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CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	3
DHCA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	4
PARENT NETWORK IS BACK	8
HOLIDAY PACKAGE SAFETY TIPS	9
SCHOOL NEWS	11

Eighty Years of DHCA

By Jennifer J. Richardson

When Druid Hills was in its early development in 1905, The Olmsted brothers' firm wisely included covenants on the deeds to the land. These included lot sizes of at least a quarter acre; single family use only; no subdivisions of lots; substantial building setbacks; no commercial use and "no nuisances." Once these covenants expired, it could become open season on lots of "nuisances" in Druid Hills.

In 1938, with concerns about the public schools serving Druid Hills and because the protective covenants were expiring, a group of civic-minded individuals formed the Druid Hills Civic Association. School Board Chairman Larry Gellerstedt convened the first meeting in November, 1938, during which he called for neighbors to initiate and support a bond issue to make additions and changes to the schools. Henri Dobbs, an insurance executive, agreed to be DHCA's first president.

DHCA was successful in seeing the school bond referendum passed; and DeKalb County Commissioner Scott Candler petitioned that Druid Hills remain free of commercial development for 25 more years. Candler signed an order in 1939 zoning 460 acres of Druid Hills as residential only (not including Emory Village). Through the years, the City of Atlanta had its eye on Druid Hills with several annexation offers. DHCA rejected annexation and the idea of forming the "City of Druid Hills."

In 1938, when the DHCA was founded, some of their goals included: "working to preserve the unique character of this neighborhood and the sense of community in its residents"; historic preservation; environmental conservation; advocacy causes; and community events.

By 1965, many of the same goals were stated: "to pursue community programs for the betterment of Druid Hills"; "to preserve the historic quality and residential use"; "to oppose intrusion of forces inimical to the standard of quality associated with Druid Hills"; "to act as a liaison with local government"; to "exercise vigilance in zoning matters" and "make sure the interests of a majority of the property owners are sustained"; "to assist and support youth activities"; "to inform citizens of problems" and to "promote the general welfare of the community in the present and future." For the most part, these lofty goals continue to be embraced today.

Through the past 80 years, Druid Hills and the DHCA have faced complicated issues, exciting events and some real battles. Here are a few of them:

During the late 1940s, after the conclusion of World War II, a need for additional housing was identified, not just for Druid Hills, but for soldiers returning



From Emory University's 'Druid Hills News' Exhibition

to Emory University to study after the war. New housing meant expansion in Druid Hills, and the DHCA wanted to make sure it was done correctly. Emory handled this influx by constructing "Mudville", "Trailer Town" and "Lower Slobovia" for married students, females and males. Emory also played a role in the new Emory Grove subdivision development in Druid Hills and in the 1950s, additions were made to Druid Hills High School as more families moved into the neighborhood. In 1957, ground was broken for the original Fernbank Elementary School, and development of the streets near the school commenced. In the 1960s, Fernbank Science Center was conceived and built. The DHCA was involved in supporting the two schools, and the new science center, as well as what would later become Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

Squabbles over land use and development occurred then as now. Sometimes developers resorted to the courts to have DHCA regulations reversed. The DHCA at the time was a formidable opponent and developers often lost.

The DHCA was partially responsible for initiating a comprehensive study of the community in 1967. Adley Associates, Inc, an Atlanta firm, was hired and local resident and city planner Fred Kerpel led the survey. The survey was to document changes in land use—how a particular piece of property was being used in 1967—and what it might be used for in future. It studied commercial

Continued on page 5



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Greetings from the President

By Anne H. Wallace

Three years ago I volunteered to be nominated for President of Druid Hills Civic Association. The Nominating Committee was not confident that I was qualified. I was questioned about my opinions and positions on DHCA matters. I debated with myself: Am I prepared to assume the responsibility of this position? Other Board members encouraged me and one said, "You'll be a fine President." The Committee decided to take a chance since it was difficult to find anyone else willing to step up. I did not realize at the time that this would be almost a full-time job!

The Officers and Directors who have served with me since 2016 have been instrumental in the accomplishments and successes we have achieved. In particular, members of the Executive Committee each year were my cabinet and my inner-circle helping to advise and counsel in matters both large and small. I thank you all!

In 2016 we discouraged a proposal by the PATH Foundation to build a multi-use trail on Lullwater Road. We participated in discussions with MARTA regarding the Clifton Corridor and potential routes



Anne Wallace

for light rail. We observed and monitored Emory's application for annexation to City of Atlanta.

In 2017 we brought to an end the litigation over Clifton Ridge. DHCA was out of the "litigation business" for the first time in more than 13 years. My resolve became to spend time and resources on more constructive endeavors going forward. We partnered with the Olmsted Linear Park Association (OLPA) to host the first Picnic in the Park event last September.

In 2018 we celebrated the 80th anniversary of DHCA and the 50th anniversary of our Tour of Homes & Gardens. DHCA filmed long-time residents telling their personal stories of growing up and living in Druid Hills over the decades. The film "*Druid Hills: History Happens Here*" premiered at the 2018 Tour of Homes & Gardens and is available for viewing on our website: www.druidhills.org. Emory University curated an exhibit of DHCA and Tour history from their archives and made it available in the Woodruff Library on campus from April-July. The panels were then donated to DHCA and displayed at the second annual Picnic in the Park on September 23.

Continued on page 4

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

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Thanks to all our writers, especially our new ones! Consider sharing your thoughts and write for the DHCA news. Deadline for the November issue is October 20. Submit to JJRichar@bellsouth.net.

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Justin Critz | Bruce MacGregor
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President's Column ...continued from page 3

During my presidency, DHCA formed a Governance Committee, adopted a Code of Conduct and Meeting Procedures, and held the first Board Training. A committee is in place to file for a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for Druid Hills to allow neighbors to contribute tax-deductible funds for special projects such as restoring the Twittens (Maids' Walks). We also returned *Druid Hills News* to a quarterly publication in 2018.

In October we completed the installation of 11 Flock Security Cameras in City of Atlanta Division 1 courtesy of a \$25,000 donation from Alex Wan, who represented this area on the Atlanta City Council for many years.

