



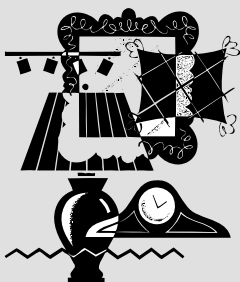
THE DRUID HILLS News

FALL, 2013
Volume 27, Number 3
CONTENTS

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN	PG 3
IN MEMORIUM	PG 3
PARKS AND GARDENS	PG 4
DAISY LUCKEY AUKERMAN	PG 5
FALL IS FOR PLANTING	PG 5
SQUIRRELS 3: HUMANS 0	PG 6
SCHOOL NEWS	PG 6
OLMSTED LINEAR PARK GALA	PG 7

Druid Hills Neighborhood Yard Sale Saturday, September 21 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* 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.

Deadline to register is September 14. Visit www.druidhills.org for details.

Power Substation proceeds on N. Decatur Road

by *Claudia Keenan*

Residents of Druid Hills will notice that work has begun on Georgia Power’s Houston Chapel substation on the north side of N. Decatur Road between Ridgewood and Burlington. The construction, which started in August with the tree-clearing and grading that makes our hearts collectively sink, is the culmination of two years of negotiation between the Druid Hills Civic Association and managers and engineers representing the power company.

“We did our best,” said Bob Ballou, former Division 2 Chair, whose background includes power engineering. Veterans of DHCA’s 2008 fight against Georgia Power’s new construction plans in Division 2, Bob and Bruce MacGregor, a city planner and former president of the DHCA, spent hours in meetings and site visits while reviewing plans and drawings and conducting their own research.

Working both against and with the formidable company, they feel they were successful in reaching an outcome far more aesthetically acceptable than the original proposal, which called for the substation to be located on the site now occupied by the medical research building on Haygood Drive. The location subsequently was changed

Continued on page 3

Cityhood

by *Judi Borgo*

The subject was cityhood when approximately 600 Druid Hills residents and others packed Glenn Memorial sanctuary August 20. They were there to hear about the City of Briarcliff Initiative (COBI) and other information delivered by key government officials and Druid Hills Civic Association leaders. COBI was one of three options discussed for denizens of Druid Hills. Others are the neighborhood’s maintaining status quo in unincorporated DeKalb and pursuing annexation into the City of Atlanta. A portion of Druid Hills currently sits within the City of Atlanta limits.

Urgency exists in the decision regarding the initiative, according to Justin Critz, president of the Druid Hills Civic Association, and Mike St. Louis, chair of the Committee to Explore Druid Hills Cityhood Options. Both speakers cited concerns of the declining service and economic conditions in DeKalb County and the negative consequences to Druid Hills of the proposed formation of The City of Lakeside. The City of Lakeside would have negative consequences for Druid Hills, according to Critz, St. Louis, and others who have studied The City of Lakeside’s plans to annex only selected portions of northern, unincorporated DeKalb County. Such annexation creates unnatural city boundaries that reflects the cityhood “game” of shifting tax liabilities to other parts of unincorporated DeKalb (including Druid Hills) by annexing a disproportionate ratio of commercial to residential property. To be fair to Lakeside, they are reacting to the unilateral actions of the Cities of Dunwoody and Brookhaven several years earlier taking the same actions: creating a new city that reduces its own taxes by encumbering within its city limits a disproportionate amount of commercial property. Moreover, the City of Brookhaven continues to be trying to annex even more commercial property that might more properly be within the boundaries of the City of Lakeside, or even better, within the more natural, more ethnically-balanced, and more politically-balanced boundaries of the proposed City of Briarcliff.

The importance of the occasion was underscored by the attendance of a number of elected officials, including Interim DeKalb County CEO Lee May; Georgia Representatives Mary Margaret Oliver and Jason Carter, both of DeKalb, and Michelle Henson; DeKalb Commissioners Jeff Rader and Kathie Gannon; Commissioner Sharon Barnes-Sutton, BOC presiding officer; and Atlanta City Councilmen Alex Wan and Aaron Watson.

Lee May acknowledged difficulties in DeKalb government, explaining that conversations about DeKalb’s future required longer than the 15 minutes he had been allotted to speak. He went on to share plans for increasing safety services in the county, tackling business permit issues, and creating a viable economic development plan.

In making the City of Atlanta’s case for Druid Hills’ annexation, the city’s COO Duriya Farooqui emphasized Atlanta’s established services, which have improved over the years, with crime dropping to 1969 levels, myriad improvements being made in safety, finance, and other areas, and maintenance of quality of life, which includes support of the arts and historic preservation. Meanwhile, the city has not raised taxes in several years and has dramatically increased its cash reserves to \$126.8 million. It is the first major city in America to have actually solved the widespread crisis of pensions for city workers and teachers. For additional information that includes mapped areas of possible annexations, residents are encouraged to go to www.druidhills.org.

