



THE DRUID HILLS News

FALL, 2012
Volume 26, Number 3
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Druid Hills Famous Choir Thrills Russians

The Atlanta Boy Choir, now in its 55th year under the direction of founder Fletcher Wolfe, has just returned from Russia. Invited by the Russian Glinka Choir, 25 concert choir boys and 20 alumni choir men performed in two of the world’s most prestigious concert halls, the Czar’s Winter Palace’s Imperial Capella Hall and the Great Hall of the Philharmonic.



Both halls in St. Petersburg were filled to capacity and the enthusiastic response was overwhelming.

The world renowned Atlanta Boy Choir is currently holding auditions for boys ages 6 through 13 with pleasant unchanged voices and a desire to sing. Interested parents should call 404.378.0064 or email info@atlantaboychoir.org

Learn more about the Atlanta Boy Choir online at www.atlantaboychoir.org.

857 Oakdale Receives Award of Excellence

by Alida Silverman

At the 35th annual Atlanta Urban Design Commission Awards of Excellence ceremony on June 20, the Lindsay-Cox residence at 857 Oakdale Road in the Druid Hills Landmark District received an award of excellence in the historic preservation category. This 1916 Hentz (Neel)Reid & Adler-designed home joins three other homes in the Landmark District receiving this award over the years.

The restoration/rehabilitation of 857 Oakdale is the story of a dramatic rescue. After the house was struck by lightning on April 24, 2009, fire, water, a re-ignited fire and more water (5000 gallons in all) caused extensive damage to the house. More than 50% of the structure had to be reconstructed, meaning that current codes had to be met while duplicating original elements. Some corrective changes were made in the rear of the house, such as a Tudor-style brick porch replacing a synthetic wood deck and other alterations made by a previous owner. Todd Pritchett Design Studio was the architect for this challenging project; Paige Shaw was the landscape architect.

Tour-goers earlier this year saw the results of this dramatic rescue and some may have remembered the house from an earlier Tour. The owners celebrated their rescue by having their home on Tour again! Kudos and congratulations to owners Evan Lindsay and Nancy Cox, excellent stewards of this historic home.

Fernbank Science Center Annual Fall Plant Sale

September 22 • 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

The fall plant sale, conducted by members of the horticulture department, will include more than two hundred varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowering perennials. Many of the plants for sale are native species often hard to find anywhere else. Experienced horticulturists will be on hand to provide planting advice for any who might need additional help with their gardening problems. All money generated at the plant sale will go back into programming to support Fernbank Science Center.

Druid Hills Neighborhood Yard Sale

Saturday, September 29 • 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Back by popular demand, our neighborhood yard sale! An easy way to get rid of your unwanted stuff and keep all the money you make from your sales. No fuss, no hassle! The Druid Hills Civic Association will advertise the sale in *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, Craigslist and the surrounding neighborhood. Plus, a yard sale sign will be provided for your yard. All you have to do is drag your stuff to your front yard and start selling!



The American Kidney Fund will have trucks in the neighborhood picking up items you want to leave on the curb at the end of yard sale day. What a deal! You make money and don’t have to take anything back into the house at the end of the day. The DHCA will also have a map locating all participating houses on the DHCA website. Registration cost is only \$25.00.

To register, please e-mail your name, property address and indicate whether you would like to participate in the AKF pickup following the sale to dhcayardsale@gmail.com. Instructions for payment and additional information relating to the Yard Sale will be sent in a confirmation e-mail reply.

Frazer Center Receives Challenge Grant

by Jennifer J. Richardson

The Frazer Center, located in Druid Hills and Lake Claire Communities, serves adults and children with disabilities. The 39-acre campus includes school buildings, the former Cater Woolford home—now a hospitality house—and the Cater Woolford gardens, which are open to the public and also used for weddings and receptions by reservation and fee. On the main driveway into the campus, a 1920s picturesque stone bridge must be crossed to access the house and the school. Since the property was once a private residence, the bridge was not built to withstand the weight of many vehicles that must cross it today—such as delivery trucks and garbage trucks. An engineering study done by Frazer showed that the bridge is not sound for the larger weight vehicles, and that use by these vehicles has compromised the integrity of the bridge.

The Frazer Center has received an anonymous challenge grant in the amount of \$100,000 to repair the 90-year-old stone bridge. The Center needs to raise an additional \$50,000 from the surrounding communities in order to complete the bridge project. The bridge repair is part of a 1.35 million capital campaign for the facility and is in its final stages. Much of the money has been spent on fixing water and sewer lines, heating and air-conditioning improvement, and deferred maintenance projects. To restore the bridge, the Center has hired UrbanEco to design the retrofit of the bridge and Eberly and Associates as engineers for the project.

In keeping with the historic nature of the neighborhoods, the new bridge will look almost exactly as it did before, with the addition of structural reinforcement that will make the bridge sound for 21st century traffic. When completed, much of the traffic now accessing the center will go through the main entrance on South Ponce de Leon Avenue rather than through residential streets in Lake Claire.

To learn more about the Frazer Center’s programs or to donate to the bridge fund or capital campaign, visit www.thefraziercenter.org or call 404-377-3836, extension 134.

Emory Village Park

by Rhonda Geraci

Emory Village, the heart of Druid Hills, beats for us all.

Today, the new roundabout at Oxford and North Decatur roads allows traffic to circulate at a healthy pace, respecting pedestrians and bike riders as part of the flow of the neighborhood. Sidewalks with brick accents, bike racks, trashcans, and street lamps are all marks of a community that cares.

