



THE DRUID HILLS News

SUMMER, 2012
Volume 26, Number 2
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A Wonderful Tour Weekend of Homes, Gardens, and Visitors

by Claudia Keenan

Nearly 1,400 visitors from as far away as California descended on Druid Hills during the weekend of April 20-22 to enjoy the eclectic architecture and décor of five homes, an alluring perennial garden, and the work of regional artists. Despite a rainy forecast, the sun shone for most of the weekend.

“Tour weekend,” a Druid Hills tradition, began in 1968 but harkens back to the 1920’s when the neighborhood’s blooming dogwood trees first attracted groups of visitors from throughout the South. The tour has endured as an annual celebration of Druid Hills’ architecture and streetscapes and is the sole fundraising event of the Druid Hills Civic Association. To make it happen, several hundred volunteers worked shifts or simply through the entire weekend, led by operations co-chairs Leslie Fight and Debbie McDonald.

With a new logo and theme, “The Second Century,” the tour featured 794 Springdale Road, home of Dr. Viola Vaccarino and Dr. Doug Bremner; 804 Springdale Road, home of Drs. William and Sandra Sexson; 812 Springdale Road, home of Krista Brewer and Gary Flack; 1130 Springdale Road, garden of Dr. Philip Edwards and Judi Edwards; 1156 Springdale Road, home of Dr. Janet McNicholl and Dr. Robb Linkins; and 857 Oakdale Road, home of Dr. Nancy Cox and Evan Lindsay. Tour goers traveled by trolley and grabbed lunch at food trucks parked curbside at St. John’s Lutheran Church.

“The tour and artist market are crucial to our success,” remarked Bruce MacGregor, president of the Druid Hills Civic Association. “Nothing else can showcase the neighborhood, build community, and raise money like the tour. It allows us to maintain an operating reserve and a strategic reserve, with which we can meet both challenges and opportunities.”

The Druid Hills Golf Club – celebrating its 100th birthday this year – set the scene for the April 18 tour gala, drawing a large crowd of volunteers, neighbors, and guests. Welcomed by club president Charlie Sharbaugh, the gathering honored homeowners with framed pen and ink drawings of their homes by local artist Rod Pittam. Sponsorship co-chairs Harvin Greene and Tanya Zacks bestowed plaques on platinum, gold, silver, and bronze sponsors and benefactors.

The following evening, the Artist Market opened with a reception. The John Willingham Band performed rock and roll classics while everyone enjoyed supper and drinks provided by Whole Foods and Sherlock’s Wine Merchant.

Recalling the weekend, homeowner Janet McNicholl wrote that despite a sick

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JULY 4TH PARADE IN DRUID HILLS

Don’t miss the 35th annual Druid Hills Fourth of July Parade! Join a few hundred of your friends and neighbors as we march up Springdale and back down Oakdale in a display of patriotism and community. If you’ve never participated in the parade, you’ve missed out on a truly unique tradition in our neighborhood. Be sure to dress up your bikes and strollers, your pets, your kids and yourselves ... and if you have any musical ability whatsoever, feel free to join our ad-hoc marching band! Festivities kick off at 11:00 a.m. Parade begins and ends at the corner of Oakdale Road and The By Way. Refreshments following.

Simple Pleasures

by Mary Angela Whyte

Ah, the good old days, when neighbors gathered in backyards or porches for ice cream socials, celebrating good weather and friendships, where the ice cream was a lure for the children and an excuse to relax and visit for the adults. Where did it all go....

Well, some of it lives on in the backyards of next-door neighbors Lois and Don Berthaume and Margaret Blackmon, on Ridgewood at Emory Drive. “Celebrate Spring!” the evite read, “April 29, from 4-5:30 p.m.” It was their third (fourth?) ice cream social to welcome spring, and children could be seen hurrying down Emory Drive on the stroke of 4 p.m.

This year, in addition to ice cream and lemonade, there was a surprise birthday cake for Mel Chewning, long time resident of Emory Drive, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Last year, the well wishes were for much admired neighbor Annie “Bubbie” Stone, 98 years young.

Smiling faces and sticky hands, a good time was had by all. Simple pleasures of the past remind us of what is really important, where the handheld device is just a waffle cone.



The Future of Fernbank Forest

By Dr. Larry Wilson

Forest Ecologist, Fernbank Science Center

and Adjunct Professor, Emory University, Department of Environmental Studies

Fernbank Science Center appreciates the Druid Hills neighborhood’s patronage and support of Fernbank Science Center and Forest. After more than forty-eight years as sole caretaker, protector, and guardian of the old growth forest known as Fernbank Forest, on July 1, 2012, we will no longer serve that role. Fernbank Science Center and the DeKalb County School District were not offered the option to renew the forest’s lease.

What does this mean to the neighbors, students, and public? All issues dealing with Fernbank Forest after June 30, 2012, will be under control of the Fernbank Board of Trustees and Fernbank Museum, including fallen trees, fence issues, or other concerns. Fernbank Science Center staff expertise can handle any scientific questions. Also, the Museum will take over total operations of the Robert Staton Rose Garden at Clifton and Ponce de Leon, and Fernbank Science Center will have to move their vocational education for special needs DeKalb students off the Museum properties.