The City of Briarcliff, with approximately 90,000 residents, would comprise a rough triangle of unincorporated land bordered by, I-85 to the west, I-285 to the east, and the northern boundaries of Atlanta, Avondale, and Decatur to the south.

To become a city in Georgia, Briarcliff must sponsor a \$30,000 financial viability study to see whether its proposed city is feasible, have the Georgia legislature pass a law to authorize a referendum, and then allow voters to cast a ballot on the matter. Since there is substantial overlap of the maps of the City of Lakeside and the City of Briarcliff, it is not possible to have a vote of citizens on one cityhood option against the other. Instead, the Legislature will decide on its own preferred map, and only the citizens inside that map will have an opportunity to express their opinion through a vote. In other words, if the City of Lakeside proposal successfully emerges from the 2014 Georgia Legislative Session, then residents of Druid Hills will not have a say at all in the process of the incorporation into cities of our larger community of northern DeKalb. They will also have no say in the incorporation or annexation of any commercial property near our neighborhoods into those cities.

For more information and a map of BOC, go to DHCA website(www.druidhills.org) and follow links.

Druid Hills Charter Cluster by *Sharon Day*

The very first of its kind, the Druid Hills Charter Cluster (DHCC), is poised and “on ready” to begin business as the first approved Charter Cluster in the state of Georgia. Pending DeKalb School Board approval, the cluster non-profit Governing Board could assume the collaborative management role of seven schools, including Druid Hills High, Druid Hills Middle, Avondale, Briar Vista, Fernbank, Laurel Ridge, and McLendon. Charter Cluster status appointment is made possible by Georgia legislation with no Charter Cluster, as yet, having been achieved. If approved, the DHCC will be among an elite group of education innovators with the unique opportunity to refine publically supported education.

With an eye focused on excellence in achievement, teacher satisfaction, and operational efficiency, members of the Charter Cluster Governing Board (in collaboration with Cluster school administrative personnel and School Leadership Teams) look forward to affording a

Continued on page 4

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

*Newsletter of the
Druid Hills Civic Association*

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

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HELP WANTED

Two Druid Hills Civic Association
Committees need volunteers!

Community and Lifestyle

- Plan neighborhood events
- Assist with fundraising for
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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
Claudia Keenan at
membership@druidhills.org.

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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Your Letters Are Welcome

Full details can be found on the Keep Atlanta Beautiful website.

OLPA Announces
New Executive Director

by Kirk Elifson, President

After an extensive search process that resulted in attracting 80 candidates, we are excited to announce our new Executive Director, Alex McCray. Alex comes to OLPA with many years of experience in the environmental arena. He was most recently active in helping cities and businesses throughout the Southeast implement global clean technology solutions to advance the U.S. economy and green jobs. Previously he served Mayor Shirley Franklin as the City of Atlanta’s Director of Environmental Affairs. His most recent achievements include being recognized as an Official OSEC Expert member of "The Pool of Experts" and Atlanta Business Chronicle’s Environmental Enovation Finalist for 2012. He has served on many boards and committees in the Atlanta community and currently serves on the Keep Atlanta Beautiful Advisory Board and the Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge Steering Committee.



A Talk in the Park

by Jennifer J. Richardson

OLPA has inaugurated a new program, “Talk in the Park,” to be held quarterly. Our guided tour of the first four segments of the Olmsted Linear Park took place on June 23 and was led by Jennie Richardson and George Ickes. George “talked” about the 14-year renovation of the park, names of trees, plant material, and the challenges each season brings to such a large maintenance project. Jennie “talked” about the history of the park prior to its rehabilitation, the threat of a major expressway through and near the park, and some of the history of the families who chose to build homes along the park. The photo shows some of the participants in this first tour. The next tour will be of the last two segments of the Linear Park: Dellwood and Deepdene. We’ll continue pointing out interesting plant material and concentrate on the unique urban forest that comprises Deepdene. Along the way, we’ll discuss erosion issues, installation of new native plants, management of the forest, and elimination of non-native invasives. These topics will assist you in developing and caring for your own home landscape. George is the Park Director for OLPA and Jennie is a former board member and a Georgia Master Gardener, DeKalb County.

Lullwater Garden Club Launches
Lullwater Garden Revitalization Project

Improvements in the Lullwater Conservation Garden are continuous. Each year, the Lullwater Garden Club focuses on a new section of the Garden to address, while maintaining the parts reclaimed, receiving national acclaim for their efforts the last 10 years. In 2012, the Club acknowledged that some looming problems would require serious attention, a formal plan, and probably quite a bit of funding.