It is a community whose revitalization effort has been underway since the Alliance to Improve Emory Village formed in 2001. The latest addition is the Emory Village Park. As a result of street redesign to accommodate the traffic circle, 8,300 square feet of space became available for a park. Since no grant funding was left because of long overdue repairs needed during the road construction, AIEV initially was resigned to seed the area for the future. However, thanks to the inexhaustible efforts of AIEV members and the community, the dreams for the park are coming to fruition. After a decade of service, neighbors have pulled together to build the park through contributions of time, talent, and money. To date they have raised about \$60,000.

Todd Hill, a landscape architect with Aecom and chair of AIEV, calls the design he volunteered “an outdoor living room.” The main plaza area encompasses 4,000 square feet. When complete later this year, it will feature low maintenance landscaping by New Moon Gardens with a fountain and sculpture as its central feature. A Golden Globe Ginkgo tree,

Continued on page 2

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

Newsletter of the
Druid Hills Civic Association

P.O. Box 363
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Emory Park...continued from page 1

encircled by a bench, will anchor the park.

The goal to create a self-sustainable park will be met through a 465-foot deep well. Todd explains, "Fountains are not typically sustainable – jets spray and evaporate water; however, the fountain we are building is different. It will have non-chlorinated water re-circulating and aquatic plants growing. We settled on the well because it offers what a cistern and other options can't by delivering enough flow to irrigate the park and portions of the streetscape, while also re-circulating the fountain." Retaining walls enclose the space and back the foundation of the fountain.

Ted Kelly, owner of Architecture Fountains and Pools, is donating the fountain and dedicating it to the two most important women in his life: his wife and his mother, both named Mary. Ted, a 13-year cancer survivor, admits, "Once you've faced your own mortality, you think about things differently. I wanted to do something bigger than myself. When Cynthia Tauxe mentioned AIEV was looking for a fountain donor, I told her she'd found one." The nontraditional fountain, where an upper basin's water flows into a lower basin, will be named "The Mary Kelly Fountain."

Local artist Charles Calhoun, owner of Calhoun Design and Metalworks, is creating a sculpture for the park to honor more than a century of local history, using old trolley tracks found during road excavation. Charles, a Druid Hills homeowner, humbly admits, "I am just a spoke in the wheel. The amazing thing is how the community has come together to make change happen. Being a part of this transformation has been worthwhile on so many levels." He plans to create a sculpture by standing three 15-foot tracks on end and welding them in the middle of the fountain. Two track pieces are straight and one is curved, giving the composition an organic treelike effect. The tracks will be sandblasted and painted in the natural palette of the park, while maintaining the pitting and texture of their age. After the sun goes down, Charles says, "The up lighting of the fountain as the water moves will create a stunning effect."

While we can all imagine enjoying these magnificent features, AIEV needs help to raise an additional \$25,000 to finish the park. Neighbors Ardent Hollingsworth and Marcene Powell, recent donors, said, "We saw the renderings and wanted to help make it happen. We believe local support is very important and too often neglected." The community understands a neighborhood needs more than cell phones, computers, and Ipads to stay connected. It needs a special place to gather that is a constant reminder of the lifestyle they want to keep.

To learn more or to donate, go to www.emoryvillage.org.

Oh, BeHAVE in the Creek!

by Sally Sears

A fast-paddling kayaker is taking tons of litter out of Druid Hills' creeks. Richard Grove's Georgia Kayakers bring volunteers onto Georgia waters to take out what careless Georgians put in: all kinds of trash and litter. In the last few months, Grove has worked creeks draining Druid Hills.

The South Fork of Peachtree Creek and its tributaries are waters the Cumming resident says he really enjoyed cleaning. He calls the scenery in this neighborhood "gorgeous." But even here, he's finding we use our creeks as litter boxes. In July, he says "the water level was very low, allowing us to walk the entire 1.3 miles between Houston Mill and Clifton Road, and remove every speck of foreign debris."

From the VA Hospital to the Johnson-Taylor Park at Johnson Road, Grove and his friends remove a lot of trash. "Thus far, between Clairmont Road and Anita Place, NE, we removed 217 tires and 7145 pounds of trash," including a few days at the confluence of the South and North forks near Lindbergh Drive.

The range of litter is astonishing. Drink cups, fast food litter, and tires are just the start. Grove keeps finding buggies, dumpsters, and along the creek near Wesley Woods, two motorized carts. "Next we will be cleaning from Anita Place to Lenox. This section has more than 26 tires we will mostly remove ahead of time. Several homeowners in the past helped us out. We bring a good, hard working group but are always looking for new volunteers."

For photos of the recent cleanup, go to the South Fork Conservancy's Facebook page and click on the album titled "Oh, BeHAVE in the Creek!"

The deadlines
for the winter issue of the
Druid Hills News are:
Advertising — October 10
Copy — October 17
Publication will be in
mid-December

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HELP WANTED

Two Druid Hills Civic Association
Committees need volunteers!

Community and Lifestyle

- Plan neighborhood events
- Assist with fundraising for neighborhood parks and common areas
- Create an increased sense of community in Druid Hills

To volunteer, please contact
adminvp@druidhills.org.

Membership

- Welcome new DH residents
 - Assist with administrative tasks
 - Create new opportunities for residents to join DHCA
- To volunteer, please contact
Thomas Winn at
tw1042@bellsouth.net

The DHCA is also looking for a
Coordinator. To volunteer, please
contact Mike Hellerstein at 212-1855
or email adminvp@druidhills.org.

