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Montessori Opens in Historic Druid Hills House

Atlanta Montessori International School (AMIS) at Druid Hills celebrated its grand opening on Nov. 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of The Lowenstein House, a historic, renovated mansion on South Ponce De Leon Avenue that will serve as the school's main building.

The Lowenstein House is a nearly 10,000-square-foot mansion erected in 1919 and designed by legendary Atlanta architect Francis Palmer Smith, who designed several of the city's first skyscrapers during the early 20th century. Last year, Endeavor purchased The Lowenstein House and implemented a great deal of renovations, including rooms repurposed for Montessori classrooms, playground facilities and security features designed by Secure Education Consultants, a security agency founded by staffed by former US Secret Service agents.

Several members of the Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee were pleased to be included for the ribbon cutting and tour on Nov. 19. Jan Jones, chair of the committee remarked: "This is truly a beautiful restoration of the historic Lowenstein home built a hundred years ago and a wonderful adaptation for the property which includes two large accessory buildings added later. Through careful research on the original paint colors for the historic home and the wise choice of charcoal for the accessory buildings, the mansion once again shines while the newer buildings recede into the background."

The Druid Hills campus is AMIS's second location. AMIS Cliff Valley, founded in 2004, is well-known in the community for its experienced staff and authentic Montessori program that is accredited by Association Montessori International/USA. The new Druid Hills location will also offer authentic Montessori programs and is currently enrolling chil-



dren between the ages of 8 weeks and 36 months. Using Montessori methods, the program encourages learning by providing a safe environment that sparks and engages each child's natural curiosity. The school also offers a Primary program for children between 3 and 6 years.

"We are very excited to bring our philosophy of nurturing children through the love of learning and joy of discovery," said Tiffany Richey, Regional Director of Operations at Endeavor. "We look forward to providing a positive education experience with our beautiful campus and experienced staff and are thrilled to be a part of the Druid Hills community."



For more information and to schedule a tour, visit www.amischool.com or call (404) 500-0501.

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Get to Know Natalie Gregory & Co.



COMPASS



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As a longtime resident and agent in this area, it's my mission to help sellers and buyers navigate the Druid Hills' housing market and achieve their goals. Using the latest marketing and advertising strategies, I ensure that my seller's properties are positioned for success.

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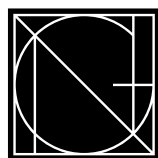
At the close of 2019, I would like to thank you for your support and wish you the happiest of holidays and a successful 2020.

Natalie Gregory

If you're looking to buy or sell, visit NatalieGregory.com to view my active listings!

Natalie Gregory & Thomas McCullough

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By the Numbers

98.5

Percent to List Price

65

Homes Sold 2019

President's Corner

By Kit Eisterhold

"idiot!"

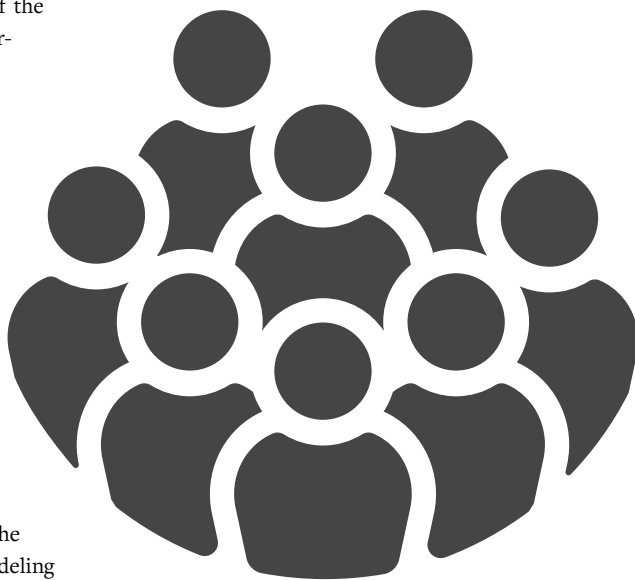
Every time I hear the word, I think of the movie character Napoleon Dynamite, saying it with an "Ugh," and an exasperated exhalation, underscoring just how insufferable idiots really are. Idiots like his lame brother Kip ("don't be jealous that I've been chatting online with babes all day Napoleon"), or his has-been Uncle Rico, who wastes his life day-dreaming about going back to high school and winning the state championship ("If the coach woulda put me in the 4th quarter we'd have won state... no doubt, no doubt in my mind....").

The idiots in the film all seem lost in their own worlds, including Napoleon. He never makes eye contact with anyone, derides everything, and frequently fantasizes out loud about the alternate reality he has retreated to in his own head: "hunting wolverines in Alaska... I'm good with a bo-staff... my old girlfriend from Oklahoma was going to fly out for the dance but she couldn't 'cause she's doing some modeling right now." I always felt Jon Heder should have at least gotten nominated for best actor. If only the screenwriter has allowed him to plumb the depths of the word "Idiot."

The film was fun, but stay with me now... this discussion is going somewhere important.

Historically the word has meant far more than a synonym for "moron." Stemming from the Greek root *idos*, meaning "self," or "of one's own," an idiot was a person who was so self-absorbed they did not bother to pay attention to the world around them. In ancient Athens *Idiota* referred to people who were

apathetic towards public participation and who lived lives that were ignorant and independent of the civic life of the polis. Aware that their fragile democracy was dependent on the continuous civic participation of their people, the Athenians looked down on *idiotia*; so much so that the derogatory connotations of this term have lived on for thousands of years in the modern English equivalent "idiots."



So-called "idiots" are everywhere these days. Polls for decades have shown a trend toward declining participation in public life, with declining membership in civic organizations such as the PTA, Scouts, Kiwanis, and even local bowling leagues--as Putnam observed nearly 20 years ago in his seminal work *Bowling Alone*.

Real public space where people actually and physically come into contact with one another seems to be shrinking by the day. For far too many of us our

Continued on page 5

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DRUID HILLS NEWS WELCOMES YOUR ARTICLES

The Druid Hills News is published quarterly by the Druid Hills Civic Association. Articles are welcome for consideration. Please limit unassigned articles to no more than 600 words or notify the editor in advance.

Submissions may be edited for length or grammar. Please send articles and photos to editor@druidhills.org or JJRichard@bellsouth.net. Send copy as e-mail attachments and photos as jpg attachments if possible.

DEADLINES

The Druid Hills News is mailed to be received in homes during the second week of the month of the issue. The following are the deadlines for each of the next year's Druid Hills News issues:

March 2020 issue

Articles deadline - February 1, 2020

June 2020 issue

Articles deadline - May 1, 2020

September 2020 issue

August 1, 2020

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President's Column ...continued from page 3

interactions with one another have become ever more attenuated by social media. Yet, whatever the reach and power of social media, there is still no substitute for being physically in the presence of our fellow human beings. A text message or an email will never convey body language the way a face to face conversation will, nor will it ever be as effective at achieving compromise or a common understanding about much of anything. Watching TV, signing an online petition, "liking" something, or sending out a Twitter tirade is not real civic engagement.

It is Idiocy.

It's as idiotic as Napoleon Dynamite's lame brother wasting his life chatting with internet babes online all day, or his Uncle Rico watching videotapes of himself throwing the football and fantasizing about going back in a time machine to win the state championship. Only by stepping out of his subjective sense of self ("Hunting wolverines in Alaska... I'm pretty good with a bo-staff"), and engaging the real world, was Napoleon finally able to overcome his sense of isolation and the idiocy that surrounded him. He dances on stage to a standing ovation. He gets Pedro elected President. He gets the girl. He is a heroic figure. Promethean.