Accordingly, Spencer Tunnell of Tunnell & Tunnell Landscape Architects was hired to create a long-term Revitalization Plan. He and his firm were selected because of their extensive experience with conservation and restoration efforts. They completed the restoration of the Boxwood Garden at the Swan House, as well as a Master Plan – including three phases of implementation – for the Atlanta Botanical Garden from 1998-2002. In addition, he worked on the multi-phase implementation for the Olmsted Parks in our neighborhood.

The plan developed for the Lullwater Conservation Garden includes:

- A blueprint for the continued removal of dangerous invasives
- A formal plan for water management, including handling the runoff from surrounding streets, which continues to cause major problems
- A formal plan for erosion control of the stream– a serious issue with respect to the longevity of the trees in the Garden
- A design for nature trails to be expanded throughout the Garden
- A strategy for the enhancement of the Garden as a wildlife habitat
- A landscape plan for future native plantings
- A prototype design for signage and bench placement, once the other infrastructural work is completed

Implementation will span 5-7 years, and the Club is launching a multi-pronged fund raising effort. They will seek funding from the community, local corporations, private foundations, and a pledge drive. Your help is needed to keep improving this wonderful park right in our own backyard. All funds are tax deductible, as the Conservation Garden is a 501(C)3 non-profit. Interested parties can make checks payable to Lullwater Conservation Garden, P. O. Box 133135, Atlanta, GA 30333.

Cluster...continued from page 1

balanced, flexible, student-oriented curriculum which fully prepares students for post-secondary education program entry. Understanding the rich diversity in the Cluster Schools has been key in developing an instructional approach that enables parental choice of the “pathway” (i.e., Montessori, International Baccalaureate, STEAM -Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, Advanced Placement 9-12) with transportation provided for the student. The Cluster proposal seeks to direct maximum funds to the classroom where the greatest instructional impact and student acquisition of content goals can be observed and documented. Running with a lean “central administrative team” (Chief Administrative Officer, Cluster Financial Officer and Cluster-wide personnel) who report to the Governing Board, school principals and engaged staff are anticipated to have greater flexibility and local school control as they collaborate with School Leadership Teams to effect positive outcomes for students. The DHCC will hold itself accountable by demonstrating improved student achievement, across all schools, as posted on criterion- and norm-referenced assessments, Measures of Academic Progress online assessments, authentic performances and classroom formative and summative tools. The Cluster Organizing Committee, in collaboration with more than 100 individuals from the 7 schools, was deliberate in seeking the opinions, concerns and suggestions of parents, teachers, community members, and other stakeholders as they developed the multi-faceted Charter Petition Proposal, which may be reviewed at www.druidhillschartercluster.org. In addition to the key findings of offering a multi-dimensional instructional design, providing continuous professional development, and affording opportunity for vertical and horizontal program review and planning, survey results indicated interest in expanding gifted education services.

The DHCC Governing Board and Organizing Committee members demonstrate diverse backgrounds and professional expertise, as well as an understanding of the magnitude of the undertaking. They welcome your review of the proposal and invite you to attend any of the informational meetings being held at the proposed cluster schools. Meetings and happenings are noted on the Charter Cluster website (www.druidhillschartercluster.org).

DHCC Governing Board Members

- Theresa Johnson-Bennett, *paralegal, member of the Avondale School Council.*
- Scott L. Bonder, *lawyer, served as Fernbank PTA Vice President and School Council member.*
- Frederick L. Daniels, Jr., *banking executive, MARTA Board Chairman, served as treasurer of Fernbank Elementary Foundation.*
- Matthew S. Lewis, *executive financial services provider, with experience as a member of the Druid Hills High School Council and as lead organizer and spokesperson for the DHCC.*
- Kathleen B. Mathers, *educator, consulting business owner, former Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement.*
- David G. Roberts, *financial adviser for public-sector clients.*
- Robert B. Thorpe, *former principal of Druid Hills Middle School, retired.*





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Fall is for Planting

by Paula Refi

I'm convinced that the only remedy for this summer's water woes is to whine less and concentrate instead on new garden possibilities. It's not just a cliché: fall really and truly is the best time to plant most things, especially woody species. Cooler temperatures encourage the production of new roots and reduce the need for supplemental irrigation. This fall our soils are adequately hydrated, so digging should be easier than in previous droughty years. The only limitation used to be plant availability in autumn. But local nurseries do an excellent job now of anticipating a fall planting season, so you will be sure to find an abundance of shrubs and trees for purchase.

Fall was traditionally prime time to find conifers and broadleaf evergreens, and that continues to be the case. When deciduous plants drop their foliage, evergreens take center stage and keep the garden looking its best until spring. Conifers especially have grown in importance, as new sizes and varieties of attractive species expand the local plant palette. A generation ago, junipers were the main contributors. Now, Japanese cedar (Cryptomeria), false cypress (Chamaecyparis), arborvitae ((Thuja), and Japanese plum yew (Cephalotaxus) appear in sizes and shapes to beautify every landscape.

