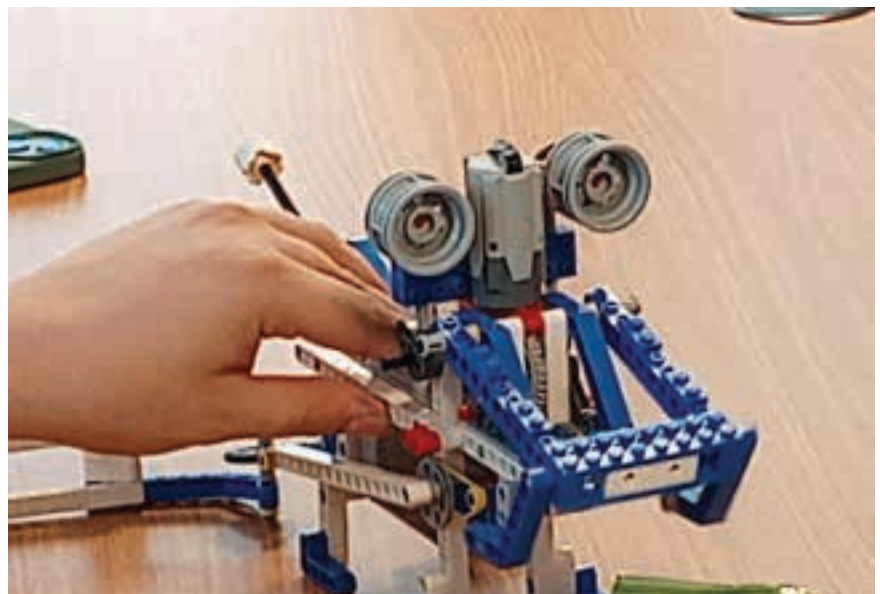
Those interested in Mastery Education and an individualized approach to education are welcome to come visit Ben Franklin Academy with an appointment.



BFA Band



BFA Nature



BFA Robotics

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Friday, January 26 at 8 p.m.

JAZZ FEST 2024

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February 1-3

ST. OLAF CHOIR

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Friday, February 16 at 8 p.m.

EMORY UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

featuring Eighth Blackbird
Thursday, March 7 at 8 p.m.

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Friday, March 22 at 8 p.m.

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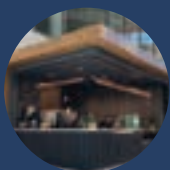
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Happy Holidays



As the year is drawing to a close, Pam Hughes wishes to thank all of her loyal clients and fans for helping her close out year 44.5 on a positive note. She looks forward to helping you with all your real estate needs in 2024.

LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS:



Sold for: \$785,000

ATLANTA
1043 CLIFTON ROAD

5 BED | 3 FULL BATH | 1 HALF BATH



Sold for: \$790,000

DECATUR
345 DURAND FALLS DRIVE

5 BED | 3 BATH

PAM HUGHES, REALTOR®

EXPERIENCE ISN'T EXPENSIVE,
IT'S PRICELESS.

If you are thinking of buying a home or selling your home, call Pam today.

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Pam.Hughes@HarryNorman.com

While we saw changes in the real estate market, I am very grateful to have served buyers and sellers with their properties in and around Atlanta, such as these...



Sold for: \$980,000

ATLANTA
4410 PACES BATTLE

LISTED BY THE WREN TEAM ATLANTA
REPRESENTED THE BUYERS
4 BED | 3 FULL BATH | 1 HALF BATH



Sold for: \$687,000

CHAMBLEE
1700 GRANGER COURT

4 BED | 3 BATH



Wishing you health & happiness through the holidays and into the new year!

BONNIE WOLF, REALTOR®

Native Atlantan, Druid Hills Resident & Trusted Real Estate Advisor bringing you 5 star service every time!

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