Clearly Napoleon Dynamite is a clarion call for

civic engagement if there ever was one. (or did I read too much into the film? I doubt it...)

Nothing good ever came from standing idly by, sniping from the sidelines, asking why somebody doesn't do something. If we wish to make a difference, we must do something. We must be the change we wish to see in the world.

We must get involved. Showing up in person at public meetings, meeting with other members of our community in a regular and sustained manner, and working with them toward common goals--like making our schools safe, lighting our streets, fixing our sidewalks, and maintaining our parks so that people can walk, ride their bikes, and have picnics together--this is what really matters.

We live our fullest life not in isolation as scattered idiots, but as members of a community. Civic engagement is good not only for the health of the community but for the individual as well. It allows us to be a part of something greater than ourselves.

I hope you will join us. The work we do at the DHCA may seem insignificant to some, and the pace at times glacial to others. But in our own small way we make a difference, together.

Don't be an idiot. Be a part of it.

DHCA Membership – Why YOU Should Join

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

Here's a few reasons why you should join

- Security and safety initiatives such as the installation of 11 Flock Security Cameras and successful efforts to reinvigorate and expand Neighborhood Watch program across the entire neighborhood.
- DHCA negotiates with local government agencies to get the best results for any projects proposed for Druid Hills.
- Get to know neighbors and the neighborhood through monthly "Walk Druid Hills" events.
- Quarterly Druid Hills News newsletters mailed free to every residence.
- DHCA supports our neighborhood schools with dollars for special projects.

- Partnerships with other organizations to raise money for our beautiful parks and gardens.
- DHCA volunteers and donates to historic preservation initiatives.
- DHCA organizes the Annual Fall Yard Sale and other community-wide celebrations such as our iconic 4th or July Parade.
- Our history is preserved on video - Druid Hills: History Happens Here.

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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Tour of Homes Update

After considerable discussion, the Tour Committee has made the decision to cancel the Tour for the next two years in order to focus on organizing and being part of a nation-wide celebration of the bi-centennial of Fredrick Law Olmsted's birth. Druid Hills was the last "suburb" that Mr. Olmsted designed.

The Tour Committee looks forward to partnering with other neighborhood organizations such as OLPA and EVA to present a Bicentennial Celebration in 2022 in conjunction with the national "OLMSTED 200" initiative. With two years to plan, organize, and dream, the Tour Committee believes the reinvention of DRUID HILLS TOUR OF HOMES & GARDENS will be worth it.



I'm Open for Business!

By Mark J. Herold

That's the news from Diamond Mardell, the 33-year employee and now owner of Shield's Meat Market in Emory Village. A sometimes-confusing transition from prior owner Geoff Shields leaves Diamond reminding his loyal customers his aged filet mignon and ribeye is still the best in town.

Shield's Meat Market was founded by Geoff Shields in 1947. For the past 20 years in Emory Village, the meat market has enjoyed a privileged position as a specialty shop for fine beef, pork, chicken and sandwiches. It's unique in metro Atlanta, and it's right here in Emory Village.

Diamond reflects for a minute when asked what has changed over the years.

"The only change in 20 years is more international customers," Diamond says over the counter of the store located in the building with CVS Pharmacy. "We are selling more chicken and shrimp and meat loaf for children. But I'm especially eager to raise the bar as a specialty shop for things like venison, bison tenderloin," he said. "We either have it, or I can get it."

Diamond's butcher skills are easy to see when he's frenching a rack of lamb, one of the trickier jobs in the butcher business. Born in Atlanta, his training in the world of meat began when he was 15.

The hardest part of the job? Being refrigerated 8-10 hours a day. He laughs when he acknowledges wearing long johns even in the summer. After 33 years, Diamond is enjoying something he's always wanted - owning his own business. But his real goal, besides providing unique service and quality, is to get Shield's to the 100-year anniversary. "I've just got 27 more years to go!"



Diamond Mardell

SAVE THE DATE!

DHCA 2020 KICKOFF

Sunday, January 19, 2020

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 2020 Kickoff program.



Public Safety

Submitted by Thea Roeser

The DHCA Public Safety Committee was reinstated in 2018 to address crime in Druid Hills. The good news is that crime has generally been declining since January 2019, as more residents are mindful that “if you leave it, they’ll retrieve it.” We thank all Druid Hills residents for their efforts and welcome anyone who would like to join our committee or become a street captain.



Recent Highlights

In April and May 2019, the committee surveyed street signs (Stop, No Parking, street name, etc.) and submitted a list of signs that need to be replaced or repaired to DeKalb County. If you see down or damaged signs, please contact us at publicsafety@druidhills.org.

The committee has been expanding our Neighborhood Watch program, headed by Ellen Meshnick. Neighborhood Watch is a proven crime deterrent and also improves communication among neighbors. Currently we have street captains for 31 streets, and are actively seeking more street captains. Their duties are to maintain a contact list of all neighbors and to forward crime reports/alerts from Ellen.

Crime Study

During the summer, the committee launched an extensive 15-month study of crime in the Druid Hills area, and on Sept.18 submitted a 15-page report to the

DHCA board. As the chart below shows, reported crimes have been trending somewhat lower since January 2019.

Auto-Related (Top Line) and All Other (Bottom Line) Crime (May 2018-July 2019)

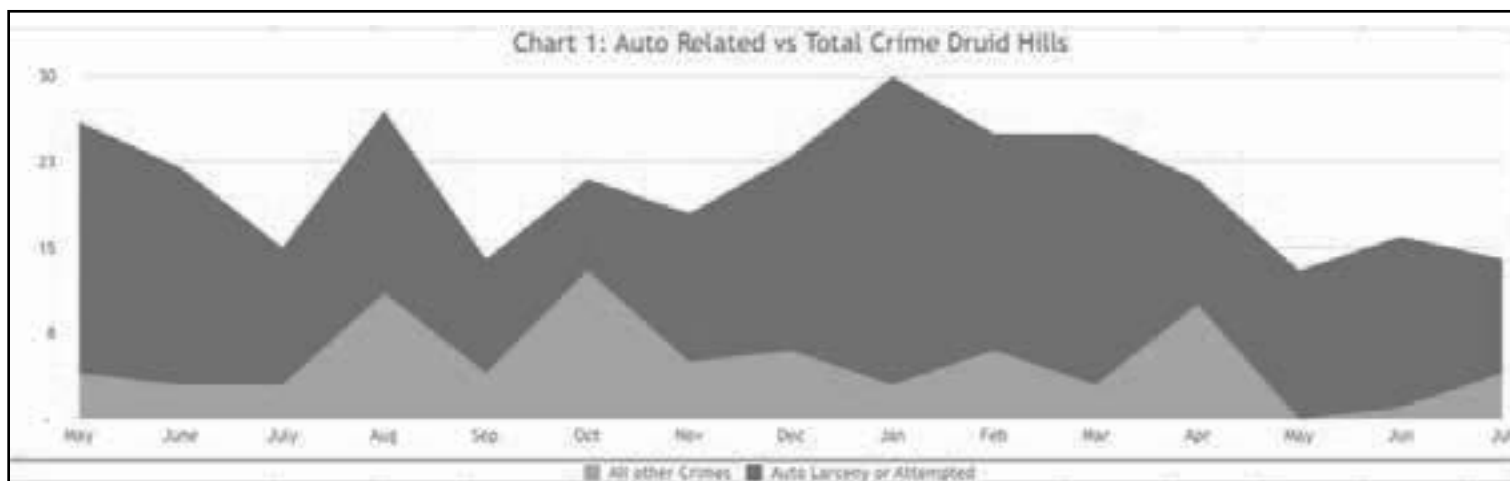
The vast majority (about 80%) of crime in Druid Hills is auto-related. Over the 15 months, 386 crimes were reported in Druid Hills. That's 25.7 per month, which is about 0.86 crimes per day. 310 of those were auto-related, including 21 auto thefts. Many of the car break-ins resulted in loss of items that were left in the car or truck. In addition, 12 residential burglaries were reported, eight of which were unforced entries. (We encourage residents to review the full report on the DHCA web site: druidhills.org.)