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THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

Newsletter of the Druid Hills Civic Association

P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363, Voicemail 404-523-DHCA

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Your Letters Are Welcome

President’s Column

by Bruce MacGregor

WHY DOES IT TAKE SO LONG?

In writing this column, I looked at earlier columns and at recent Board agendas. Not surprisingly, the issues are about the same as they have been for the past year. This does not mean that nothing is going on, only that there are a lot of moving parts to the typical issues facing the DHCA, especially with regard to Land Use and Transportation. Since the last DHN, much has happened in the larger arena, however:

THE VOTERS HAVE SPOKEN:

T-SPLOST Vote: the one cent sales tax for transportation improvements was voted down in 9 of the 12 regions of the State, including Metro Atlanta. Within Metro Atlanta, it failed in all of the 10 counties. Interestingly, Intown voters (Druid Hills, Morningside, VA-Highlands, Grant Park, Decatur, Midtown) voted almost 3:1 in favor of the sales tax, while the farther out suburban voters voted almost 3:1 against the sales tax. The future of transit facilities such as the Clifton Corridor light rail line is uncertain. It will be interesting to see what role the State will play in any future proposals.

City of Brookhaven: The new city of Brookhaven was approved by roughly a 600 vote margin (5,400 to 4,800), which seems a small number to establish a city of around 50,000 people. The impact on the rest of DeKalb is yet to be determined, but will not be positive. The incorporation of Dunwoody and Brookhaven has spurred interest in Central DeKalb to revisit options such as establishing a city of Central DeKalb, or annexation into Decatur or Atlanta. The Decatur and Atlanta options have school (and school tax) ramifications, which complicate matters. However, there is state precedent for annexation without becoming part of the city school system. Anyone interested in exploring options should contact the DHCA.

Elections in general: With several exceptions, all incumbents were re-elected. One exception was the DeKalb District 2 School Board position, where Druid Hills resident Marshall Orson will replace Don McChesney. Two DeKalb School Board members are in run-offs. CEO Burrell Ellis, Commissioners Kathie Gannon, Sharon Barnes-Sutton and Elaine Boyer were each re-elected with 60-70% of the vote. The widespread election of incumbents, together with the defeat of T-SPLOST and the “Citification” of Brookhaven will no doubt make for some interesting analyses (but not here). MEANWHILE, BACK in the HILLS of DRUID:

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

Traffic Calming: Residents of Oxford Road are working with DeKalb County to develop a speed reduction plan. The tools in the County’s kit include speed tables, “bump-outs”, and splitter islands. At this time, speed tables and possibly bump-outs are being considered. There is a desire to align speed tables with crosswalks at the “twittens” (bywalks) on Oxford, but engineering , drainage and ADA issues have hindered this effort. All parties are working to develop an effective solution that is compatible with the Historic District. Whatever is finally determined will likely become a model for Springdale, Oakdale, Lullwater, and possibly The Byway. There has

been some discussion on a need for a plan for the Public Realm of Druid Hills, which could include public rights of way, (granite) curbs, tree planting strips, traffic islands, parks, and greenspace. Overall, the issues are similar to those espoused below.

Complete Streets: a program for inclusion of multiple purposes of city streets. This generally includes design for autos, trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians, and (in some cases) on-street parking, with appropriate traffic signals and lighting for all of these This concept is intended to foster connectivity, safety, and context sensitive design. Some local jurisdictions who have adopted Complete Streets Policies include Decatur, Roswell, Sandy Springs, and Cobb County. The Clifton Community Partnership has also expressed interest in this program. Anyone interested in this concept should contact DHCA.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ISSUES:

DeKalb County:

- Artwood Guidelines: Historic Preservation Guidelines for Artwood Road have been drafted and presented to the DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission. These guidelines were drafted with much input from residents, who generally want to maintain the area’s height, massing, scale, and rhythm (houses and spaces between houses), but are less concerned about preserving mid-century architectural details.

City of Atlanta:

- 1642 Clifton Terrace. This is an unusual situation where a residential lot is zoned multifamily development, and is part of the Druid Hills National Register District, but not part of the Druid Hills Landmark District. The DHCA is working with the owner/builder to build two houses on the site in order to maintain the single family character of Clifton Terrance.

THE THREE FERNBANKS

We are fortunate to have not one, but three “Fernbank” institutions in our neighborhood.

- The Fernbank Museum of Natural History is celebrating its 20th anniversary and is currently conducting a master plan for its campus, including the Fernbank Forest. The Museum (Fernbank Inc.) took over the management of the forest upon the expiration of the 50-year lease with the DeKalb School System.

- The Fernbank Science Center has developed a national reputation for teaching excellence in its 45 years of operation. The Science Center narrowly escaped closure by the DeKalb School Board, thanks in part to a huge outpouring of support by parents, students, and alumni. It will continue to operate, albeit with a reduced budget. DHCA and others are in the process of establishing a Fernbank Foundation in order to conduct fundraising for the Science Center.

- The Fernbank Elementary School was built ~ 1957 and is the outgrowth of the Druid Hills School, which originally contained both elementary and high school levels. Current plans call for the existing school to be

demolished and a new school for up to 900 students to be built in this location.