Our committees have been active the past three years establishing our monthly Walk Druid Hills events negotiating with GDOT and DeKalb County to improve road safety, recruiting a new roster of street captains for Neighborhood Watch, advising on connectivity projects and park issues, as well as recruiting more volunteers to work with us.

It has been my pleasure and my honor to serve as President of DHCA. I hope I leave the organization and the entire Druid Hills neighborhood a better place as a result of my efforts.

DHCA Membership *Why YOU Should Join*

November signals the Kick-Off for our **Annual Membership Campaign** for Druid Hills Civic Association.

Here's why you should join.

- We deliver *Welcome Bags* to new residents every month.
- We have partnered with *Trees Atlanta* to plant hundreds of trees over the last 4 years.
- We have reinvigorated the *Neighborhood Watch* program and aim for coverage of the entire neighborhood.
- We have installed 11 Flock Security Cameras to capture license plates and, hopefully, capture some criminals!
- We sponsor monthly "*Walk Druid Hills*" events.
- We mail quarterly *Druid Hills News* newsletters to every residence.
- We have preserved our history on video - *Druid Hills: History Happens Here*.
- We support our neighborhood schools with dollars for special projects.

- We negotiate with local government agencies to get the best results for any projects proposed for Druid Hills.
- We organize an annual Fall Yard Sale.
- We partner with other organizations to raise money for parks and gardens.
- We volunteer and donate to historic preservation initiatives.
- We showcase Homes & Gardens with an annual Tour.
- We host community parties: *Tour Gala*, *4th of July Parade*, and *Picnic in the Park*.

Joining DHCA is easy! You may join online using the instructions below or send in the attached form below along with your payment.

Online instructions:

Go to <https://druidhills.org/join-us> and select a membership level. Enter your e-mail and security code, then add the information, including payment, as requested.

Thank you for becoming a DHCA member.



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Eighty Years of DHCA ...continued from cover

development, traffic flow, drainage, sidewalks, conversion of large homes into apartments or boarding houses, and—the big issue: The Stone Mountain Toll way.

In 1968, the Lullwater Garden Club and DHCA initiated the Druid Hills Tour of Homes as a fund-raising effort for the DHCA and for the Lullwater Conservation Garden. Later supporters included the Emory Women's Club and Paideia School. Eventually, the tour became the greatest source of revenue for DHCA. It's interesting to note that while the DHCA was holding its inaugural tour, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GADOT) was busy obtaining property for the right-of-way of the proposed expressway and demolishing what had been single family homes as fast as they could manage. The GADOT issued a plan that showed the proposed expressway would cut through the Ponce de Leon corridor in the City of Atlanta part of Druid Hills—after it had decimated Old Fourth Ward, Inman Park, Poncey Highlands, Candler Park and Lake Claire. The Olmsted Linear Park was to be carved up like a Thanksgiving turkey.

At the time, claims were made that Emory and the DHCA were willing to rubber stamp the road as long as everything north of Ponce de Leon was left intact. This attitude would later vastly change as DHCA became one of the major groups urging “Save Don't Pave” and “Stop the Road.” What has become known as “The Road Fight” went through many iterations, protests, fund raisers and court cases. A history of the expressway is beyond the scope here. But the road did have several names including Stone Mountain Toll way, Stone Mountain Expressway, Presidential Parkway, and Freedom Parkway. After years of heroic effort on the part of DHCA, CAUTION, Roadbusters and others, the road was stopped from slicing through Druid Hills. A 1991 issue of the DHCA news listed some key players in the victory: Lige Moore, Mary Dabbs, Gail and Spencer King, Woody Cobbs, Sally Harbaugh, Dick Hubert, Carolina and Michael Lane, and Jack Boozer. There were hundreds of others.

A group of far-sighted and tireless DHCA members and neighbors finally got the neighborhood listed as an historic district, and in 1979, the listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These designations were in the nick of time, because prior to 1979, Ponce de Leon in Druid Hills was zoned for high rise and multi-family. A high rise home for the elderly was planned for the corner of Springdale and Ponce; the golf club wanted a high rise apart-



Springdale Park looking towards Virgilee Park (photo courtesy OLPA)

ment house in the ravine in front of its property and a 1,000-foot radio and TV tower on its course; and owners of local mansions such as El Paradiso and Rainbow Terrace let properties deteriorate in hopes of selling for high rise development. The fact that Ponce doesn't resemble Lenox or Peachtree Roads in Buckhead is a monument to all the historic preservationists who stepped in and basically saved Druid Hills from the wrecking ball.

Other DHCA issues were also important. The famous “Kroger at Emory” was leaving and being replaced by a CVS. DHCA and others initiated a campaign to get Kroger to stay. Another issue was the Durand Farm land, which heirs of the Durand family wanted to sell for development. DHCA wanted the land as a wildlife refuge, but couldn't raise the money. It became a subdivision. Emory Village was zoned to add one additional story to the existing buildings, but not for residential use. A group from DHCA formed the “Don't Supersize Emory Village” when plans were announced to remove some buildings, add multiple stories of residences above commercial space, and parking decks. The Alliance to Improve Emory Village Group came directly from the DHCA before becoming a separate entity. The last big DHCA effort was to contest a developer's desire to subdivide property on Clifton Road that was platted for three lots, into multiple lots. After more than 10 years of court hearings, DHCA lost this particular battle.

Lest it appear that it was all one big fight after another, the DHCA has helped sponsor educational and preservationist groups such as Olmsted Parks Society, and Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, as well as a lot of FUN things. The annual Tour of Homes, each with a thought-provoking theme, became widely known in Atlanta and well attended. The tour expanded to include gardens and an artists' market

and remains a huge success to this day. The money earned by the tour helps to fund the philanthropic aims of the DHCA as when the association donated money for art supplies, a kiln or band instruments to local schools. DHCA involved Trees Atlanta in a street tree program and sponsored several linear park events including picnics and a 25 year Stop the Road Reunion. The Peavine Watershed Alliance—a group dedicated to protecting our tributaries of Peavine Creek— was mid-wifed by Patricia Payne White from the DHCA. Other enterprises sprang from the DHCA: the parents' network, the DHCA News, a book club, a transportation committee, a safety committee, and historic preservation committees for the jurisdictions of Atlanta and DeKalb. Another group helped study whether annexation into the city was a good or bad move for the community. Recent projects include a written history of the organization by Dr. Claudia Keenan and a film featuring the memories of many residents that was produced by resident David Winston.