The DHCA Flock camera trial period began in October 2018 and will continue until October 2020. To date, it's too early to conclude whether the Flock cameras are a cost-effective method of reducing crime in our neighborhood. (See the full report online as above.)

Because Springdale Rd. (south of N. Decatur Rd) showed an elevated crime rate in our study, we distributed a letter to Springdale residents with suggestions for reducing crime. Note that car break-ins were more frequent on the sections of Springdale without street lights.

The committee's goals for the year ahead include:

1. Continue efforts to reduce crimes of opportunity by increasing awareness, expanding the Neighborhood Watch program and encouraging residents to join the Druid Hills Patrol (druidhillspatrol.org.)
2. With the holidays approaching, focus on preventing package theft.
3. Street lights have been proven to reduce crime. Encourage residents to join the DHCA street lights committee.
4. Meet with the four police agencies to consider ways of sharing information and improving coverage.
5. Starting in January 2020, update crime data every month on druidhills.org. Release an updated Druid Hills crime study in fall of 2020. Our committee's goal is to cut crime by 50% in 2020.
6. The DHCA Public Safety Committee is chaired by Thea Roeser and includes Justin Critz, James Hill, Ellen Meshnick (Neighborhood Watch Leader), Emily Rogers, Doug Rollins, and Gary Tapp.



Druid Hills Luminary: *Dick Cecil*

By *Alida Silverman*

Dick Cecil came to Atlanta in the winter of 1964 representing the Milwaukee Braves baseball team, which was looking for a new home. A Nebraskan from Lincoln, he had been hired in 1959 as a scout by the Braves after completing his master's degree at the University of Nebraska. A year later, he moved to Milwaukee as assistant scouting director. The team moved to Atlanta in 1966. Dick had come ahead to be involved in the construction of the Atlanta-Fulton Stadium that Atlanta's storied mayor Ivan Allen and several of the city's movers and shakers had committed to building so that Atlanta could attract major league sports teams and major events.

For Dick the stadium was a centerpiece as well as a community center for Atlanta, something Atlanta was lacking. The Municipal Auditorium held 5,000 people. The Braves – and Dick – were looking for something much larger. Dick moved over to the business side of baseball and focused on building audiences and revenue. The Braves bought a soccer franchise in the mid-1960s and created an entertainment arm, Braves Productions, Inc., to bring celebrities like The Beatles, Barbra Streisand and James Brown to the city. The first annual Atlanta Jazz Festival was presented at the Stadium in 1966. A three-day event, it featured Dave Brubeck, Louis Armstrong, Nina Simone, Count Basie, Miles Davis, and Thelonius Monk.

The Braves coming to Atlanta was the dawning of major league professional sports for the city. For Dick Cecil it was the beginning of a career full of challenges and interesting people to work with and many long-lived friendships. One of the first people he hired was Bill Lucas, who became the first African-American general manager in baseball. The Braves pioneered a fair-hiring policy which became the standard in baseball and other sports.

Soccer was “an eye-opener” that “opened the world” for Dick taking him to Europe and Africa in search of soccer players for the Atlanta Chiefs. The Chiefs won the first national professional sports championship in Atlanta. That same year, they beat the English champions twice and played Santos with Pele before 27,000 spectators. Dick was named North American Soccer League Executive of the Year in 1988. He called soccer “the world's game.” From the start, he knew the appeal had to be to the kids. And it seems he was right! He is very pleased about Atlanta United.

He left the baseball end of the Braves in 1974 and formed his own consulting company, Cecil and Associates, but continued to run Braves Productions, Inc. Over the next four decades he consulted on three Olympics, the 1994 World Cup, the 1999 Special Olympic International Games, the Goodwill Games, and the International Equestrian Games among others. The



Photo courtesy of Dick Cecil

photo with this article shows him with Dr. Leroy Walker, former Chancellor of North Carolina University, who was integral in the planning for Atlanta's bid for the 1996 Olympics and who became the first African-American president of the U.S. Olympic Committee and led the U.S. delegation into the opening ceremonies of the Atlanta Games.

One of Dick's proudest achievements was creation of the National Old Timers Baseball Classic launched in 1982 – for six years in Washington, DC, and three in Buffalo, NY. Dick had decided that what was previously an “opener” for a regular baseball game should stand on its own, and it did. Nationally

and internationally televised, it featured American versus National League ball players, many of whom are in the Baseball Hall of Fame, playing for the benefit of former players who were not in the MLB pension plan.

Very much a “behind the scenes” person who describes himself as interested in the many facets involved aside from content in all these games and events, Dick Cecil is happy being that person. He feels very fortunate to have worked for people who “let me spread my wings.” We talked in the “outhouse” behind his Druid Hills home. Probably the original garage, it is a spacious room filled with memorabilia. And boxes – a third tranche is headed for Emory's Rose Library. A room where the rich history of a life well-conducted can be felt as well as seen.

Dick moved to Druid Hills in 1968 to this home after talking the owner whose children were grown and who owned a construction company into selling to him. Brookhaven, where he had initially bought a home, was “too far out” – too far away from the Stadium. Realtors never showed him Druid Hills. He found it himself. It was the kind of place he wanted to live.

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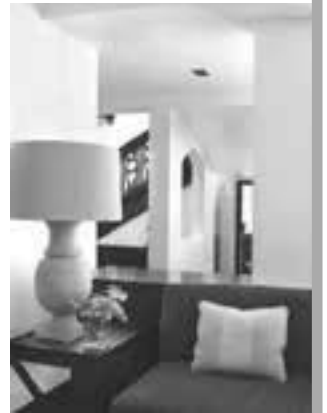
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Druid Hill Patrol: *Visible and Valuable*

Did you know that Druid Hills Patrol employs law enforcement officers to patrol your homes and your streets?

Did you know that DHP has patrolled 3,150 hours in 2019?

Did you know that DHP is solely funded by the neighbors who belong to DHP?

Did you know that you can help keep police officers in the neighborhood by joining DHP?

Let's keep crime out. Keep Druid Hills safe.
www.druidhillspatrol.org

Email admin@druidhillspatrol.org
with any questions or concerns.

Did you know that DHP routinely patrols each of the streets to the right?

Artwood RD NE
Amsterdam AVE NE
Anita Place NE
Barton Woods RD NE
Beech Valley Way NE
Briar Hills DR NE
Briarcliff RD NE
Briardale LN NE
Briarwood DR NE
Burlington PL NE
Burlington RD NE
Cameron CT NE
Carol LN NE
Chalmette DR NE
Chelsea Circle NE
Clifton RD NE
Clifton Ridge NE
Clifton Terrace NE
Cornell RD NE
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Lullwater Park LN NE
Lullwater PKWY NE
Lullwater PL NE
Lullwater RD NE
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Markan DR NE
McLynn AVE NE
Mill Creek Bend NE
Muriel AVE NE
N Ponce de Leon AVE NE
Ponce De Leon Manor NE
N Decatur RD NE
N Emory PL NE
Normandy DR NE

Oakdale RD NE
Oak Park DR NE
Oxford RD NE
Paradiso DR NE
Parkwood LN
Parkwood RD
W Parkwood RD
Ponce de Leon AVE NE
Poplar Grove DR NE
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Rock Springs Circle NE
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Stillwood Chase NE
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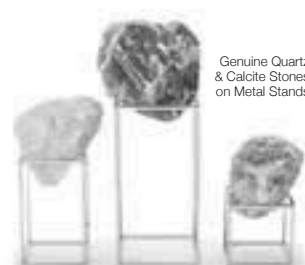
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A Love Story

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Yvette Weatherly was raised in Kirkwood, which had been a middle-class white neighborhood before it turned black almost overnight by blockbusting and fear mongering that African-Americans were moving in. Yvette attended the Sammy Coen School for her elementary years, but opted for a majority to minority (M to M) opportunity to attend North Fulton High School. Many of her schoolmates made the same choice, rendering North Fulton a mix of black and white students, and some foreign students.