LAND USE ISSUES

- Frazer Center: The Frazer Center is proposing a Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) and an Overlay Zone for the 35 acres of their property within Druid Hills (additional property in the City of Atlanta will not be affected). A buffer issue and a dumpster issue have been resolved, and they are working on the noise and traffic issues. Traffic issues involve MARTA, the City of Atlanta, and DeKalb County. A neighborhood meeting was held on August 30, and the Overlay zone is expected to be on the September zoning agenda.

- GA Power Substation and new high voltage lines at Burlington Rd. GA Power Company plans a new substation on Emory Property behind Emory’s North Decatur Building at Burlington Rd. This will entail the installation of two new (and much larger) high voltage poles at Burlington and at Ridgewood. The high voltage lines will go underground from these poles into the substation. The high voltage pole at the University Inn will be removed, and we have asked that the pole at the Clifton Condominiums also be removed. The high voltage wires will be replaced with larger wires. Construction is expected to begin in July 2013.

- Buckler-McCullar Property, at Clifton Rd and Burbank Park. The owners have filed suit against DeKalb County in order to obtain a land disturbance permit without first obtaining the required approval from the Historic Preservation Commission. The owners have also filed an appeal with the DeKalb Zoning Board of Appeals, seeking a variance from the code requirement. Both of these actions are reportedly on hold in order that the DHCA’s appeal of the subdivision can be heard in Superior Court.

In closing, the usual reminder: We are a volunteer organization and only as strong as our members. If you are not already a member, please join. If you are a member, please get involved with a committee. We need you.

Would you stop?

My oldest son, Thomas, age 11, crashed his road bike on Springdale Road on Monday, July 10, about 1:30 PM, while trying to avoid a pile of branches left in the road (problem #1). The branches were on Springdale near Ponce de Leon, not visible because of terrain and landscaping, which prevented Thomas from seeing them until it was too late. He crashed his bike and landed on his left elbow, breaking his humerus just above his elbow.

As he lay in the street, four cars, a Lexus, a Mercedes, and a couple of luxury SUV’s, drove by and didn’t stop. One lady slowed down and looked Thomas right in the eye, yet drove on. Finally, a kind gentleman (Greg), driving his mother to the airport, stopped. He called 911 and Thomas’s mother Janet, my wife.. The firemen from Virginia Highland Station 19 arrived first, followed by the paramedics. Greg, the Good Samaritan, sat with Thomas until Janet and the firemen arrived.

Thomas had surgery at 6:00 P.M. at CHOA Egleston, where the orthopaedic surgeon (Robert Bruce, M.D.) re-aligned his humerus and inserted three pins into his elbow to hold the bones in place. After a night at Egleston, Thomas wore a splint for four weeks and is expected to heal completely within 8-10 weeks. So, Thomas will be fine.

What really bothers me is how someone could drive past a child lying in the road next to a bicycle, waving for help. We are our brother’s keeper and our brother’s child’s keeper. We have to put the cell phones down and watch the road in front of us. If we see a person lying on the road looking injured, we have to stop and offer assistance.

So, in conclusion, if you see someone in the road who might need help, please stop and offer to help them. I will stop for your child and I hope you will stop for my child. Let’s all agree to look out for each other. Historic Druid Hills will be a better, safer place to live.

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Olmsted Linear Park Alliance News

by Jennifer J. Richardson

The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance was honored recently to receive an Urban Design Award from the City of Atlanta's Urban Design Commission. The award was given for historic preservation and rehabilitation of the linear park.

A sprinkler system was installed at the Barton Woods end of Deepdene Park. Once this was in place, new sod was planted in the area. There is now irrigation at both ends of Deepdene Park, which has greatly improved the ease of maintenance and watering in that park.

A lovely stone bridge, given by North Ponce de Leon residents Carolyn and Billy Hall in honor of their grandchildren, was recently dedicated in Deepdene Park. A brass plaque marks the bridge so be sure to look for it when you're out walking.

The continuing drought has caused problems with maintenance of the plant material in all segments of the park. Obviously, without rain or significant watering, shrubs and trees will die. OLPA has been lucky it has not lost more valuable shrubs and trees, thanks to George Ickes and his crew of maintenance workers, and assorted volunteers who came out to water in the worst of the rainless summer.

Then came some rain at last...leading to the loss of several large trees which had been compromised by years of drought and shrunken roots. (When trees are starved of water, their roots shrink. This means the ground is not holding onto the tree as tightly as before. When there's a heavy rain, the dirt is loosened around the already smaller roots and that's what causes some of these big trees to simply topple over!) The Linear Park had some trees and limbs to fall, and some structures in the park or near the park were damaged when trees fell from private yards into the street or park. A home on South Ponce de Leon lost a huge tree, which nearly cut one of the street side lamp poles in half.

OLPA is still working with the City and County to repair or replace the streetlamps that have been damaged by falling limbs, trees, or motorists' accidents. We are aware that the light bulbs in some fixtures do not work. The Linear Park will have a small role to play in a movie being filmed this autumn tentatively titled Frederick L. Olmsted: Designing America. The documentary film for PBS is a result of grant money being used to feature challenges facing Olmsted's work today. The Linear Park was competing with other Olmsted projects throughout the USA for inclusion in the film and OLPA is honored to have been chosen to be a part of the presentation. Several OLPA board members have been working on this project throughout this summer and will participate in the filming. Watch for more information and photographs about this film in the next DHCA News.

FINALLY, please put this date on your calendars: Sunday, February 17, 2013. This is the official date for the OLPA "Dream in Green" Gala which provides much-needed money for our maintenance fund, so we can keep the park looking as great in the future as it does now. This year's chairperson is Beth Grashof. The popular Silent Auction will return in 2013, along with lots of good food, music, live auction items, great fun, and some surprises!! Please support OLPA by attending the gala.