Broadleaf evergreens give Southern landscapes their regional character. The ubiquitous hollies, nandinas, mahonias, and abelias can now be found in arresting new forms. I'm particularly taken with Mahonia 'Soft Caress', a real departure from the familiar leatherleaf mahonia. 'Soft Caress' displays slender, spineless leaflets on a much shorter shrub, while producing the familiar fragrant yellow blossoms in late winter. If you require an unimpeachable endorsement, it was named Plant of the Year by the Royal Horticultural Society. Better yet for Georgia gardeners, it was bred by local plantsman Ozzie Johnson, so you know it will thrive here. Look for new abelias. I like 'Kaleidoscope,' which is shorter than the old-timey version, with yellow variegation on the foliage. Another shorter and more attractive version of a Southern favorite is Pittosporum 'Cream De Mint'. Its leaves are variegated green and white, and it stays under four feet.

Camellias are the queens of fall and winter gardens in the South. They turn up in nurseries now, when gardeners will find many varieties in bloom. They invariably make me recall our first winter here. It had been mild in early December, and the venerable camellias in our Druid Hills backyard opened in time for Christmas. This Yankee, who had never seen a camellia before, thought she had died and gone to gardening heaven. You won't go wrong with either Camellia japonica or Camellia sasanqua.

Surprisingly, fall is the best time to find a wide selection of fruit-bearing trees and shrubs. This is not the case for ornamental cherries, pears, and crabapples grown for their flowers. They are more available in spring, when the blossoms are most seductive. Watch instead for species that produce edible fruits: apples, pears, blueberries, blackberries, and others. Planted in fall, they become established over winter and are more likely to bear abundantly than if they were planted while in flower. This is good news for the growing number of gardeners who desire edible landscapes.

Most garden centers do not feature deciduous flowering shrubs and trees in fall simply because their naked stems make them less marketable. But do search for them, often at reduced prices, in a far corner of the nursery. You might just find a bargain-priced summer sweet (clethra), beautyberry (Callicarpa), butterfly bush (Buddleia), or hydrangea. Planting can continue right up into winter because the ground rarely freezes here. Space permitting, I could have continued with a discussion of fall bulbs and hardy annuals, but I bow to the dictates of my editor.

Daisy Luckey Aukerman

by Elizabeth Warner

"Music is a gift for life!" If you were a musical youngster growing up in Druid Hills, you most likely heard this advice from your vivacious piano teacher, Ms. Daisy Luckey Aukerman. Chicly attired in tones of gold and taupe, Ms. Daisy shared stories of the teachers, pupils and family that have formed the song of her life. Much of that melody has been played in Georgia, and especially here in Druid Hills.

"I was born in Harlem, Georgia, and I loved it!" That small town closeness and warmth was important when Daisy's mother was suddenly widowed with four small children. Even though times were difficult, she made certain Daisy Shepherd and her siblings took piano lessons from Mrs. Jule Hatcher.

That began a life long love of music. "Once I heard how a tune could be played, I never fussed about practice. I put practice at the top of my list." Local, regional, and then state contests were swept by the talented siblings. Daisy was in demand as a church accompanist and performer.

"I remember one of my earlier performances –when I was 15, I played the 'Moonlight Sonata' on WSB radio. I was nervous, but you are always a little nervous when performing!"

Her mastery of Debussy, Beethoven, and other classics caught the ear of university faculty. A scholarship to University of Georgia? Brenau College? LaGrange College? Daisy chose LaGrange, deciding to study with Mrs. Rosa Muller of the Leipzig Conservatory.

"I earned extra by accompanying singers who would perform between one act plays!" Busy with studies, she was elected class president.

After college, the Druid Hills stanza of Daisy's life began. Charmed by a picture of Daisy in her May Court dress, Milton Luckey, a young attorney, wooed and married her. They moved to Oakdale Road and welcomed a son and daughter into their home. Daisy began teaching music throughout Dekalb County schools.

The song came together. The school program flourished, and private lessons were offered. "I had so many talented pupils that I can't name them all! Penny Naylor, Patricia Vanderslice, Julie Swanson, Danielle Palms, Patricia Myers, Ted McMullan..." Miss Daisy glowed, displaying newspaper clippings, recital programs and photographs of her students.

"I didn't just sit them down and say 'play,' but coached them along the way. I could tell fairly soon if students had natural talent by the way their fingers would curve the keys. Even if they didn't have a natural gift- if they just hit the keys- I would encourage them to do their best. "

Daisy did more than encourage her Druid Hills students in music; she focused on developing self-confidence to carry them though adulthood. "We had recitals at the Atlanta Women's Club, a very lovely place. The students knew to dress up, no blue jeans there. I knew they would be proud of themselves. Music is such a great self-esteem booster."