Tom Weatherly grew up in one of the less fashionable white areas of Buckhead and also attended North Fulton. Their ninth grade teacher sat the students in alphabetical order, and Yvette and Tom, who sat next to each other, soon became friends. In 12th grade, they began to date, but kept their relationship secret from most of their classmates. In fact, some did not know about the couple until their 40th high school reunion.

Eventually, Yvette and Tom knew they wanted to be married, but members of both families feared that, because of society's bias, their lives would be harder than others and their future children might suffer. And of course, how could the parents tell their friends and family that Yvette and Tom were an interracial couple? Tom's mother, a Yankee, already felt out of place in the south and worried about her son, and Yvette's mother had always wanted a spectacular church wedding with all the ribbons and frills.

In Georgia, inter-racial marriages had been illegal since 1750. Then, in 1967 the Supreme Court of the U.S. overturned all state laws making it legal for blacks and whites to wed.

The couple decided to elope and was married in 1982 at the Fulton County Courthouse. When the chaplain failed to show up, the couple exchanged vows before a parole officer who was also a pastor. They honeymooned at the Colony Square Hotel and then informed their families.

"When I called my mom to tell her," recalls Yvette, "there was this huge long silence. Finally, she said, 'I understand.'" That was an understanding of both the marriage and the loss of the big wedding. But Yvette's mother did host a reception for the couple at Tom's church, Peachtree Road United Methodist.

Tom completed his degree at Georgia Tech and Yvette got a job at Davison's at Lenox Square. The couple lived in a rent-controlled apartment in Buckhead before moving to Virginia Highland, and later to their current home in Druid Hills.

The couple attended the St. Paul United Methodist Church in Grant Park and there joined a group known as the Inter-racial Family Alliance. Many members of the group were alienated from their families and many had children. Yvette carefully considered the ramifications of having children in a bi-racial marriage. Eventually the couple had two children, Ann, who is now married to an African-American man, and Austin, who is dating a



Tom and Yvette Weatherly at Picnic in Park 2018

white woman. Despite worries of friends and family, both the couple and the children turned out exceptionally well.

At the same time, Yvette had to educate Tom about what being black in the south was all about. She and friends were once ordered out of a swimming pool for being black and on family outings, finding a restroom or place to eat was problematic. In Tom's white male world, the police were your friends. In Yvette's, the police were to be feared. One of the couple's discussions centered on whether to lock the doors when inside the house. Yvette's family always kept their doors locked; Tom's

left their doors unlocked. It's a small issue, but one that illustrates the different cultures and environments encountered by the couple as they grew up.

Certainly, things are different now than in 1967 when Yvette and Tom could not have been legally married in Georgia. For the most part, people do not seem alarmed or disrespectful because of the couple. And whether by political correctness or genuine feelings, others do not show much discomfort when encountering Tom and Yvette. It will be easier for both Ann and Austin. Yet there are still movements of racial superiority, and the Klan still holds meetings in some north Georgia counties. The mostly liberal bubble that is Druid Hills, unfortunately does not extend throughout the state of Georgia.

After moving to Druid Hills, both Tom and Yvette became involved in the community. Yvette serves on the DHCA board and is particularly interested in seeing the renovation of the CSX railroad bridge on Ponce. Tom supports Yvette and attends meetings and Druid Hills activities with her.

One thing comes across loud and clear in this relationship: Yvette and Tom are a couple who married for love, and it's lasted.

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News from the Lullwater Garden Club

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Our club is off to a spectacular start under the brilliant leadership of new president Connie Weimar, and Nan Loftis is our new representative to the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. Heather Ewing and Jennie Richardson took a group from the Frazier Center on a tour of the Lullwater Conservation Garden. Our upcoming Christmas holiday party will be the highlight of our fall season.

Lullwater Garden Club has a few open spots for prospective members. The group meets on the fourth Friday of each month, except in the summer. Dues are \$75, and our programs are entertaining and educational for gardeners and conservationists of all categories. To inquire about membership, contact president Connie at Weimars@earthlink.net. Our current focus is on preservation, conservation, and environmental stewardship.

The club continues to raise the extra \$100,000 to install granite (rather than concrete) curbing around the Conservation Garden. This is a requirement of Atlanta's Urban Design Commission. To donate to our cause, contact Connie Weimar at the above e-mail address. To view pictures of the garden, go to LullwaterConservatonGarden.org

How to Have a Green(er) Holiday Season

By Glenn Church Environmental Committee

This is the season of lists! Even if you are not Santa, you are no doubt making numerous lists and editing and posting and checking them more than twice. The Glenn Environmental Committee can offer some suggestions on greening your holiday season.

- Swap out old Christmas tree lights for LED lights
- Use candles or solar-powered decorations where possible
- Feast on a more plant-based diet and eat less meat, especially beef
- Compost food waste through Compost Now or at home (reduces methane in landfills)
- Consider electronic holiday cards instead of paper or use cards from recycled paper and are further recyclable
- Use natural decorations indoors and out (less electricity, more recyclables)
- Recycle all shipping boxes, packaging materials, and gift wrap from gifts received
- Recycle the Christmas tree AND wreath! Florists love to get used wire wreath frames!

And what about those gifts?

- Buy the most earth-friendly version of gifts available – consider materials, ingredients, packaging, whether it can be re-used or recycled, whether it's made locally
- Give presents in re-usable fabric bags instead of using wrapping paper or paper bags
- A month (\$29 to \$35) or more of composting service from Compost Now
- Vegetarian or vegan cookbooks; Vegetarian restaurant gift cards
- Snazzy stainless steel or glass water bottles and food containers (avoid plastic!)
- Anything made with bamboo, which gobbles carbon – like sheets or towels
- Organic and unbleached cotton products

- A gift that takes the lucky recipient outdoors
- LED light bulbs (for all of your lamps)
- Plant a tree (trees absorb lots of carbon!)
- Go organic and natural, and avoid troublesome ingredients such as phthalates, parabens, sodium lauryl sulfate, etc. when giving gifts of lotions and potions
- A home energy audit
- Mechanical or other timers for lights; motion-based light switches or controls
- An experience, adventure, or class, instead of more “stuff”
- Stainless steel straws
- Low-flow showerheads or faucets
- The gift of time – a certificate for doing errands, cooking meals, or just spending time with your friend or loved one
- A rain barrel
- “Upcycled” clothing, jewelry, etc., made from repurposed materials
- Reusable and washable fabric tote bags/grocery bags
- A smart thermostat for your home or office
- An electric or regular bicycle or scooter
- A vacation by train or boat (instead of by plane)
- An electric plug-in vehicle or a hybrid electric/gas car (give this one to yourself!)
- Something made by YOU!

The ultimate gift is the simplest and most powerful gift – love and care of others. As we are loving God and our neighbors, friends and family during this season, we can remember that giving of ourselves may be the most treasured and needed gift of all.