Centennial of Druid Hills Golf Club

by Jennifer J. Richardson

In 1912, prominent Atlanta leaders living in Druid Hills decided to build a "gentlemen's club." Along with others, Forest and George Adair, Preston Arkwright, and Asa Candler signed a petition for a charter for the Druid Hills Golf Club. Though Frederick Law Olmsted had designated what is now "Lullwater Estate" for a public clubhouse, Candler and others wanted a private club and a golf course. They combined lands owned by Candler and land purchased from Colonel Harrison of Fernbank to amass property for a clubhouse, tennis courts, swimming pool, and 18 golf holes. By August 1913, nine of the 18 holes were complete and members began playing Druid Hills for the first time. The clapboard Dutch Colonial clubhouse, designed by Edward E. Dougherty, would not open until April of 1914. In an article in the April 26, 1914, *Atlanta Journal Magazine*, the clubhouse was described as facing the golf course rather than Ponce de Leon Avenue and "no pains or expense have been spared to make it a model of its kind." On the golf course itself, 62 sheep were used to keep the grounds manicured.

Through the years, many famous people have played golf at or visited Druid Hills. Bobby Jones won the first Druid Hills Club Championship in 1915, earning a sterling engraved pitcher, when he was 13 years old. Opera Star Enrico Caruso played the course at Druid Hills. One of the top women golfers of the day and only person to beat Bobby Jones, Alexa Stirling, was a regular player with Bobby Jones, Perry Adair, and Elaine Rosenthal. The Metropolitan Opera stars were entertained at Druid Hills, as were members of the Atlanta Music Festival. Druid Hills' first golf professional was Douglas Edgar, known as the "father of the modern golf swing." President Warren G. Harding and his wife were entertained at the club in 1921. Famous golfers associated with the club include Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Gene Dahlbender, Jr., Charlie Yates, Tommy Barnes, Louise Suggs, Dorothy Kirby, Patty Berg, and Vi Givens. Before he became famous, Tiger Jones played the course.

In 1924, the wooden clubhouse burned to the ground whilst golfers continued to play. The club was reconstructed using Dougherty's original plans---only this time it was constructed of brick, stucco and stone. Through the years, additions have been made and some parts of older additions have been demolished. However, what you see today as the main part of the clubhouse continues to date from the reconstruction after the fire (1925).

In 1941, an invitational golf tournament was founded at Druid Hills. Called the "Dogwood Tournament," it is one of the most prestigious amateur golf events in the nation. The Dogwood Tournament raises money each year for junior golf programs and players.

During the 1960s when the Druid Hills neighborhood was under threat of a freeway, there was occasional sentiment to rent or sell the golf course and move farther out of Atlanta, or to build high rises on the club's unused property. But the membership refused to sell or to degrade their historic club and so the golf course has stayed.

Much has happened to the club in its 100 years of existence. Liquor was served there during prohibition, leading to "raids," and slot machines were used there, leading to their being hidden in sand traps under threat of a raid. Many of Atlanta's most illustrious leaders have come through Druid Hills' doors; women's roles have changed; the golf club was racially integrated and admitted Jewish members without incident long before society called for such actions; many children have competed in swim, golf, and tennis tournaments, learning good sportsmanship whilst doing so. Many parties, weddings, celebrations, holidays, and wakes have occurred in the family atmosphere of the club. Charity events and tournaments have raised millions through the years for worthy causes. The golf club has become a "community within a community"—just as Asa Candler and the other founders intended it to be.

Druid Hills has continued to be interested in preserving its own history; a book detailing history from 1912-1987 was produced; artifacts, photos and historic memorabilia are being organized and preserved; the club newsletter carries a monthly history article by this writer. An entire series of events focusing on all aspects of the club are being held in this centennial year.

As Druid Hills Golf Course enters its second century, it remains, as its slogan indicates: "The gracious green heart of a classic southern community." Congratulations to our neighbor, Druid Hills Golf Club, on one hundred spectacular years.

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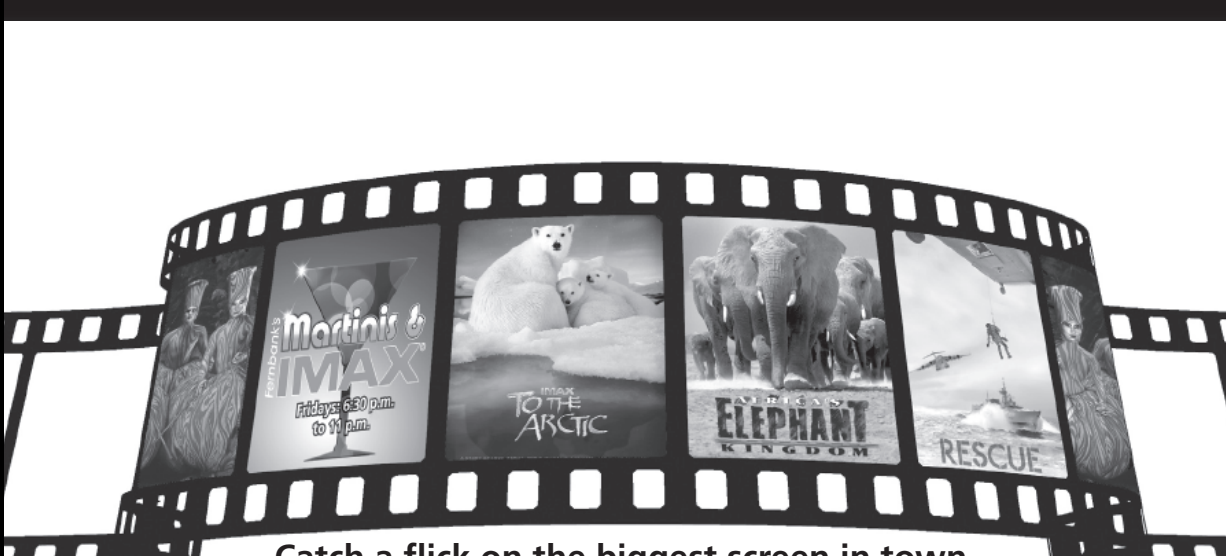
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Rutledge Park Update