Where would Druid Hills be today without the DHCA? One can only speculate. That 4-lane highway bisecting Druid Hills would probably be 8 lanes by now and lined with fast food franchises, billboards and service stations instead of trees. High rises, which were legal at the time, would probably sit shoulder to shoulder along the major thoroughfares; subdivision of single family lots with homes crammed in every available space would occur; ruined waterways, and clear cutting of old growth trees. And the Olmsted Linear Park? It would still be there, but under several inches of asphalt.

Perhaps most important, DHCA has adhered to what the designer, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. envisioned. In a 1890 letter to Joel Hurt, Olmsted wrote that the homes...“should be well shaded by handsome umbrageous, permanently thrifty trees” in a neighborhood with a...“pleasing rural or at least semi-rural character of scenery to be permanently enjoyed.” Olmsted also wrote that the...“roads should be of moderate grace and curves, avoiding any great disturbance of its natural topography.” Olmsted's centerpiece, the linear park, was in his words to be, “a linear version of the traditional village green.” That same village green is where DHCA holds its picnics for the community today.

Finally, the humanitarian and environmentalist Olmsted viewed his landscape art as a vehicle for enriching the physical, spiritual, and social lives of people. In a nutshell, that is what DHCA has done for 80 years.

Fabulous Fall Picnic

Many thanks to all who attended the 2nd annual DHCA/OLPA Picnic in the Park. It was a fine afternoon to enjoy the beautiful Olmsted Linear Park. Delicious tapas dishes were donated by local restaurants such as Manuel's Tavern, Sweet Auburn BBQ, SABA, Wahoo! Grille, Pig-N-Chik and The White Bull (new to Decatur). Many thanks for their support! The Druid Hill Billys entertained with fun festive music. We also want to add our sincere appreciation to our stakeholders for their support: Commissioner Jeff Rader, DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs, Fernbank Museum of Natural History and Park Pride.







Welcome

to the

2nd Annual

Picnic in the Park

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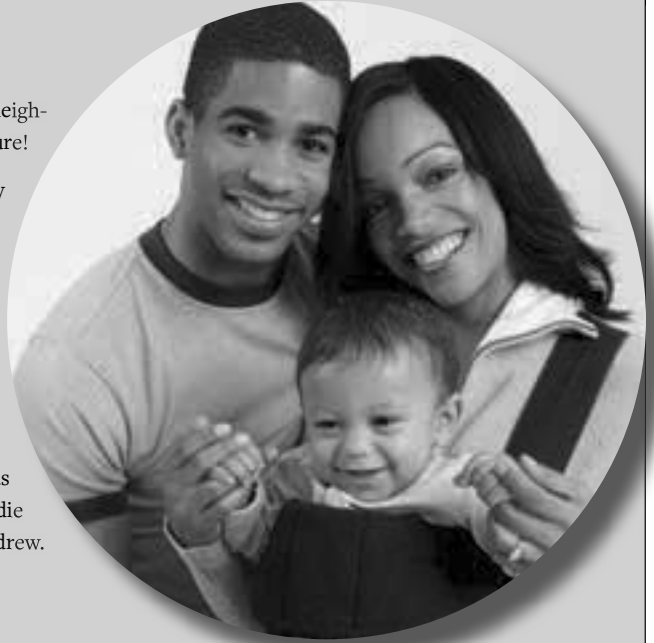
DHCA Parent Network Is Back

Are you a parent living in Druid Hills? Are you interested in fun gatherings with other neighborhood families? The Druid Hills Parent Network is back, and we are excited about its future!

To stay up-to-date on future events and communications, join the DHCA today, at any level, and select Parent Network as a special interest (<https://www.druidhills.org/Learn-More>). Once, you join the DHCA, you will have access to our password-protected parent forum, which can be accessed here: [druidhills.org/parents-network](https://www.druidhills.org/parents-network). Already a DHCA member? Simply sign-up for our new parent forum ([druidhills.org/parents-network](https://www.druidhills.org/parents-network)).

We want this to be *your* network, so be on the lookout for a survey which will help us gauge your interest in various activities. You can also reach us by email with any questions: parents@druidhills.org

Your New Parent Network Leaders are Ginger Ann Hughes and Emily Webb. Ginger has lived in Druid Hills for four years with her husband, Robert. They have two daughters: Sadie (6) and Franny (3.5). Emily has lived in Druid Hills for four years with her husband, Andrew. They recently welcomed daughter Leighton (nine months)



Time to renew or join your Druid Hills Civic Association!

To renew or join:
www.druidhills.org/join-us

Join us on



If You Leave It, They'll Retrieve It

By DHCA Public Safety Committee: Thea Roeser & Ellen Meshnick

Holiday season is almost here, offering a golden opportunity for “porch pirates” to steal packages. During the holiday months, Nextdoor.com reports that it usually sees a 500 percent increase in posts on its social network about missing packages. According to a 2017 USA TODAY article, one third of Americans have their packages stolen. The DHCA Public Safety Committee hopes the following suggestions will help keep your packages safe. There are solutions to ensuring that your package arrives in your hands, not in the hands of thieves.