So what's the point in going “green” with our gifts, including those “things” we purchase to symbolize our love? The Earth is here for all of us, and whenever we reduce our “carbon impact” on the Earth, we are sharing all the bounties of the Earth with others in a more fair and equitable way. We can be kind to everyone by being kinder to the Earth. And yes, even seemingly small efforts and practices can help in the fight against global warming. You can be an example to others in the community by your actions. Check out www.drawdown.org for more information about ways to have an impact.

ANOTHER GIFT IDEA!

Copies of *Druid Hills*, an in-depth history, by local authors Jennifer Richardson and Sue Sullivan (published by Arcadia Press) are available. Contact: JJRichar@bellsouth.net.



OLPA News

By Sandra Kruger

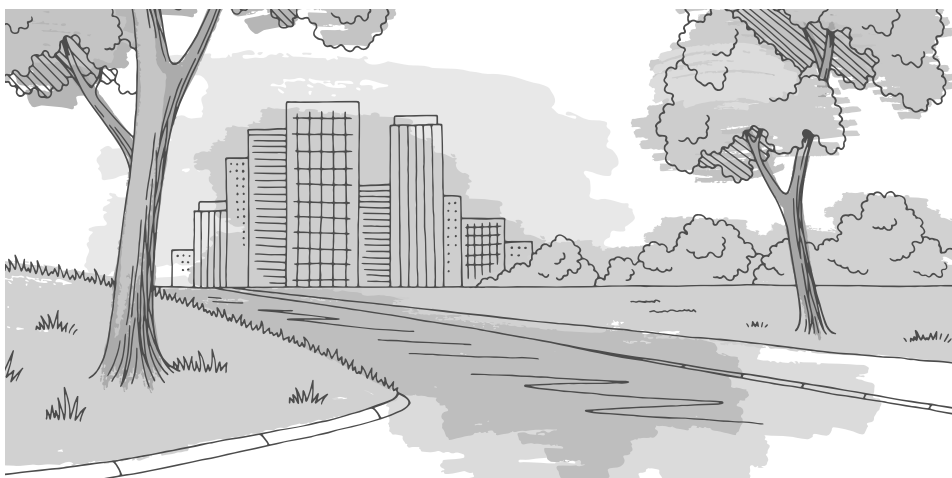


Thank You George Ickes!

George Ickes has been a fixture of Olmsted Linear Park for many years. He mulched, weeded, picked up garbage, cleaned signs and wrangled silent auction items from local businesses. George has done it all for the love of the park. When George was not working in the park, he and his wife, Nancy, were traveling to faraway places. As of September 2019, George has retired as Park Maintenance Director and accepted an Emeritus Director position on the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance Board of Directors. But, not to worry, George continues to volunteer in the park several days a week. George, thank you for all you have done for OLPA and our beloved historic Olmsted Linear Park. Congratulations on your second retirement!

16th Annual Gala Benefit for Olmsted Linear Park

You are cordially invited to join us for an elegant evening full of festive music and delectable bites as Olmsted Linear Park Alliance celebrates its 16th Annual Gala Benefit on Sunday, February 23, 2020. Every year friends and neighbors come together to raise money for our historic Olmsted Linear Park. It is a fabulous party to catch up with old friends and welcome new neighbors. Don't miss the best party of the season! Join our Host Committee or purchase tickets at <https://atlantaolmstedpark.ejoin.me.org/2020Gala>. OLPA is looking for new Sponsors - contact Sandra Kruger for more information at atlantaolmstedpark@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



An Oakdale Road Resident Shares Thoughts On Transportation Issues

By Debra Hartsfield

I first became aware of transportation proposals and discussions a couple of years ago when the whole bike PATH-down-Lullwater idea appeared, seemingly, out of nowhere. I could not believe that an organization wanted to remove parking and, through eminent domain, seize parts of homeowners' yards and cut multiple trees in order to dedicate a sizeable path to help a few bicyclists get from Ponce to North Decatur. It was, as someone pointed out, a solution without a problem.

Though that particular idea seems to have died, the idea of some sort of "bike connectivity" is still very much alive; in fact, Emory, multiple bike groups, PATH (stealthily, I believe) and DeKalb are still invested in being able to say that Druid Hills is a "connected" neighborhood. While there is nothing wrong with the idea of connecting, the planners seem to have a very narrow definition of the word.

Connecting also implies communication, and that is sorely lacking where transportation matters are concerned in Druid Hills. In the many meetings I have attended, the overwhelming message that comes across is "why didn't we know?" or "why didn't anyone ask us?" or "wait a minute, what?" That we have transportation problems in Druid Hills is clear: too many cars, too many fast cars, no sidewalks on Briarcliff, dangerous intersections along North Decatur Road, sidewalks that are way past their prime, tricky pull-outs for blind driveways and on and on and on. That we have a voice in how to fix those problems is less clear; in fact, I often feel during transportation meetings that residents are fighting the powerful

organizations that surround us and fighting with one collective arm tied behind our backs because there is no clear mechanism whereby information is distributed responsibly, routinely and regularly to all homeowners.

I want EVERYONE to have a vote. When or if the need arises to vote on some form of a bike path or loss of parking or installing speed humps or intersection roundabouts or multiple other potential changes, it is important for residents to be able to express an opinion. The problem, as I see it, is that the current process disenfranchises homeowners by design; not giving us an easy voice or including us in many of the conversations has given the political and educational and special interest powers the freedom to potentially make drastic plans that might forever alter our historic neighborhood. Right now, we have no vehicle through which to vote. My proposal is for the DHCA to adopt a TRANSPORTATION landing page on its website and devote a section of every newsletter for updates about what is being discussed or proposed that might affect us and also provide a way for feedback; I have brought this up to DHCA Transportation (of which I am a member), and we are moving forward with outreach that we hope will be all-inclusive. I also think we need to develop a system through which every homeowner (not just the ones who can show up to meetings if they happen to know about them) can actually register a vote for or against any future transportation alterations to our neighborhoods. We need to make ourselves more powerful than the Powers. We are all neighbors in this together, and every neighbor should have a voice.



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Division News

DIVISION 1

By Justin Critz, Division 1 co-chair
(div1chair@druidhills.org)

Sharon Day and Justin Critz are co-chairs for Division 1. This Division encompasses all of the city of Atlanta portion of Druid Hills, including three of the Olmsted Linear Parks. Our historic preservation process is governed by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. Your Division Chairs are happy to help property owners connect with the Landmark District Preservation Committee, which helps our residents navigate the process for doing renovations and improvements to their historic properties (see article on page 17).

Of particular interest to our Division 1 residents is the ongoing trial of the Flock Safety (<https://www.flocksafety.com/>) camera system. This system of solar-powered license plate readers was installed in October of 2018 on a two-year trial basis. While it is too early to deliver a full evaluation of the system, footage has been accessed about a dozen times to assist residents that have been the victims of a crime. Going forward, residents who experience a crime are encouraged to contact their Division Chair to request assistance accessing the Flock Safety footage.

DIVISION 2

By Yvette Weatherly, Division 2 chair
(div2chair@druidhills.org)

Division 2 covers the Ponce corridor in DeKalb County plus Barton Woods, Ponce Manor, Eastlake, Ridgecrest, Artwood and the Parkwoods roads.

On the public safety front, we have had several meetings focused on how to get the speeding on Ponce de Leon under control. There are four schools right on or just off Ponce de Leon Ave, a street that must be crossed by many children daily. The school that is closest to Division 2 is Fernbank Elementary. The others are Springdale Park Elementary, Paideia and the International Montessori School. While it's been quiet in Division 2, with no unusual crimes happening, please keep things you care about out of an unattended car. We will keep up the good fight on crime and speed. A group of us have been trying to help make improvements to the railroad bridge on Ponce de Leon Ave. that leads to Decatur going east and to Atlanta going west. Our group continues to meet, write letters and cover graffiti. The picture was taken after some crude graffiti that appeared which had been painted over by GDOT, who came out the same day after I contacted them and sent pictures of the deed.