by Tim Ralston

Rutledge Park, Druid Hills’ newest park at 1812 Ridgewood Drive, is steadily moving closer to fruition. The eagerly awaited Park Pride Visioning Plan, produced over the course of six months (including planning) has been issued and is available for public viewing on the Rutledge Park website (www.rutledgepark.org). The Visioning Plan, facilitated by Park Pride, is the result of interaction of community members, property owners, DeKalb County, and interested individuals, and includes an Executive Summary, descriptions of the design process and community input, a preliminary design document, and a conceptual budget.

The visioning process utilized by Park Pride to develop the plan was regarded as exceptionally successful for this project, in large part due to the widespread and enthusiastic participation of community participants. The focus of the Friends of Rutledge Park will now shift to working with the county in producing park design documents, initiating park construction, and fundraising. Park development will be a joint venture between the county and the community. The county will be able to fund part of the park development (including design and some of the construction costs), and the community will be responsible for the balance (e.g., costs for the playground, some plantings, entry elements, etc.).

As currently planned, the project will be comprised of three phases. Phase One will address park infrastructure, the entry area, plantings, and playground development, as well as other high priority (per the visioning process) items, and is the focus of current activity and fundraising. Phases Two and Three will incorporate lower priority items and will depend on future fundraising to be implemented. All phases will be included in the park design documents, and costs for each phase will be identified on the project budget. Again, the Visioning plan is available for viewing on the Rutledge Park website at www.rutledgepark.org.

To date, three community volunteer workdays have been held. Thanks to community volunteers, DeKalb County, Park Pride, and the Atlanta Audubon Society for the great progress in clearing the property of debris (especially old, and in some cases antique, tires), and the removal of invasive plants. More work remains, and additional work days will be scheduled, but the efforts to date provide a visual understanding of the beauty of this wonderful heavily wooded property.

The Rutledge Park Steering Committee wishes to thank Emory Presbyterian Church for providing space for all three public meetings, and the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance for providing space for the Steering Committee meetings throughout the entire project. The Committee also wishes to thank DeKalb County for their continued leadership and support, and Park Pride for their vision and talent.

The Friends of Rutledge Park Fundraising Committee has planned a Benefit for Sunday, October 14, 2012, from 4-7 pm. We are looking for volunteers to help make it a huge success. This will be a festive, adult-only party, focused on soliciting donations from our friends, neighbors, and associates to help fund the building of Rutledge Park. Invitees will be sent formal invitations with an RSVP. Small bites, soups, beer, wine, and desserts will be served. The event will be generously hosted at the home of Dan and Kitty MacFarlane, which borders the park entrance, so guests also may take guided tours of the park, see the park plans, and discuss the park’s overall vision. Thanks to John Zedd and many community musicians for a benefit concert for Rutledge Park. They rocked the Red Light Cafe at full capacity on August 18 and raised close to \$2000 for the design and building of a park playground!

South Peachtree Creek Trail: Something for Everyone

by Paula Refi

The South Peachtree Creek Trail, the result of a private-public partnership between DeKalb County and the Path Foundation, connects the ball fields and parking area at Medlock Park to the Tennis Center at Mason Mill Park. A combination of meandering concrete paths, wooden boardwalks, bridges, and resting places, this one-mile-long journey weaves among mature woodland and more open spaces, passes dramatically over the CSX railroad tracks, and curves downhill around the old Decatur Water Works. The trail was instantly popular with walkers, runners, cyclists, and birdwatchers. I sometimes see parents with baby carriages congregate on the railroad bridge. Better yet, for me, is the opportunity the trail provides to botanize.

The natural landscape was disturbed during construction, along the trail and among the surviving structures near the water works. These gaps have been sensitively replanted with appropriate native species. The trail weaves through several habitats (including three creeks) and makes for some interesting plant choices. Combinations of native trees and shrubs establish new plant communities that are not only attractive, but instructive for the observant visitor.

The woodland includes a variety of native trees: oaks, tulip poplar, hickory, beech, box elder, loblolly pine, sourwood, sassafras, and (along the creeks) sycamore, birch, and aralia. Among the newly-planted large trees are American basswood, silver maple, red maple, ash, and chestnut oak. These are big-scale, sometimes-rangy trees that wouldn’t do in a small space. I was especially drawn to several plant groupings—at the McConnell Drive trailhead and the Water Works curve—that are smaller in scale and would work beautifully at home.