1. Amazon Locker is a self-service parcel delivery service offered by the online retailer. Amazon customers can select any locker location as their delivery address and retrieve their orders at that location by entering a unique pick-up code on the locker touch screen. The nearest Amazon Locker is located at Whole Foods, 2111 Briarcliff Rd.
2. With UPS, you can reschedule deliveries to suit your schedule, even deliveries on Saturdays. You can also have your packages delivered to a UPS store. It's a \$5 charge, can't weigh more than 150lbs, no pallet deliveries, and if not picked up within five days, the package is returned to the sender. UPS does request you call or email to let them know you're expecting a package. Photo identification is required to pick up the package. Nearest UPS store is located at 2107 N Decatur Rd, near the Publix.
3. FedEx at the corner of North Decatur Rd. and Clairmont Ave. is open 24 hours. You can FedEx your packages to that location and they will hold your package for five days. On the sixth day, it is returned to the sender. No fee for service.
4. Have your packages delivered to your workplace/office.
5. Install security cameras like the Ring, to notify you when someone is on your property or at your door.
6. See if your neighbor will accept delivery of your package.
7. Require signatures on delivery for your package.
8. Request a vacation package/mail hold if you're gone for the holidays.
9. Finally, insure your packages so if they do unfortunately get stolen, you'll get reimbursed.



SAVE THE DATE!

DHCA 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 20, 2019

1:30 PM at Fernbank Museum
Frances Wood Wilson Foundation Theater

DHCA wishes to thank our community partner, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, for use of its facility for DHCA's 2019 Annual Meeting.



Welcome to Fernbank's New President

By Alida Silverman

Jennifer Grant Warner became President and CEO of our Fernbank Museum of Natural History in June 2017, succeeding Susan Neugent who held that position for almost 20 years before retiring and becoming President Emeritus. It was Susan Neugent who brought Jennifer to Fernbank from the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce in 1999. She became Senior Vice-President and Chief Programming Officer in 2003 and Executive VP and CPO 11 years later. Jennifer knows and loves Fernbank well, remarking as we started our conversation: "Fernbank is the only natural history museum to evolve out of an old-growth forest"; "Mother Nature is the star"; and "So much wonder in the natural world." Our interview took place in the museum's board room overlooking WildWoods.



Jennifer Grant Warner

Why did you choose to come to Fernbank?

Education and the environment were important issues for her, she said, leading to her involvement in public policy-related roles early. A history major at the University of Kentucky, she began as project manager for governmental affairs at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and then manager of community development at the Metro Atlanta Chamber when she moved to Atlanta. Saying yes to the opportunity offered at Fernbank just seemed right. She was deeply involved in the development of NatureQuest, a very successful children's exhibition offering interactive exploration on Fernbank Museum's upper level. (Fun for adults accompanying children too, as I can personally attest.) And, most recently, with WildWoods behind the museum offering an eight-acre experiential learning area for all ages and serving as a gateway to the Fernbank Forest.

What do you hope to accomplish as President?

Building on the foundation Fernbank has laid down and expanding its reach by cultivating the innate curiosity that Warner believes is present in all ages are the main goals. She wants to connect more people to science, nature and culture. She wants to "help people experience the wonder of nature." She singled out a couple of new program initiatives the museum has undertaken, both directed toward under-served kids and schools in cooperation with Atlanta Public Schools and the Boys & Girls Clubs. Science Explorers is a two week after-school program at the school with two field trips to Fernbank for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at APS Title I schools. Urban Watch is an ecology-based day program in the forest for middle and high school students. And she looks forward to announcing a new permanent exhibition to open in 2019.

Do you have a message for Fernbank's neighborhood?

Because Jennifer Grant Warner is as thoughtful as she is enthusiastic, she asked for a little time on this response: "Fernbank is proud to be a part of the Druid Hills community, and we want to be a good partner within this unique neighborhood. As we expand our programs to ensure there's something for all ages and abilities, I hope that our neighbors will enjoy those as we connect people to science, nature and culture through those one-of-a-kind experiences. We will also continue the important work of caring for and preserving the natural spaces, including Fernbank Forest, that are a part of our campus. We have an amazing opportunity to engage our community with the wonders of the natural world."

BSA Troop 18 Collecting History for Centennial Year

Boy Scout Troop 18 at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church will observe the centennial of its founding in 2020. The troop is planning a celebration and is currently collecting photos, documents, memorabilia and memories about Troop 18. If you have anything you would be willing to loan, donate or allow the Troop to copy, please contact Walter Weimar at 404-664-8682 or email at weimars@Earthlink.net. Anything loaned will be copied and returned. Thank you!

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School News

SPARK

Recently, Springdale Park Elementary School hosted its annual STEAM Night for the students, families and the community. Participants were able to learn about different careers in science fields and participate in hands-on activities that explored science concepts and engineering practices. School faculty, community members, and science experts facilitated demonstrations for students in all grade levels. Each grade level completed a STEAM challenge to address a real world problem that correlates to Georgia Standards of Excellence in Science. It was a well-attended event that received lots of positive feedback!

Druid Hills High School

Centennial Celebration - Druid Hills High School welcomed back generations of alumni for their recent homecoming football game at Adams Stadium. This was a special homecoming event as it marked the kickoff of a yearlong Centennial celebration. Druid Hills School opened its doors in 1919 on the campus of Emory University and moved to its present day location on Haygood Drive ten years later. The homecoming festivities included a huge tailgate with music, food trucks and a display of the homecoming floats (this year's float competition was won by the Senior Class of 2019). Additional events recognizing the 100-year anniversary will be held throughout the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic school years. The football tailgate event is being planned as an annual homecoming event going forward, and alumni are planning to join in the float building fun in the years to come by having an alumni entry in the parade! The committee in charge of planning these events is the recently formed Druid Hills Alumni Board, which is committed to getting alumni more engaged in current activities at Druid Hills High School and the feeder schools within its cluster. In addition to Centennial celebration planning, the Board is organizing a new foundation to spearhead fund raising efforts and working to develop connections with alumni to offer scholarships, internships and mentorships to current students.

Congratulations to **English teacher Kendra Radcliff**—one of 87 worldwide recipients of the 2018 Yale Educator Award. Radcliff, who has worked at Druid Hills High School for more than a decade, was chosen by the prestigious college out of 371 nominees representing 42 states and 12 countries. Radcliff was nominated by Yale freshman and Druid Hills High Class of '18 grad Zakaria Gedi. As part of a tradition at Yale, educators from around the world are recognized for supporting, inspiring, and pushing students toward academic excellence.