I also wanted to write about something fun and interesting that happened in Division 2. I take a stretch class at Church of the Epiphany. One morning when I got to the church I saw about 6-8 sheep and two big white dogs. I later learned the dogs are called Great Pyrenees, and they come with the sheep to guard them. The sheep came to clear overgrowth on the church property. The sheep and dogs came from 'Ewe Can Do it Naturally Inc.' The business is owned by John Wierwille, who is a member of the Epiphany Parish. John enjoys lambing and sharing the experience with his daughters. Four babies were born while the sheep worked at the Church. They were so very cute.

I am the Division 2 Chair. If you would like to Co-Chair with me please email me at ymw1@bellsouth.net by Sunday December 15th. I am the Division 2 Chair. If you have questions or would like to co-chair with me, please email me at ymw1@bellsouth.net.

DIVISION 3

By Allan Ballard, Division 3 chair
(div3chair@druidhills.org)

Division 3 anchors Druid Hills' southwest side. The division is bounded by Virginia Avenue and the Atlanta city limit to the south, by Rosedale Road/McLynn Avenue and the Virginia Highland/Morningside neighborhoods to the west and by University Avenue and Druid Hills' northwest corner to the north. Briarcliff Road separates Division 3 from the sea of Druid Hills single family homes extending all the way to the CSX line at Clairmont Road.

Division 3 contains two of the neighborhood's three Candler residences - Briarcliff and the iconic Callanwolde, with the third, Rest Haven, standing on nearby Springdale Road. Another presence of note is Emory University, which owns and occupies GMHI's expansive former property.

Overall, Division 3 is a quiet and stable section of homes and streets. One street, Briarcliff Road, deserves special attention. Briarcliff Road doubles as a north/south neighborhood street and state highway. It completely bisects Druid Hills. Despite carrying slightly heavier traffic than more typical neighborhood streets, cyclists, runners and pedestrians find Briarcliff to their liking and can be seen at all hours.

Although the east side of the street has a county provided sidewalk from one end to the other, the county has been curiously remiss on the west side. No county sidewalk was built to hook on to Atlanta's

at the Atlanta city limit. A gap extends to Stillwood and crosses the Callanwolde property and adjoining former properties now dedicated to health care. Fortunately pedestrians can cross to the east side when necessary.

Currently developers have targeted "central Briarcliff" for high density residential development. The attention has been centered on the east side but bears mention here. In 2016 developer Minerva attempted to rezone the Metropolitan Church from R-85 (single family residential) to Mr-1 (multi-family). This would have enabled development of a large number of condominiums and cluster type houses to replace the 1960s era church. The DHCA Board of Directors unanimously opposed. Ultimately the church withdrew and contention subsided after the Planning Commission hearing.

Today, Elegant Homes seeks to tear down the three homes to the north of the church property and replace them with a smaller version of the Minerva plan. The three homes would be replaced with 16. Two large, multifamily homes along the street front would mask a number of homes to be built behind them. The DHCA Board of Directors unanimously opposes this rezoning attempt as well. To date the DeKalb Community Council has heard the Elegant Homes application twice. It was voted down unanimously, but a procedural issue sent it back. Upon rehearing the application, the Community Council voted by a majority of 4-2 to "defer full cycle" to get input from the Historic Preservation Commission. This commission voted unanimously to deny the application. The rezoning application now advances to the Planning Commission and then to the Board of Commissioners. (Update: Since this writing the developer has requested permission to withdraw his rezoning application.)

DIVISION 4

Division 4 is situated between Briarcliff Road, North Decatur Road and Lullwater Creek. Mike St. Louis (div4chair@druidhills.org) is Division 4 chair.

DIVISION 5

Division 5 is situated between Peavine Creek, North Decatur Road and the railroad tracks just west of Clairmont Road. Renee Nelson (div5chair@druidhills.org) is Division 5 chair.

DIVISION 6

By Darin Engle, Division 6 chair

(div6chair@druidhills.org)

Division 6 includes the residential neighborhoods north of the Emory University Briarcliff property and west of Briarcliff Rd. / Old Briarcliff Rd., extending north to the railroad tracks at Sage Hill. Several areas within Division 6 are in the city of Atlanta while others are in unincorporated Dekalb County. At the September meeting of city of Atlanta Neighborhood Planning Unit F (NPU-F), members voted unanimously to amend their bylaws, adding Druid Hills as a defined Area of Interest as follows:

Emory/CDCArea and Druid Hills households - The Emory/CDC/Druid Hills Area is defined by the boundaries that annexed into the City of Atlanta on 1/1/2018 and includes the area that the Druid Hill Civic Association designates as Districts 6, 7 and 8. DeKalb County recognizes this area to be in the Druid Hills Civic Association which surrounds the annexed property. It is NPU-F's preference that all matters within these boundaries include the input of the Druid Hills Civic Association or other neighboring associations when appropriate prior to NPU-F making its own independent decisions with respect to any such matters.

Neighborhood Planning Units are citizen advisory councils that make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on zoning, land use, and other planning-related matters. This enables citizens to express concerns and provide input which helps the City in developing plans that best meet the needs of each neighborhood.

I am both the chair of DHCA Division 6 (div6chair@druidhills.org) and a member of the NPU-F Executive Committee, representing Druid Hills.

DIVISION 7

Division 7 includes what are known as the University streets west of Emory University. Division 7 is co-chaired by Sandra Thornton and Steven Mathias. Contact at div7chair@druidhills.org.

DIVISION 8

Division 8 includes Emory University and residential streets from N. Decatur Road to South Peachtree Creek. Division 8 is co-chaired by Ron Foust and Van Biesel. Contact at div8chair@druidhills.org.

**DIVISION 9**

By Steven Misner, Division 9 chair

(div9chair@druidhills.org)

Division 9 of the DHCA, composed of Clifton & East Clifton Roads and the Chelsea Heights area of unincorporated DeKalb County, has experienced a real rejuvenation over the last decade. Many new families have moved in and many of our homes have been substantially renovated or replaced by new, larger houses. An integral part of the area's rejuvenation has been the revival of its parks. These parks are a substantial and often overlooked asset to our neighborhood. All are invited to visit and enjoy them and, by all means, help us maintain them!

Heaton Park (located at the intersection Heaton Park Dr. & Vickers Dr.), a DeKalb County park of several acres of woods and a natural spring, has been substantially improved by the neighborhood and the county. Wood chip paths, picnic tables and granite seats have been added.

Adams Park (located at the intersection of Hertford Circle & Hummingbird Lane) provides neighbors with picnic facilities and a large lawn area perfect for softball games, exercising dogs and other activities. It is owned by the Chelsea Circle Park Association, which pays taxes on the land and regularly maintains it.

Burbanck Park, located near the intersection of Clifton Rd. & South Oxford Rd., due to the tireless efforts of many neighbors lead by Mark Goldman and Perry Mitchell, the park provides a beautiful walk in the woods and lovely views of Peavine Creek, right next to Emory Village.

Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee

By Jan Jones

The Landmark District Preservation Committee was created under the Druid Hills Civic Association to address issues which might arise in the portion of Historic Druid Hills that is in the city of Atlanta. This area includes Fairview Rd. and portions of Ponce de Leon Ave., South Ponce de Leon Ave., Springdale Rd., Oakdale Rd. and Lullwater Rd. The committee helps property owners understand and follow the Landmark District regulations for Druid Hills as set forth on the city of Atlanta website (<https://www.atlantaga.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=1327>). We also oversee any construction projects and notify the city about activity which may not be properly permitted. At present we have 9 members on the committee and 2 resource people with expertise in particular areas like landscaping. We always welcome new members.

Generally, if a property owner wishes to make changes to the exterior of their home or yard, they will contact the committee to come and review the plans. By doing this before they apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness (or COA) at the office of Urban Design at Atlanta City Hall, we can help them adjust any aspect of their project which would not comply with the Landmark District regulations thus saving the applicant time and money when they do make application. If we have had a meeting with the property owner and have seen their final plans, when they do make application for a COA, we will submit comments to the Urban Design Commission to accompany the staff report which the Commissioners can refer to for each COA. In these comments, we generally note changes that the committee supports as following the regulations, and we also note any changes which we feel do not abide by the regulations.

If a homeowner has not contacted us before making application for a COA, the Urban Design Commission staff will contact us to let us know there is an application from our district so that we can follow up to see what the homeowner is planning. We will meet with homeowners, contractors and/or their architects. Once we know the plans for a property, we generally try to contact the immediate neighbors to let them know what is about to happen. This is particularly important as some of the larger properties in Druid Hills are redeveloped into multi-family complexes. We work with schools and businesses along Ponce de Leon Ave. and South Ponce de Leon Ave. to be sure that the neighborhood plan that Frederick Law Olmsted imagined is honored

School News

Springdale Park (SPARK) Elementary

By Kristin Siembieda, SPARK STEM Program Specialist

Springdale Park (SPARK) held their annual STEAM week October 7-11. STEAM Week is designed to provide experiential learning in a variety of STEM subjects with strong arts integration. The week inspired SPARK students to explore and pursue their interests in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. The students participated in STEAM challenges, had guest speakers from the STEAM world, and had a wonderful time at STEAM night with various STEAM vendors across Georgia. The students learned about meteorology, biology, force and motion, and sound and light. Students had a visit from the KSU iTeach MakerBus, where they were able to create STEM projects. SPARK students also participated in bridge building competitions, designed paper rockets, made pumpkin catapults, created an egg cage for an egg drop, made a pumpkin package for a pumpkin drop, and designed rafts. The students used the engineer design process, a series of steps that engineers follow to come up with a solution to a problem, to complete their projects. It was an engaging educational experience for all.

Druid Hills High School

The Druid Hills High School PTO, in partnership with The Druid Hills Athletic Association (DHAA), generates support and funding for academics, arts, and athletics at Druid Hills High School and Middle School. This support funds grants to provide teachers and coaches with resources that are often not available through the DeKalb County School District. This year, our goal is to raise \$100,000 to provide our students with needed technology, enhanced learning & athletic resources, and other enriched opportunities to help fully reach their potential.

The 2020 Auction website is now live. Go to charityauction.bid/dhhsauction to purchase tickets to attend the auction; donate in Honor of Your Class, A Teacher, or Student; donate goods or services or become a Family or Business Sponsor.

Congratulations to Druid Hills High School Math teacher Mr. Nicholas Boone on being named DeKalb County School District's Teacher of the Year on November 2.

Ben Franklin Academy

By Angela Cassidy

Benjamin Franklin Scholars: College Board announced that Ben Franklin Academy had several Advanced Placement Scholars based on their scores on AP exams. Brendan Lyster, Elizabeth Stem and Mackenzie Westen were named AP Scholars; Isabelle Braden was named an AP Scholar with Honors; and Alexander Warren was named an AP Scholar with Distinction. Jonas Iskander has been named a National Merit Semi-finalist.

The Franklin Players presented "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Simon Stephens November 5 - 7 directed by BFA drama teacher, Dr. Pamela Turner. Ben Franklin Academy's Philanthropy Project is participating in the national initiative for military service men and women across the globe called Operation Gratitude. The club is also sponsoring a pajama drive for teen patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Paideia School

By Anne Dukes

Twenty-one Paideia seniors were honored by the National Merit Scholarship Competition and Program based on their PSAT scores. Seven seniors were named semifinalists in the scholarship competition and 14 students were named commended students.

Paideia high school students recently won the 2019 "Volunteers of the Year" award for high school groups who work at MedShare, a humanitarian aid organization which collects, sorts and delivers surplus medical supplies and equipment to communities all over the world. The students were honored at a luncheon along with volunteers from faith-based organizations, civic groups, government and universities.

A showcase of student photography work was on display at the Abernathy Arts Center for Atlanta Celebrates Photography's exhibition. For the second year in a row Paideia was awarded "Best School".

Fernbank Elementary School

Submitted by Joan Ray, Principal and Adam Francois Watkins, PTA Co-President, 2019-20

Fernbank Elementary proudly welcomed many new students and families this year following the redistricting process completed by DeKalb County Schools last spring. At the start of the school year, we made some dramatic improvements to our playground area, including our new sports court. It includes two adjustable regulation basketball goals, two four-square courts, 10 ft x 70 ft containment netting and artificial turf surrounding it on three sides. We were able to build this great play space through the generous contributions of our parents and community partners.

On the academic front, the school's math team, for the third year in a row, won the team 1st place and multiple individual 1st place awards at the annual Sagamore Hills math tournament, and featured multiple state champions and national medalists in the Math Kangaroo competition for the second year in a row. In October, 5th graders put on a wonderful production of The Lion King under the expert guidance of our music teacher, Laura Briss. The acting, singing, and dancing talent on display was impressive and fun to watch.

The Fernbank Sustainability Initiative has had amazing success eliminating single-use plastic and styrofoam, becoming the first Georgia public school to compost cafeteria waste, and being named the DeKalb County Sustainable School of the Year. (See attached photo). Fernbank was also one of four metro Atlanta schools featured in a special tour for attendees of the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in November. Greenbuild is the largest annual event for green building professionals worldwide. Titled "Building 21st Century Learners in Green Schools," Fernbank's portion of the tour focused on our composting cafeteria program and our garden and outdoor classroom experience.

Our kiln is a wonderful new addition to our art program. It is also a gift from the Druid Hills Civic Association for which we are most grateful! We are doing test firings now and very soon should be able to share some Fernbank original pottery with you.

Edward F. Tamas (1927-2019)

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Ed Tamas, a well-known and colorful character in Druid Hills, moved with his family to a two-story white brick home at the corner of South Ponce de Leon and Clifton in 1971. He had previously lived on Clifton Road. He later purchased a yellow brick home next door and turned it into a (legal) apartment house.

Tamas served in World War II in Pacific Theatre in the Navy. He was a machinist mate and delivered equipment and soldiers to battle sites. He participated in the invasion of Okinawa. Following the war, Tamas joined the U.S. Air Force. He used the G.I. Bill to finance a Bachelor of Engineering degree. His career included a position at General Motors; work with the Polaris missile; and the FAA. He later earned a pilot's license and a real estate license.

Tamas was a strong believer in individual property rights. When he purchased the South Ponce de Leon home, it was during the threat of the Stone Mountain Expressway. He was candid about the reason for his purchase: if the expressway came nearby, he hoped to demolish his home and use the property for commercial purposes as a gas station. Later, he wanted to develop a personal care home on the site.