Granite pillars and a bench (where walkers can gather their strength or rest after the journey) mark the start of the trail on McConnell Drive. This open and sunny spot is flanked by a small evergreen Southern magnolia (possibly ‘Little Gem’) and shrubby inkberry holly. Both are useful in residential landscapes for their year-round foliage and cultural adaptability. Interweaving drifts of deciduous American beautyberry and Virginia sweetspire provide spring blossoms and fall color. The sweetspire produces pendulous fragrant white flowers followed by red foliage in autumn. The beautyberry displays clusters of small magenta fruits at summer’s end that are bird magnets. This is a native plant combination that would be beautiful in any home garden.

At another location, a new planting of serviceberry associates with the beautyberry and sweetspire. Serviceberry provides tasty fruit that ripens quickly and attracts birds. I grow two serviceberries in my small Druid Hills front garden, where I appreciate their amber foliage in autumn. Redbuds have been planted along some shady stretches of the South Peachtree Creek Trail. Redbuds are distinctive because of their early magenta flowers and drought tolerance. That’s why I planted one in the plant-challenging tree strip next to the curb where I never water. Dogwoods and drifts of native azalea (notoriously difficult to establish) are doing just fine in other places along the trail.

Two existing herbaceous (non-woody) natives grow in a low place near the trail’s Willivee Drive intersection, a stone’s throw from the charming Medlock Community Garden. Here, jewel weed blooms orange in summer. It’s actually a native impatiens that likes shade and moisture. Purple ironweed and yellow Jerusalem artichoke flourish in a sunny spot next to the boardwalk. Jerusalem artichoke is a native sunflower with an edible root. People pay real money for its tubers at the DeKalb Farmers Market! Clara Redmond, my years-ago neighbor around the bend on Emory Circle, shared her plants with me. Ironweed is a statuesque five-footer that produces brilliant purple flowers in fall. It’s a beautiful, but tenacious, perennial that attracts butterflies, best appreciated in the wild.

The South Peachtree Creek Trail provides access to a remnant natural world that is rare in a bustling city. Most folks travel the route quickly, but it is equally enjoyable at slower speeds. The proposed Phase 3 will take the trail from Mason Mill Park across Clairmont Road to link up with Emory University’s Clairmont Campus. Cyclists and runners could then avoid congested roadways on their way to work. I just hope they won’t overwhelm parents with baby carriages and botanizing seniors like me.



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You're invited!

DHCA Board Meetings are always open to Druid Hills neighbors. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at St. John's Lutheran Church, Oakdale and Ponce de Leon.

Check www.druidhills.org for any changes in location.



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Druid Hills Civic Association

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New Development Along Oakdale Road

by Wright Marshall

The significant parcel of undeveloped land on Oakdale Road has likely been a curiosity for many Druid Hills residents over the years, and many have probably also wondered about the uncharacteristic development and homes along Vilenah Lane and Dan Johnson Road. The recent building activity and applications for more construction have created quite a buzz.

The history of this land and its early owners, the Johnson family, stretches beyond Joel Hurt’s original development in 1893. According to Antoinette Johnson Matthews’ *Oakdale Road, Atlanta, Ga., DeKalb County: Its History & Its People*, on July 24, 1865, John Gerdine Johnson purchased a large amount of land that would later become Druid Hills. Johnson built a house on this property, and his family lived in the area for generations.

John Johnson died in 1883, and his heirs sold all but ten acres to Joel Hurt’s Kirkwood Land Company in 1890 for \$63,000. This became the basis for Druid Hills and part of Olmsted’s original vision. John Johnson’s son Daniel bought the other heirs’ interest in the ten acres and deeded it to his wife, Willie Vilenah Medlock Johnson. Druid Hills began in earnest in 1908 when the Druid Hills Land Company purchased 1,482 acres from the Kirkwood Land Company. Oakdale Road was built primarily between 1911 and 1925, with few vacant lots left by 1925. O. F. Kauffman’s original plan of Druid Hills clearly shows the Johnson plot with its 700’ frontage on Oakdale Road.

The Johnson property contained a pasture, barns, woodhouse, and carriage shed used for a substantial dairy. According to Matthews’ book, “A brook ran through the pasture which served the more than a hundred cows that furnished milk for a greater part of Atlanta. The milk wagons left before dawn in order that the milk was delivered before it was soured by the sun. “The barns were torn down when Vilenah was created around 1938.

When the dairy house was demolished, the stone was used to construct 1097 and 1098 Dan Johnson Lane.

The Johnson family built their home in 1921 on 1097 Oakdale Road, and the house still stands. Daniel Johnson deeded this lot to his daughter Antoinette, who later wrote the history of Oakdale Road. Antoinette recalls that “the ten acres that had been reserved by the Johnson family was made into a small sub-division in 1938 with a road intersecting Oakdale, named Vilenah Lane in memory of the wife of Daniel Johnson. The continuation of the road when it turns and runs parallel with Oakdale is called Dan Johnson Road.” Johnson and her heirs built most of the houses and duplexes in the new subdivision between 1938 and 1964, as investment properties. Several lots, including the Oakdale frontage, were never built upon.

Antoinette Johnson Matthews’ son, Daniel Johnson Matthews, Sr. eventually took ownership of the remaining land, and when he died in 2010, the property was left in a trust owned by his wife, Evanlee Daum, and his three children.

In 2011, the Matthews trust engaged Phillip Clark Fine Custom Home Builders to build 10 homes on the former Johnson property. All vacant lots will be built upon, and several of the homes on Vilenah and Dan Johnson will be demolished for new homes. Evanlee Daum’s home is also being replaced by a new structure, and the original Johnson home at 1097 Oakdale Road will be renovated. Clark intends to build only one to two houses at a time as they are sold. The first two homes, one on each street, have been designed by architects Frank Neely and Spitzmiller & Norris. In addition to these two architects, Sheila Rogers and Tim Adams may also be involved with the coming projects. Graham Pittman will be the landscape architect for all of the projects.