After her husband passed unexpectedly, Daisy moved to midtown. That began her 34-year position as organist at the First United Methodist Church: "I played two Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and Wednesday evening services."

"When I married Mr. Aukerman, I knew we wanted to live in Druid Hills. It's unique, a historic place with people who love the arts and education." Back on Oakdale Road, Daisy once again opened her studio to local pupils.

Her students learned to play duets for two pianos, giving holiday recitals in her home. "Lessons started in fall, and we had a holiday recital. I always decorated the living room in all white. It made it so special."

All the pride and affection Daisy had for her students was returned. In 2011 Ted McMullan coordinated a "Daisy Luckey Aukerman National Appreciation Event", with former students arriving from all parts of the country to share their appreciation. Ted also announced the Daisy Shepherd Luckey Excellence in Music Scholarship in honor of her 50 years of teaching music.

Her love of music has many variations: accompanist for The Atlanta Boys Choir at their New York debut, Georgia Music Teacher 50-Year Service Award, Atlanta Music Club, Pro-Mozart Society, American Guild of Organists, Steinway Society, Mu Phi Epsilon, National Guild of Piano Teachers, three- time-president of the Atlanta Women's Club, and recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award at LaGrange College.

Surrounded by pictures of family, young students, and concerts, Daisy sat with the grace of a model at her signed Steinway and played a Rachmaninoff Prelude. For a woman who began life in a small town surrounded by warmth, she has built a life gracefully, note by note, building a song of affection and music in this community.



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Aimée Boutique

by Amy Elfsry

Aimée Boutique presents all that is beautiful, from hand-made designer jewelry, artwork (paintings and sculpture), and home decor to women's designer fashion! Boutique signifies chic, glamour, and luxury, and hence Aimée Boutique is decorated in sumptuous tones of lavender and purple with gold and pale pink accents. The furniture and décor, high-backed, gold-print satin chairs with small, gold pillows and an inviting glass coffee table, beckon one to "sit back, relax, and bask in the world of beauty."

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Evan Elam, son of Tricia and Jeff Elam, recently presented his Eagle Scout service project to the community. Evan's project involved researching appropriate materials and designs to construct bird houses, and which houses are the best for which birds. Evan built or supervised the building of a number of bird houses, including two bat houses. The bird houses were then placed in the Lullwater Conservation Garden at appropriate heights and spots that would attract birds. Evan gave a presentation on his project to a gathering of fellow Scouts, Scout leaders, family, neighbors and Lullwater Garden Club members on June 1. As of the date of the presentation, one of Evan's newly constructed houses was already inhabited by a family of birds!

Congratulations to Evan Elam on this gift to the community and on attaining his Eagle Scout award.

Squirrels 3: Humans 0

by Jennifer J. Richardson,
Master Gardener, DeKalb County

The summer of 2013 was the worst year for my garden in the past 40 years. For decades, I've been preaching that over-watering causes more plant material death than under-watering. Unfortunately, Mother Nature didn't listen this year, and on most days, a deluge of rain was her gift from the sky. After years of summer drought, this year was wet—very wet.

In addition to a soggy garden, another serious problem this year was lack of sunlight. Most plants (especially garden vegetables) need six or more hours of sunlight per day. Usually, in Atlanta summers, bright sun is no problem. But this year, the skies reminded me and my Irish guests more of Ireland than the sunny South. I faced grey skies, thick clouds, and somewhere 'way up above was a sun not making it to my yard. The sad result was powdery mildew, wilt, and failure to thrive.

Any gardener knows each year is different. Some years, eggplant thrives while lettuce or spinach never germinates. Other years, okra flops on its side in the third or fourth week of the summer, while yellow and zucchini squash outwit borers to form tender yellow and green delights. But always, always, there are tomatoes. True, some years are better than others. In 2012, my tomato yield was so large I could gift vine ripened toms to my friends and neighbors and still have enough to eat and to dehydrate for winter use. This year, there were no tomatoes. No tomatoes, no squash, no cucumbers, no lettuce, no spinach, no corn, no peppers, no okra.

Despite row after row of pitiful tomato plants, I've yet to bring a ripe one inside to eat. What fruit there was stayed green and small and disappeared early in the season with the usual suspects: backyard squirrels. So, 2013 was a summer of no tomatoes. Score one for Mother Nature and the squirrels.

One thing that did thrive was my pomegranate bush. I stopped counting at 70 colorful orange blooms that would eventually make into ripe fruit. I watched daily as the fruit grew from the size of a pecan to the size of a walnut. And then I watched as these tiny fruits fled the bush in the mouths of squirrels. Squirrels 2: Humans 0. The bird netting on the bush only provided an entertaining challenge.