Kendra Radcliff

Paideia School

Student Musicians -- Paideia student musicians have been selected to join various local orchestras, chamber music programs and jazz orchestras. Violinists David Chung and Meredith Salzinger, and cellist Evan Nicholson are members of the Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra; cellist Jordan Leslie has a position in the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra; violinist Heather Will and cellist Skyler Marks are members of the Atlanta Junior Chamber Orchestra; and Heather and Owen Zealey-Chen are in the Chamber Orchestra of Decatur and Atlanta for their third year.

Jordan Leslie, Nicholas Lin and Evan Nicholson all participate in Franklin Pond Chamber Music program and Abby Moore is a violinist with the Vega String Quartet's chamber music program at Emory University.

Clarinetist Garrett Brand, bassoonist Andrew Guthrie and trumpeter Calliope Cutchins all have won positions in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestras of Atlanta. Bassist Hannah Searles now plays in the Rialto Youth Jazz Orchestra Combo. Pianist Jason Guo now plays piano and celesta in the Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Ben Franklin Academy

The Ben Franklin Academy cross country team recently competed in the fourth annual Wingfoot XC classic. Senior Alex Warren took first place in the JV boys division, with over 200 competitors.

Several Ben Franklin Academy students have been awarded AP scholar with distinction, granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken as well as scores of three or higher on five or more of these exams. Congratulations to: Jonas Iskander, Harriet Mycroft, Isabelle Nanmoum, and Alex Warren.



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Callanwolde Hosts An Old-Fashioned Christmas

By Andrew Keenan, Executive Director, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

If you are new to the neighborhood, you may not know that Callanwolde Fine Arts Center hosts Christmas at Callanwolde every year starting the day after Thanksgiving. The 98-year-old Gothic Tudor mansion, once owned by Charles Howard Candler, makes the perfect setting for professional interior designers to show off their holiday decorating skills. Imagine vaulted ceilings, a long grand staircase, walnut-paneled rooms, walnut floors, and ten fireplaces all professionally decorated.

This year we celebrate our 36th anniversary with "An Old-Fashioned Christmas," starting November 23 running through December 9. As you enter the mansion, expect to be welcomed by the smell of beautifully decorated, live Christmas trees. Laura Iarocci of Faith Flowers will be providing elegant outdoor garlands and indoor flower arrangements. Our goal is to give a glimpse of what the mansion might have looked like when it was the home of the Candler family.



Callanwolde in winter

Christmas at Callanwolde has many events that appeal to all age groups. Our Holiday Gala is my personal favorite and will be held Thursday, November 29. It will feature performances by the Atlanta Pops Orchestra, John Driskell Hopkins (Zack Brown Band) and the very popular Joe Gransden Big Band. This year's dinner will be extra special, thanks to an in-kind donation from Zest Catering. Wine and beer, also included in the \$75 admission, gets an upgrade. The Callanwolde Board of Directors and a few of your neighbors will host a wine wall with some bottles valued over \$100. The silent auction supports our scholarship program and will have a little something for everyone: a Highlands, NC vacation cabin; a guitar autographed by Bruce Springsteen; original artwork; season tickets to the Jazz on the Lawn summer concert series; gift certificates from local restaurants and much more (feel free to contact me at akeenan@callanwolde.org if you'd like to donate an item). It's not often you can enjoy an evening in your own neighborhood that includes dinner, drinks and entertainment while supporting an important cause.

Daily self-guided tours of the mansion are from noon to 8 PM. There will be shopping opportunities at our Artist Market and throughout the decorated rooms. Other events include: *Breakfast with Santa* and *Teddy Bear Teas* on weekends; *Sips with Santa* and *Champagne & Nutcracker* on certain evenings. Groups of 20 may also arrange for afternoon teas. Tickets may be purchased online at Callanwolde.org.

Christmas at Callanwolde is our most important fundraiser of the year. It helps us provide very high-quality classes at an affordable cost. Christmas at Callanwolde would not be possible without the volunteer time of interior designers and our major supporters: Fidelity Bank, Holland & Knight, Publix, DeKalb County and Epps Aviation. Please join us for this wonderful Druid Hills tradition.

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center is a 501(C)3 non-profit that offers a broad range of arts education including pottery, dance, jewelry making, meditation and much more. Its mission is to preserve, restore, and develop the Callanwolde Estate and to be the premiere public participatory arts and cultural center.

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Freedom is Your Park

By Harriett Lane, Vice President, Freedom Park Conservancy

An autumn stroll through Freedom Park is the perfect way to recharge your batteries and remind yourself of the astounding natural beauty found right on your doorstep. You can't put a foot wrong on a walk in any of Atlanta's parks, but there is just something about a walk in Freedom Park at this time of year that is simply magical for me.

My favorite strolls are small adventures. I try to locate the abandoned stoops and foundations in the park and even recently I discovered a chimney with the help of a neighbor along the Eastside Trail. I hope you will feel the satisfying crunch of dry leaves underfoot, breathe in the cool, fragrant air, and feast your eyes on trees decorated in all their colorful finery this season. With a well-maintained path, it couldn't be easier to explore Freedom Park on foot or bike. Whether it's a gentle stroll with the dog and kids or a brisk hike you're after, simply put on your walking shoes, wrap up warm and you're ready to go! I truly love this time of year and hope you will also join us for the following upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

In 2019 Freedom Park Conservancy will be the City Organizer for Jane's Walk. Jane's Walk is a movement of free, citizen-led walking tours inspired by Jane Jacobs. The walks encourage people to tell stories about their communities, explore their cities, and connect with neighbors. Anyone can lead a walk



Riding Bike in Freedom Park Picture

because everyone is an expert in their own experience of the places they live, work, and play. Our goal is to recruit 100 hike/walk leaders for the first weekend of May 2019. For more information on becoming a walk leader please email us at janeswalkatlanta@gmail.com

Join us on Saturday, December 8 at 9 am for Coffee and Hot Chocolate in the Park. We will be meeting at the entrance to the Park near Jackson Hill Baptist Church for a brisk walk and hunt for treasures!