David Cullison, the preservation planner for the



Proposed Lot Layout: Daniel J. Matthews Estate” by Site Works Surveys & Planning

DeKalb Historic Commission, has noted that Clarke and his architects have made significant efforts to involve the community and to develop plans that will complement the existing architecture of Oakdale Road. The homes will generally be designed in the revival styles that were popular during the original construction of Druid Hills, and each new home follow the same approval process as do renovations and additions. The scale, massing, and materials of the new homes are major components of the historical review process. The Oakdale Road houses will be larger than the ones proposed on Dan Johnson.

The proposed survey shows the plan for the new development. The original lot lines noted by dashed lines refer to the 1941 plat for the property. This plat allows for 80’ frontage along Oakdale Road, but Clarke has decided to increase the frontage to 100’ to match the original Kauffman layout. This creates one less buildable lot than allowed by current zoning.

The Johnson family’s land will change dramatically over the coming year, but these changes will bring the area much closer to the original development pattern of Oakdale Road than what has existed for the last seventy years.




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227 SUPERIOR AVENUE, DECATUR

Distinctive new construction inside the shell of an older historic home, this five bedroom, four bathroom total renovation incorporates all the cottage details you dream of from the magazines. The floor plan boasts three bedrooms (including the master) upstairs, two additional bedrooms down (one is currently used as a study), formal dining room, living room, family room, sunroom, and immaculate state-of-the-art kitchen. Entertain under the trees on your slate back patio in the lush backyard. Best of all, walk to Clairemont Elementary, restaurants in downtown Decatur and the park. Details such as period tile, wainscoting, fine custom moldings, hardwood floors, double vanities, and even a new claw foot tub complete the package

\$819,000



2386 OAK GROVE MEADOW, OAK GROVE

This spacious six-bedroom, seven-bathroom estate is located in the enviable Oak Grove Elementary school district, and is conveniently located to Emory, CDC, and I-85. The two-story entrance foyer and living room opens to a grand staircase, private dining room, and library. The large kitchen features a breakfast room, breakfast bar with beautiful granite counters, and opens to a family room with fireplace and built-ins. Upstairs you will find five bedrooms, each have a private bathroom. The owner's suite includes a sitting area, two spacious walk-in closets, and a bathroom with two vanities, whirlpool tub, and separate shower. The finished daylight basement with an interior and exterior entrance offers a terrific in-law suite with kitchen area, media room wired for surround sound, storage room, and even an exercise room.

\$789,000



1724 MEADOWDALE AVENUE, MORNINGSID

This Morningside brick Tudor with arched stone entrance is sited across from the lovely Noble Park. This spacious five-bedroom, five-bath home has been completely renovated. The luxurious German Leicht kitchen with a sun-filled breakfast area opens to a stone patio and level, fenced backyard. Kitchen adjoins a family room and private dining room that connects to a charming exposed brick sunroom. The formal living room offers a working fireplace and leads to the central stairwell. The owner's suite includes a sitting area with custom built-in closets, cabinetry, and library shelving. The well-appointed bathroom has limestone floors, spa soaking tub, separate stone and glass tiled shower and custom vanity. Terrace level includes a guest suite with separate entrance.

\$780,900



308 LAMONT DRIVE, DECATUR

This delightful Cape Cod, found on a large and level lot, is sited on one of the most popular streets in Decatur. The home offers ample room to nest with an owner's suite and guest bedroom on the main level as well as three bedrooms (with room for a bonus room or den) and two bathrooms upstairs. The owner's suite features a large walk-in closet and private bathroom with two vanities, a separate shower, and a whirlpool tub. The sunny living room features a fireplace and coffered ceiling. A separate dining room connects the living room to the kitchen with French doors that lead out to the private patio area and spacious backyard. Also, you will find a two-car carriage house with an additional bedroom and full bath-room which makes for a great in-law suite or home office.

\$739,000



433 BURLINGTON ROAD, DRUID HILLS

Gracious front porch with swing greets you at this renovated and expanded brick bungalow with four bedrooms and three-and-a-half bathrooms. Large cased openings with elegant beveled glass transom windows separates the formal living room with marble surround and built-in bookcases lead to the separate dining room. The spacious kitchen leads to a separate family room with flat screen television, built-in desk and shelving. Guest suite with private bath is also found on the main level. Owner's suite is located upstairs along with two other bedrooms and an additional living area. Living is easy with a two car garage, laundry closet on both levels, and ample closet space. This home is conveniently located within a ¼ of a mile to Emory and the CDC.

\$525,000



1852 WESTMINSTER WAY, DRUID HILLS

Located in the desirable Emory Grove neighborhood that offers two parks with many amenities, 1852 Westminster Way was completely renovated in 2006. This four bedroom, four bathroom home offers all of the conveniences of brand new construction with the charm of the 1940s. Main level includes a formal living room with fireplace and built-ins, dining room, and kitchen with breakfast room that opens to a family room and large deck. Main level also includes two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Second level includes an owner's suite with beautiful vaulted pine ceilings and a spa-like bathroom with walk-in closet. At the other end of the hall you will find a large bedroom with sitting area and a private bathroom. Home features hardwood floors throughout and plenty of options for storage.

\$450,000



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