I had another great success. For the first time, I grew round watermelons from seed. I had three green melons on my vine. The first two disappeared about the time they reached the size of a softball. There weren't even signs of a struggle—no chewed rind or pink meat left behind. Apparently, the squirrels didn't mess with the third watermelon because it got too big for them to carry away.

The last watermelon reached the size of a soccer ball. It was a deep shiny green, perfectly round, and had a resounding 'bonk' when thumped. On the day of harvest, I went to fetch my prized watermelon. It was gone. This time, the squirrels left their calling card: a thin, gnawed, hollowed out rind, splayed amongst the pitiful tomatoes. Squirrels 3: Humans 0.

There will be another year. 2014. I will buy and grow hundreds of seeds. I will transplant them from flats to paper cups. I'll wait until the last of the cold weather and put them in my raised beds. I'll reinforce my new so-called squirrel-proof tomato cage. I'll not be foolish enough to grow watermelons outside the cage. Maybe I'll enclose the entire back yard in a cage. Maybe Mother Nature will be kinder. Maybe next year the score will be Humans 3: Squirrels 0. Maybe....



School News

by Sharon Day and Ingrid Wilkerson

Druid Hills Charter Cluster Seeks Board Approval (see article, p.1)

Seven DeKalb County schools are making history by requesting approval as the Druid Hills Charter Cluster (DHCC), thus potentially becoming the first charter cluster in the state of Georgia. On August 16, the DHCC delivered the Charter Cluster Petition to the DeKalb County Schools Board of Education, now set to hear public comment September 9 and October 7. Public comment begins at 5:45 p.m., prior to the 7 p.m. Board Meetings. For further information or to read a copy of the petition, visit www.druidhillschartercluster.org.

Druid Hills Middle Students Touch Hearts and Lives

The student body of DHMS is driven to make a positive impact on the community with a new, year-long community service project. The service program promotes knowledge and understanding of the greater community beyond the school walls, leadership, and positive role model development.

Members of the Druid Hills community are welcome to assist the students with monthly projects, including the September drive for Genesis Shelter, the October canned food drive, and the November-December Toys for Tots collection. Donations for the Genesis Shelter may be dropped off in the front lobby of the school from 8:15 – 8:40 a.m. any day in September, with items such as disposable diapers, baby wipes, GOOD START powdered baby formula, set of baby wash, powder and lotion, or hooded baby bath towel being sought. Likewise, donations for upcoming drives may be delivered to the school front lobby during the appropriate month and same time.

Fernbank Elementary in Temporary Location

Fernbank Elementary temporarily closed the doors at the Heaton Road site and eagerly awaits its reconstruction! Students, parents, and staff anticipate an 18-24 month temporary stay in Avondale Estates during the construction of their new building at the Heaton Park address.

Springdale Park Partners Program

Springdale Park launched its new SPARK Partners program this year. More than twenty corporate and community partnerships have been developed with businesses essential to the Atlanta Metropolitan area, but especially the SPARK communities of Druid Hills, Virginia-Highland, Midtown, and Poncey-Highland.

2013-2014 School Year Is Underway

With the beginning of the 2013-14 school term underway, it is helpful to have contact information at your fingertips. Clip out the School News section of the Druid Hills News and attach it to a handy place like your calendar or the refrigerator to avoid the constant information look-up searches!

2014 Home & Garden Tour Update

The 2014 Druid Hills Home & Garden Tour is off to a good start with several committee chairs in place. Home Selection chair Janet McNicholl's home was featured on the 2012 Tour and House Management chair Richard Burgess's home was a highlight of the 2013 Tour. Suzanne White has joined the committee as Revenue Chair. Ryan Graham is Tour Liaison. The committee continues to seek volunteers to manage Operations and Logistics. Please join the meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at St. John's Lutheran Church at noon. For more information or to invite Home Selection to consider your own home for the Tour, please write to tour@druidhills.org.

Druid Hills High School

1798 Haygood Drive
Atlanta, GA 30307
Phone: 678-874-6302 Fax: 678-874-6310
<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/druidhills>

Brittany Cunningham, Principal
Chana' Jackson, Asst. Principal for Instruction

Druid Hills Middle School

3100 Mount Olive Drive, Decatur, Georgia 30033
Main Office 678-874-7602 Fax - 678-874-7610
<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/-shamrock>

Mrs. Jacqueline Taylor, Principal
Dr. Keidra Taylor, Assistant Principal for Instruction

Briarvista Elementary

1131 Briar Vista Terrace NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30324
Ph: 678-874-5902 Fax: 678-874-5910
<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/briarvista>

Ms. Cammie Neill, Principal
Ms. Nancy Heitzenrater, Assistant Principal

Fernbank Elementary

(Temporary Address)
3131 Old Rockbridge Rd
Avondale Estates, GA 30002
678) 874-9302
<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/fernbank>
<http://www.fernbankelementary.com/>