Want to get more involved? Come join Trees Atlanta on Saturday, January 19 to plant trees close to the intersection of Austin and Sinclair. To volunteer for this event, please email Laura Henninghausen at Laura@freedompark.org or call 404-480-3018 for more information. Be ready to have fun and get dirty.

Do you have Snaps to share? Whether you've found an acorn or just cruised through the park on your bike, we want to see your park adventures. Use #freedomisyourpark on Instagram and Facebook posts and join in our social media community.

To learn more about us go to www.freedompark.org. Follow us on Facebook (@freedomparkconservancy), Instagram (@freedompark_atl)

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Experience Natural 'Superpowers' at Fernbank Museum

Fernbank Museum of Natural History is ushering in a new kind of superhero with special exhibit *Nature's Superheroes: Life at the Limits*. The exhibit explores an array of living creatures combating extreme conditions with surprising 'superpowers' to perform ordinary tasks like finding a next meal, leveraging strength, gathering speed, and even locating a mate.

Consider the helicopter beat of dragonfly wings, the black swallower's appetite for a snack 10 times its own body weight, and even the seemingly death-defying feats of tardigrades. These abilities may be impossible for humans to achieve, but *Nature's Superheroes* will show how these extraordinary talents are far from fiction with life-sized and larger-than-life models, engaging dioramas and interactive displays.

At Fernbank Museum, guests can enjoy the exhibit one step further with a visit to Fernbank Forest, the 65-acre old growth Piedmont forest home to many of the super examples featured within *Nature's Superheroes*.

"We always encourage guests to experience WildWoods and Fernbank Forest," Jessy Nuckolls, a life science educator at Fernbank Museum, said. "And so many of the organisms you can learn about inside the exhibit call the forest home. We've got Tardigrades, Periodical Cicadas, Winter Wrens, and Pileated Woodpeckers. With this exhibit, guests can immediately take what they've learned and see it right outside."

Additional programming includes 3D movies on Fernbank's Giant Screen Theater spotlighting superhero journeys: *Earthflight 3D* and *Flight of the Butterflies 3D*. *Earthflight* shows daily through December 13 and whisks viewers across the world on the wings of birds big and small, while *Butterflies* shows November 2 through January 10 to explore one of the longest migrations on earth, performed by monarch butterflies that weigh less than a penny.

Fernbank Museum of Natural History is located at 767 Clifton Rd., The Museum is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. Information is available at fernbankmuseum.org or 404.929.6400.

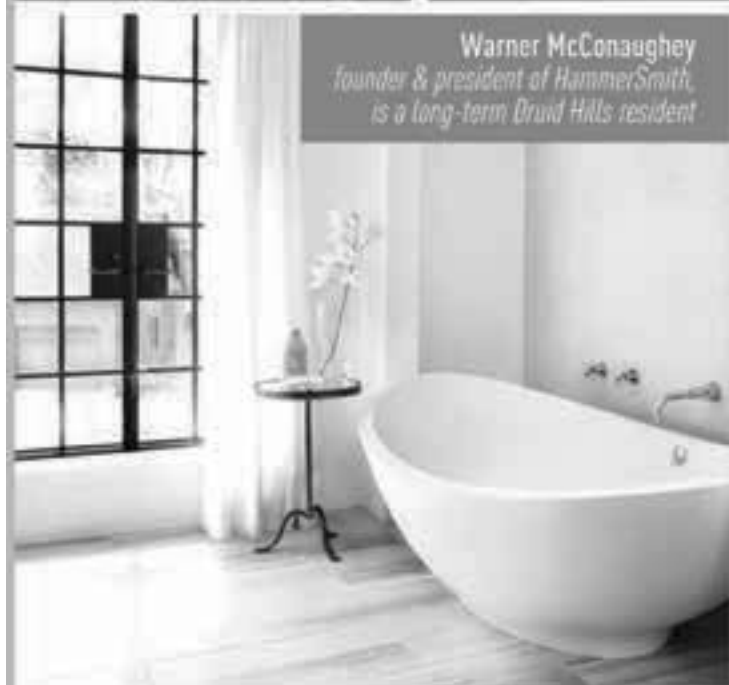
Nature's Superheroes: Life at the Limits is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org). The exhibit is sponsored locally by The Frances Wood Wilson Foundation and the Isdell Family Foundation.



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Chicago Fire Leads to Big Gift by Asa Candler

By Jennifer J. Richardson



Candler Park Golf Course

The “absolutely fireproof” Iroquois Theatre in Chicago opened its doors for the first time on November 27, 1903. Seven days later, on December 3, 1903, it burned to the ground, costing 602 humans their lives and injuring 250 others who’d gathered to see a live stage show.

The theatre had no fire alarms or sprinklers, fire escapes or any other means of subduing a fire. The tragedy was the worst fire to that date in the United States and activated new standards for fire protection throughout the nation.

Mrs. Bertha Page, age 45, and her 12-year old son, Harold, were among those who perished in the fire. Bertha was the wife of Charles T. Page (1840-1921). Page had fought in the Civil War, returned home and, being a cousin of Albert G. Spalding, helped organize a baseball team called the Forest City Baseball Club. Page eventually amassed a fortune in banking and investments and was one of several men who bought the Chicago Cubs Baseball Team.

The loss of his wife and son in the Iroquois Theatre fire devastated Page, and he decided to leave Chicago with his surviving daughters, Florence and Edna, and move to Atlanta. He entered into a partnership with friend and wealthy real estate developer Eugene R. “Ray” Hardendorf, also of Chicago. In 1907, for \$250,000 the two men purchased 150 acres of land from the Edgewood Investment Company, whose president was Judge Whitefoord Smith. They planned to subdivide the land into 750 lots and build streets and other amenities. They named their new company the Edgewood Park Land Company because the land was inside the old City of Edgewood at the time. (Edgewood was annexed into the city of Atlanta in 1909.)