Unfortunately for Mr. Tamas, the expressway did not come, and historic zoning was introduced into his area of Druid Hills, thus preventing him from taking down an historic home as well as introducing any commercial venture into the corridor. As a believer that he could do what he wished with his property, these restraints infuriated him. From about 1973 onward, he frequently attempted to influence the Druid Hills Civic Association, the Atlanta Zoning Commission and other Atlanta commissions to allow him to do what he wished with his property, despite city regulations. As a result, he spent a great deal of time down at City Hall

making applications for projects he knew would not be approved. But on each such occasion, a group from DHCA or the neighborhood assembled at hearings to protest his plans. Tamas also discussed his plight with DHCA and the various Olmsted organizations on numerous occasions. As a result, he acquired a certain reputation as a thorn in the side of many.

Tamas moved into the yellow brick apartment house and did very little maintenance on his original white house. This house was the scene of two fires, and the City required him to replace the roof and board up the structure. It sat that way for over 40 years.

Mr. Tamas was especially frustrated at the renovation of the Olmsted Linear Park, on which his property fronted. He must have understood that the more progress made on restoring the park, the fewer chances he had of developing his property for commercial use.

One of the last proposals made by Tamas and developer Philip Clark was to turn his properties into condominiums and have condos built around them. This proposition was legal because of the multi-family zoning of his homes. The project never came to fruition. However, members of the Tamas family are presently overseeing the complete renovation of the white house.

Mr. Tamas clashed with many other residents over his strong beliefs in free enterprise and property ownership. While his attitudes alienated other residents, one must admit that he stood up with great tenacity for his beliefs.

Tamas died on September 30 at age 92. He and his late wife Joyce, had four children, 11 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Randolph Martin (Marty) York, M.D. (1942-1919)

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Dr. Marty York was an oncology (cancer) specialist at a time when few other physicians entered that field because cancer prognosis was so bleak. This was a time when few treatments were available, and a diagnosis of cancer to many people meant a death sentence.

Dr. York attended the Medical College of Georgia and did his internship at Duke University. He then served in Viet Nam, earning a Bronze Star. After the war, he completed his residency at the University of California in San Francisco and a fellowship in oncology at Harvard's Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

It was in San Francisco that Dr. York met his wife, Holly, to whom he was married for 45 years. The couple had two children and five grandchildren.

In Georgia, Dr. York became Emory University's Associate Director of Hematology-Oncology and joined the practice of Peachtree Hematology and Oncology.

Always a sportsman, Dr. York completed the Bike Ride Across Georgia and ran in marathons. He was a voracious reader, a gourmet cook and lover of fine wines, and enjoyed dining with friends and family.

Most of all, Dr. York was loved by family and patients alike. He provided hope and care to cancer patients who had few treatment alternatives. A former patient's wife told me that York was instrumental in keeping her husband's morale up, and in providing compassionate and expert treatment in what other physicians might consider a "losing proposition." Perhaps that's what made Dr. York so special: he continued to care, help, inspire, and to show concern for his patients no matter what their ultimate longevity might be. And for the many cancer patients he treated, he truly was a Guardian Angel.

Dr. York died at home on August 27, 2019 from complications of Parkinson's disease.

Do-It-Yourself

Holiday Decor



Holiday season means connecting with family and friends, the constant faint smell of a gingerbread-peppermint-chestnut-fir tree candle and last but not least, decorating. Lots and lots of decorating. Whether people flock to your house from far and wide to see your Christmas decorations or you are just getting started with you decorating game, check out these budget friendly DIY holiday decorations. Best of all, you can use items that you already own to add a new look to your house and bring out your inner creativity.





OUTDOOR LOLLIPOPS

Hosting a party with kids on the invite list? Create your own Christmas lollipops to make your yard festive, using white paper plates, paint, and a yard stick. First, paint the paper plate with a peppermint design, stripes, polka dots or any other design your heart desires. Next, paint the yard stick white, then hot glue the painted paper plate to it and voila, you have a cute holiday lollipop. Line your driveway or sidewalk with these cute decorations to make your house look like it's straight out of the North Pole. In order to protect the paper plates from rain, you can also wrap it up with a clear plastic bag or plastic wrap and then wrap a Holiday colored ribbon around the part where the yardstick and plate connect to give it that authentic candy shop feel.

REPURPOSED ORNAMENTS

Instead of throwing away your used K-cups every morning, start saving them up for a fun day of family crafting! Believe it or not, these K-cups can be used to make cute Christmas ornaments.

First gather the materials: a K-cup, a circular piece of cardstock or a can lid, ribbon, and yarn. First, glue the lid or piece of circular cardstock to the top of the K-cup (where the peel is) this will create the effect of a Christmas top hat. If the K cup and can lid are not the same color, you may want to paint them the same color to match. Next, wrap the ribbon where the lid and K-cup meet and glue the yarn loop to the top to make a cute Christmas ornament. You could also use the Kcup to make other designs as well. Mason jar canning lids can also be reinvented into a cute ornament or gift tag. Simply paint with chalkboard paint and hot glue a loop out of twine.

DOOR WREATH

Do the kids' rooms need a little holiday fun? How about a wreath for their bedroom door? Instead of throwing away the extra wrapping paper rolls, toilet paper rolls, and paper towel rolls, make them multipurpose. Cut all of the rolls so that they are the same length and find a small bowl to serve as the center hole of the wreath. Begin hot gluing the rolls into a circular shape around the bowl until the wreath is as big as you desire. Paint the rolls white, red, and green and spice up this holiday DIY by adding some

jingle bells or other small decorations to put inside some of the rolls. Your kids will enjoy helping you make a welcoming and recyclable wreath!



ELEGANT SNOW GLOBES

All you need for this sophisticated snow globe is a wine glass, artificial snow, a candle, and a small Christmas figurine (such as Santa or a Christmas tree). All of these items can be found at your local dollar store. To begin, pick where you want to display this fancy snow globe. They make great center pieces on tables or on the mantle over the fireplace. First, place the figurine with fake snow around it. Next, simply just place the wine glass upside down on top of the figurine and snow and then you have a classy looking snow globe. To add some extra jazz, place the candle on the top of the upside-down glass and tie a pretty ribbon around the glass's stem. If you are looking for a more kid-friendly snow globe try using a plastic water bottle, mason jar, or saltshaker.



"WRAP UP" YOUR KITCHEN

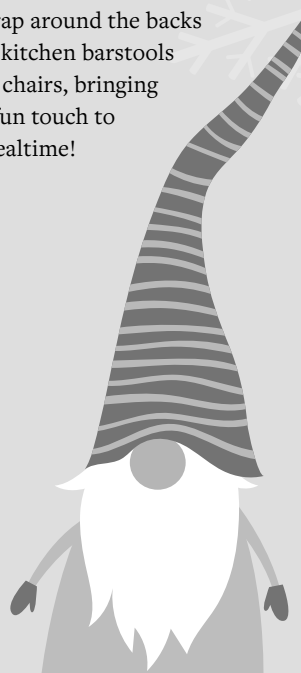
Don't let any space go without a decoration. If your kitchen is looking for a little more holiday spirit, try using double-sided tape to line your cabinets with wrapping paper and then add a wide ribbon lengthwise with a bow in the center to make them look like a gift box. If you have glass on your kitchen cabinets put the wrapping paper on the inside lining the glass to add a Christmas touch. Or, you may want to use wide ribbon to wrap around the backs of kitchen barstools or chairs, bringing a fun touch to mealtime!

FILLER FOR GLASS JARS AND BOWLS

Tired of filling your favorite glass bowl or jar with the same old items? Try using the retro big colored Christmas tree light bulbs to bring fun color to a glass jar. Or try filling it to the top with multicolored jingle bells or shiny glass ball ornaments. To keep it neutral, gather acorns and pinecones with sprigs of pine tree or cinnamon sticks for a nice aroma. These could even be spray painted a frosty white and transition as a decoration into the new year.



Article by Mary Rose Provence.
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