Jason Marshall, Principal
Debbie Satterfield, Asst. Principal for Instruction

Springdale Park (SPARK) Elementary

1246 Ponce de Leon Ave
Atlanta, GA 30306
<http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/8674>

Yolonda C. Brown, Principal
Chante Blackwell, Asst. Principal

Paideia

1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30307
(404) 377-3491 or see staff contact information detailed on the website
<http://www.paideiaschool.org>

Paul Bianchi, Headmaster
Dorothy Craft Evans, Assistant Headmaster

The Ben Franklin Academy

1585 Clifton Rd
Atlanta, GA 30329
(404) 633-7404
<http://www.benfranklinacademy.org/>

Dr. Wood Smethurst, Headmaster

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A Green Celebration for Atlanta’s Famous Park

2013 “Dream in Green” gala celebrates completion of the Olmsted Linear Park

Sunday, February 17, Fernbank Museum, 7 pm - 10 pm

Reserve tickets at www.atlantaolmstedpark.org

ATLANTA - (Druid Hills) When Charles Beveridge visited Druid Hills to view the restoration of the neighborhood’s linear park, designed by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, he judged the effort to be “the most thorough and comprehensive replanting of any Olmsted project undertaken in the last 25 years.” Beveridge should know. He is the foremost Olmsted expert, having edited the nine volumes of Olmsted’s papers and consulted on Olmsted restoration projects throughout the nation.

Beveridge’s comment was welcome news to the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA), the group that has spearheaded the rehabilitation and preservation of the park. This winter, the implementation phase of the decade-plus project will be complete, and OLPA is throwing a party to celebrate.

In what promises to be the neighborhood party of 2013, the “Dream in Green” gala will be held on Sunday,



February 17, 7-10 p.m., at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Chairwoman Beth Grashof promises an evening to remember, with chances to connect with neighbors and park lovers, listen to live jazz, and sample delectable hors d’oeuvres and signature cocktails. Live and silent auctions will feature beach and mountain getaways, fine art, rare wines, roundtrip airline tickets and more.

Reserve tickets now by visiting atlantaolmstedpark.org or call 404-377-5361 for more information.

Rutledge Park

by Emily Franze

On September 7, volunteers from the Glenn Memorial UMC Good Neighbor Day effort and the neighbors of Rutledge Park (1810 Ridgewood Dr, NE) participated in a community work day. Privet and bamboo were removed, seedlings planted, and stones moved for a future Eagle Scout project.

More exciting things are underway for our neighborhood park, including a community meeting on October 6 to unveil the landscape architect’s design for the park and playground. A charming Emory Village merchants’ birdhouse project will be on display soon and our very own entry in the upcoming Atlanta Botanical Gardens Scarecrow in the Park event! Tulip, the Poplar Tree Spirit of Rutledge Park, will be one of the "scarecrows" at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens the entire month of October.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, October 6, from 3-5p.m. at the Emory Presbyterian Church, 1886 N. Decatur Road, adjacent to Druid Hills High School.

For more information about Rutledge Park, please visit the website at www.rutledgepark.org.

Druid Hills Civic Association

Not yet a member of DHCA? Use the form below and join today!

Join online at <http://druidhills.org/join-the-dhca/>

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Amount Contributed \$

Please make checks payable to: “Druid Hills Civic Association.”
Please mail to: Druid Hills Civic Association, P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031.

All households that join or renew at \$50 or higher will have their names printed in an honor roll in The Druid Hills News.
Please indicate on the line below how you would prefer to be listed, if you wish to be listed anonymously or if you would prefer not to be listed at all.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Tour of Homes & Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/> Land use/Zoning	
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Peavine Watershed	

Upcoming Speaker at Trees Atlanta

Greg Paige, Curator at Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories Arboretum, presents
‘The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Tough Love for Trees in the Urban Environment’

Thursday, October 3rd from 5:30-7 p.m.
light hors d’oeuvres at 5:30 & speaker at 6 p.m.