Asa Candler

Page re-married two years after moving to Atlanta and lived at 170 Clifton Ave. (old street numbering system). Hardendorf returned to Chicago where he continued real estate development. In 1917, Page withdrew from the Edgewood Park Land Company and sold his remaining undeveloped lots to Asa G. Candler for \$60,000. An estate known as the Judge Hopkins Property was part of the sale from Page to Candler.

The Candler family marketed the rest of the lots in the old city of Edgewood and in 1922, Asa Candler gave the City of Atlanta the 53-acre Judge Hopkins land for use as a city park and golf course. Candler and his Druid Hills Corporation had been instrumental in developing the “private gentlemen’s club” known as the Druid Hills Golf Club. Candler felt that a golf course in the center of his new property would “attract more affluent buyers for the lots.” The park was dedicated in 1926 where Asa Candler, the honoree, made his last public appearance before his death. Even though the official name of the community was “Edgewood Park,” or the old city of Edgewood, people began calling the neighborhood “Candler Park” because of the golf course and park.

Page, Hardendorf and Candler all left their marks on the neighborhood. Candler Park has the golf course and park, Candler Park Drive, Candler Street and Callan Circle (named after an ancestral Candler home—as is Callanwolde.) Page Avenue is named for Charles T. Page, and Lula Avenue (now Marlbrook) is named for Page’s second wife. Hardendorf Avenue is named for Ray Hardendorf, and Harriett Avenue is named for Hardendorf’s wife. To date, Muriel Avenue remains a mystery—Muriel is not the name of either developer’s daughter.

Harold Avenue is named for the 12-year old son of Charles Page, who perished in the 1903 Iroquois fire. Thus, a tragedy in Chicago left an indelible mark on the Candler Park neighborhood, now 115 years after the theatre fire, and allowed Asa Candler to acquire the property now known as the Candler Park Golf Course—his last gift to the City of Atlanta.

Frazer Center Supports Employment First

By Dina Shadwell

October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month, but at the Frazer Center, employment for people with disabilities is our everyday business. With about 20% of the US population living with some kind of disability, Employment First initiatives are a crucial part of diversity hiring.

Helping with that change is the Employment First Act, which Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed into law in May of this year. The act is “bi-partisan, common-sense legislation that establishes employment as the first and preferred option for all people who want to work, regardless of their disability,” according to the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Through Frazer Center’s Supported Employment Program for adults with developmental disabilities, our staff spends time getting to know each individual’s interests and helps evaluate that person’s skills. Our staff also works on nurturing relationships within the business community to find employment matches that are a win for all parties involved. Once



Alicia Day, Frazer Center ex-officio board member and Home Depot employee

a match is made, we provide continued support with site visits and trainings for the employee and, as needed, for the employer and co-workers too.

One such individual is Alicia Day, who attended Frazer as a child and returned after graduating from high school. Through Frazer’s Supported Employment Program, Alicia got a job with Home Depot. Six years later, she still loves it, especially “being around different people in the community, helping people,” she says. “I like getting a paycheck too!”

As Frazer Center Adult Program Director Bill Payne says, “I think most people would be surprised to find out that when you employ a person with a developmental disability, you get a dedicated employee. If you hire them, and they like their job, you’ve got an employee for life.” In addition, Frazer Center provides supported employment services to individuals working at several local businesses, including Home Depot, Salon Red, Panera Bread, Publix, Kroger, McDonalds, and Chick-fil-A.

Employers interested in learning more about Frazer’s Supported Employment Program may contact Bill Payne at b.payne@frazercenter.org. If you would like to support Frazer’s mission by making an end-of-year tax-deductible donation, please visit www.frazercenter.org, or contact Paige McKay Kubik, CEO, at p.kubik@frazercenter.org.

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Remembering...

Col. Curtis A. James, Jr. and Amelia M. James

Both Curtis James and his wife Amelia died in the early fall of 2018. Curtis was a full colonial (retired) of the United States Marine Corp and served as Chief Operating Officer of DeKalb County from 1970-72. Amelia, a Decatur native, achieved significant fame as a portrait artist. The couple had been married 72 years and resided for many years on Lullwater Road and in Highlands, N.C.

Spence Rosenfeld (1952-2018)

Spence Rosenfeld founded Arboguard Tree Specialists in 1981 and managed the business until selling it to Davey Tree in 2017. Spence loved trees and was a certified arborist. He partnered with most conservation groups in Atlanta, where the beauty of the landscape and care for trees will be a constant memorial to him. Spence and Arboguard worked with OLPA throughout the years to make sure the trees in our linear park were healthy and robust specimens to be enjoyed by all. And when the trees were not happy, he helped them survive whatever threat they faced. DHCA is grateful to Spence for his and Arboguard's care of our trees. The DHCA Board sends condolences to his survivors.



Amy Erwin

Amy P. Erwin (1961-2018)

Amy Erwin was tall and blond and had a winning smile for everyone she met. But her real beauty was inside where she was a leader, preservationist, and community advocate. Amy's hand was in just about everything natural and beautiful in Druid Hills, Lake Claire and Candler Park. She was usually the first to volunteer for a task, and then set about lining up other volunteers. This was particularly remarkable because ten years ago, Amy's doctors diagnosed her with multiple myeloma and gave her two years to live. Amy defied those predictions and continued an active life of work, travel and service until her passing. She worked with the Candler Park Conservancy, and began working on having a piece of excess GADOT land added to Freedom Park; she was always rounding up helpers to plant flowers and weed beds in Candler Park. She loved the Olmsted Linear Park and served on the board of OLPA where her optimism and creativity were contagious. She was involved in the OLPA gala and the Plein Air. She worked with other preservationists to have two historic properties listed on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's "Places in Peril" list—and both were chosen by the Trust for such listing. Amy was an inspiration to many because she purposely and deliberately lived her life each day despite pain and fear of the unknown. She was not afraid to talk about her illness, nor to share her philosophy of life. For all of us who knew and loved Amy, and benefitted from her place in our lives, our sadness is that she didn't have more time. Amy leaves behind her remarkable husband, Elliott Albers, her son Max Erwin, her step son Maxwell Albers, her dog Ruggles, her many friends and family members. We are grateful Amy's life touched ours for a brief time.

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Tragedy in Druid Hills

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Whenever tragedy or murder in Druid Hills is mentioned, one of the first names that comes up is that of banker Henry Heinz. The husband of Lucy Candler Heinz, Henry was shot and killed by an intruder in the library of his palatial home, "Rainbow Terrace" in 1943.

There have been lesser known tragedies and murders in Druid Hills. In June of 1937, Michael Matthews, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Matthews was found face down in a decorative pool in the back yard of 1097 Oakdale Road. The home was the site of Mrs. Antoinette Johnson Matthew's school—the first kindergarten in Atlanta. Mrs. Mathews is also known for her book, *Oakdale Road*, published in 1971. Young Michael's nurse had briefly stepped aside and came back to find the 21-month-old missing. Neighbors and relatives searched, and Michael was found unresponsive in the pond. Fire Station No. 1 was called and tried to revive the boy, but were unsuccessful. The lad was buried in Oakland Cemetery.

On January 4, 1957, Master James David Hughes, Jr., age 4, died in a house fire at 831 Clifton Road. Little Jimmy was playing in the den of the home when a fire turned the room into an inferno in seconds. Firemen tried desperately to enter the home, but flames and thick smoke prevented them from rescuing the young boy. Jimmy was the grandson of Julius A. McCurdy, Decatur attorney and DeKalb political leader.

On February 2, 1969, what was termed as a "Mafia" slaying occurred at 879 Lullwater Parkway. James Withers Hammond, 51, answered his doorbell, with his wife, Mildred Carolyn Hammond close behind. Mr. Hammond was the owner and president of the Capitol Office Supply Company on Peachtree, and his wife was a bookkeeper there.

Mr. Hammond opened the door to find two men standing in the doorway. Mr. Hammond shouted, "My God, No!" just before being hit by a gunshot. Mrs. Hammond knelt to comfort her husband before running to a neighbor's for help. The neighbor, a physician, found Mr. Hammond dead of a gunshot wound in his chest. Police called the murder "baffling" and could determine no motive. Stunned neighbors watched while police combed the streets and yards in search of the gunman. A tip from a jailed inmate led to murder charges against Michael Turley, age 25, and Wayne Wheeler, 22. Police determined that the motive was robbery, but the robbers fled the scene after the gunshot without taking anything. Mr. Hammond is buried at Westview Cemetery.

In March of 1969, Edgar Nicholson, 29, testified in court that he'd helped plan a robbery that resulted in the death of Mr. Hammond. Nicholson stated that he'd purchased the gun, driven the car, and intended to share in the loot. Nicholson said the objective was to rob Mr. and Mrs. Hammond of cash and some diamonds they'd seen Mrs. Hammond wearing at the Capitol Office Supply. Nicholson said he'd also purchased a hat, gloves, a can of mace, and some adhesive tape and given the items, along with the gun, to Turley and Weaver. Nicholson was not charged in the crime and apparently received immunity for his testimony against Weaver and Turley. Nicholson said the assailants told him Mr. Hammond had answered his door and said, "Good Evening." Turley said to Hammond, "Let's go back inside the house." At that point, Turley said Hammond lunged for the gun and it went off accidentally. It was only then, after being shot, that Hammond said, "Oh, my God!" After the shooting, the two men fled and were driven from the scene by Nicholson, who was angry that the robbery had gone awry and that murder had been involved. Turley and Weaver were charged with Mr. Hammond's murder.

Some time prior to 1973, a tree company was hired to trim branches and cut trees at 879 Lullwater Parkway. One of the men up in a tree accidentally cut himself with a chainsaw. The man bled to death before help could arrive.

George Ernest Motz, 58, a Glyco Chemical Company Executive, was walking his dog near his home at 916 Springdale Road in March, 1975, when two men stopped their car near him. One said, "Give me your money" and Motz reached for his wallet. One of the robbers said, "Don't do that!" and shot several times at Mr. Motz. One bullet hit Motz in the abdomen. Mr. Motz lived long enough to give police a description of the assailants as "two Negro teenagers with medium Afros." George Motz later died of his gunshot wound at DeKalb General Hospital (Now Medical Center).

A chance remark on a DeKalb County bus led to the arrest of Rickey Burdette, 17, Gary Mapp, 16, Carl Tukes, 16, and Ben Miller, 16. The four teens had been on a ten day crime spree during which Mr. Motz was killed, a Candler Road Service Station attendant was robbed and shot, and several other robberies were committed. The passenger overheard the four teens discussing the shooting of the service station attendant and informed police, who made the connection to the Motz slaying.

Mr. Motz was an active member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where his funeral was held. Mr. Motz was survived by his wife, St. John Motz, and son Bobby.

James Maurice White, 64, was a kind, gentle and beloved neighbor at 817 Lullwater Road. He'd served in the 75th Infantry during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. A retired headmaster from a New England Prep School, he came to Georgia to care for his ailing father. On January 18, 1990, White's body was found on his back porch. He'd been shot in the chest with a small caliber handgun. White's doors were open and nothing inside his home was disturbed. Later, police stated the murder was not a part of a robbery or burglary, but was probably done by someone White knew.

Neighbors knew Jim White as a person who loved books, people, and his dog, and was devoted to preservation in Druid Hills. He was a member of the Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta, Amnesty International, CAUTION, and was active with the Druid Hills Civic Association, at one time serving as co-president. White was one of the founders of what is now the Druid Hills Patrol.

"Jim was constantly fighting development in our area," said Steve Misner, Second Vice President of the DHCA. At a meeting of the DHCA, Jim's death was announced by President Elizabeth Jacobs, who asked for a moment of silence.

Research has not discovered if anyone was ever charged with White's murder.

In memory of Henry, Michael, Jimmy, Jim, a tree man, George and Jim, of blessed memory.

[This article will have a sequel. If you know of tragedy murder, or strange circumstances, contact me at JJRichar@bellsouth.net]



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