Trees Atlanta, Kendeda Center
225 Chester Ave., Atlanta, GA 30316

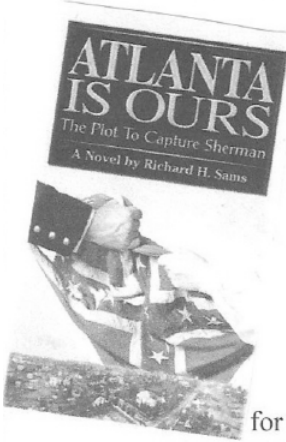
Open to the public with limited seats;
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RSVP at www.treesatlanta.org/calendar

Questions? Contact Kate Baltzell, Education Coordinator, at kateb@treesatlanta.org

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1069 CLIFTON ROAD, DRUID HILLS

This 1920s gracious brick two-story features handsome architectural details including high ceilings and heavy moldings. The front entrance leads to a music room or study, formal living room with elegant fireplace, and side sunroom where you can retreat and enjoy views of the beautifully landscaped garden. The generously-sized dining room is ready for large gatherings and leads to the breakfast room with original butler's pantry and entrance to the deck and patio that has a fire pit below. A well-appointed kitchen, with stained cabinets and granite countertops, offers a breakfast bar and opens to a family room. A central staircase with beautiful banister leads to the upstairs where you will find a master bedroom with two walk-in closets and newly renovated marble bathroom that includes a double vanity, soaking tub, and separate shower. Upstairs you will find two more bedrooms plus a sleeping porch and office. As a bonus, this property also includes a detached brick two-car carriage house.
NEW PRICE! \$825,000



2087 DESMOND DRIVE, DRUID HILLS

This elegant home with soaring ceilings and classic-modern architectural features is better than new. The inviting floor plan is perfect for entertaining with a spacious central great room that has French doors leading to a professionally landscaped courtyard featuring a pond and cascading waterfall. Gourmet kitchen, with all of the upgrades, features a large center island and breakfast or keeping room with built-in entertainment cabinet. Spacious bedrooms on the main can be used as two master suites and both include large walk-in closets. Spa-like bathroom features two separate vanity areas. Large windows provide lots of light and views to the lush gardens. Attached two-car garage is reached by the rear-alley access that brings you into the private, gated backyard. The terrace level offers two more generously-sized bedrooms, (one that is currently used as a media room) and even an exercise room.
\$625,000



1987 MASON MILL ROAD, EMORY PARC

Located in the sought after Emory Parc subdivision, this custom-built, meticulously maintained John Willis home offers views of the central park. The front porch leads to a sunlit entry hall on the main level, which features an open floor plan. French doors flanked with windows open to a formal living room that shares a double-sided fireplace with the spacious dining room. The well-appointed kitchen offers ample cabinets, an island, and a breakfast bar that is adjacent to the family room. From the family room you can enjoy views of the lovely low-maintenance backyard, or you can step through the French doors onto the deck and immerse yourself in the outdoors. The master suite is located upstairs with a sitting area and fabulous walk-in closet. Two additional bedrooms upstairs share a jack-n-jill bathroom. A drive-under, two-car garage leads to a mudroom and basement that has a full bathroom plus room to expand. Emory Parc is a wonderful community located in walking distance to the tennis courts, public library, and the new PATH.
\$575,000



180 PINECREST AVENUE, DECATUR

This washed-brick, Tudor cottage is located on a quiet, tree-lined street in the desirable Glenwood Estates neighborhood. Beautiful established landscaping greets you at this quality brick home. The large living room has a fireplace and French doors that lead to a screened porch. The spacious dining room opens to a charming kitchen featuring original pine cabinetry and a breakfast nook with butler's pantry. The laundry room off of the kitchen offers plenty of storage and pantry space. The master suite with private bathroom is located on the main level with two additional bedrooms and a hall bathroom. Upstairs you will find an additional bedroom and bathroom with a playroom or den plus ample storage closets. The full basement has been "Trotter" waterproofed and includes a workshop. The generously sized backyard is a gardener's paradise with vegetable beds that are ready for you to grow your favorites.
\$575,000



534 PONCE DE LEON PLACE, DECATUR

This circa 1920s Craftsman bungalow has been completely renovated and expanded to include all of the modern conveniences and luxuries of a new construction home without compromising the historic charm. Located two blocks from historic downtown Decatur, this two-bedroom, two-bathroom home is sure to meet all of your comfort needs. The open floor plan features a separate light-filled living room, large sunroom, and custom kitchen with stainless steel appliances and soap-stone countertops. A spacious owner's suite with charming original fireplace is complete with a private bath. Backyard features a large deck with pergola and is the perfect place to read a book or entertain friends.
\$525,000



THE CLIFTON #209, DRUID HILLS

Gorgeous architecture, impeccable grounds, and top-notch concierge services await you in this luxury condominium. As the former "model," this unit features all of the upgrades and has a premier location in the complex above the resort-like pool. Stately judges paneling greets you in the foyer that leads to the living room with fireplace. Kitchen has Bosch appliances, granite counter tops, and an open view of the living room. A hallway with custom his and hers closets leads to the bedroom (that has a private entrance to the balcony). The master bathroom offers a separate shower, jetted tub, and granite counter tops. This incomparable building boasts the finest finishes and amenities you will ever need, all located directly across from the beautiful Emory campus. As an extra plus, a storage unit valued at \$5,000 is included.
\$239,900



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