It should be emphasized that, as quoted by the Museum’s COO Aneli Nugteren (DeKalb Patch, July 26, 2011), “The issue is not that the nonprofit (the Museum) believes they can run the property better, just that the science center’s lease has run its course.”

For nearly a half century, Fernbank Science Center has expertly and meticulously managed the forest, with full-time professional foresters, ecologists, and biologists maintaining the pristine nature of this last relict of the original Southeastern Piedmont forest. We have been privileged to teach ecology, biology, and environmental education to millions of students through the use of Fernbank Forest and honored to serve the neighborhood and public with free access to the forest to fulfill our promise to Miss Emily Harrison to better educate people, especially children, on the beauty of nature

Our management plan has always put integrity of the forest first. We have never used pesticides or broadcast herbicides to control “unwanted” pests, as the long-term effects would leave a park of big trees without the myriad wildlife, wild flowers, aquatic macro - invertebrates, and aquatic vertebrates. Dead trees (snags) have always been left undisturbed, unless close to trails, as they provide forage and nesting sites for many birds, flying squirrels, and forest insects. When a tree falls or a dead tree is taken down for safety reasons, it is left to ensure the nutrient recycling vital to the long-term function of the ecosystem.

We have not only taught in the forest for more than forty-eight years, we have

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THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

*Newsletter of the
Druid Hills Civic Association*

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Druid Hills Walking Tour

The Druid Hills Walking Tour, one of 10 offered by the Atlanta Preservation Center, is now offered one Sunday a month at 2 p.m.

Starting point is still St. John's Lutheran Church at the corner of Ponce and Oakdale Road. The route is still Oakdale to The ByWay to Lullwater and around the Lullwater Parkway to Ponce and back through Oak Grove of the linear park. Landscape, architecture, famous (and infamous) residents, stories! All in less than two hours for \$10 (\$5 for seniors and students) and FREE for APC members.

Check out preserveatlanta.com for more about all the walking tours.

Important Numbers

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Police – Emergency	911
Administrative/General Info	404-294-2605
Criminal Investigations	404-294-2550
Police – General Information	404-294-2000
Center Precinct	404-294-2580
East Precinct	770-482-0300
South Precinct	404-286-7911
Animal Services—Stray Animals	404-294-2996
After Hours	404-294-2519
Atlanta Legal Aid—DeKalb	404-377-0701
Board of Education—DeKalb	678-676-1200
Board of Health—DeKalb	404-294-3700
Business License	404-371-2462
Chamber of Commerce—DeKalb	404-378-8000
Citizen's Drainage Program	404-297-3840
Conventions & Visitors Bureau	770-492-5000
Code Enforcement	770-724-7940
Deaf Teletype	404-294-2677
DeKalb Community Relations (Police)	404-286-7955
DeKalb Medical Center	404-501-1000
DeKalb Medical Center – Hillandale	404-501-8000
DeKalb Rape Crisis Center	404-377-1428
Drainage Problems	404-297-3840
Driver's License (State)	678-413-8400
Drug Hotline	770-322-2540
Economic Development	404-687-2730
Elections	404-298-4020
Family & Children Service (DFACS)	404-370-5000
Gov. Office Of Consumer Affairs	404-656-3790
Homeland Security/Gangs	770-216-4926
Human & Community Affairs	770-322-2950
Keep DeKalb Beautiful	404-371-2654
Law Department	404-371-3011
Marriage License	404-371-2262
MARTA-Complaint Line	404-848-4800
Mental Health Emergencies	404-892-4646
Mobile Crisis Unit	404-294-0499
Motor Vehicle (TAGS)	404-298-4000
Neighborhood Watch	404-286-7955
Planning & Development	404-371-2155
Pot Holes—DeKalb	404-297-3840
Recorder's Court	404-508-0368
Automated Assistance	404-371-3272
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Street Lights	770-492-5200
Storm Water Management	404-297-2570
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Tax Commissioner	404-298-4000
Property Tax	404-298-4000
Traffic Signal Malfunction	404-297-3929
Trees Down	404-297-3840
Voter Registration	404-298-4020
Water—Billing	404-378-4475
Emergency	770-270-6243
Women's Resource Center	404-688-9436
Zoning	404-371-4915

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

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HELP WANTED

Two Druid Hills Civic Association
Committees need volunteers!

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

To volunteer, please contact
adminvp@druidhills.org.

Membership

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

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

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The *Druid Hills News* is published in
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Your Letters Are Welcome

President’s Column

by Bruce MacGregor

WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?

Since 1938, DHCA's core mission has been to preserve and protect the physical integrity of the neighborhood. We have successfully done this for almost eight decades, when necessary by going to court. Of course, we also do many other things, notably supporting the acquisition and enhancement of neighborhood greenspace. Many worthy programs could be supported by others, if the DHCA did not exist. However, no other organization would preserve and protect our physical integrity. DHCA provides the first (and often the last) defense for almost all land use issues; what we fail to do fails to get done.

In this column, I want to address two significant threats to our neighborhood; one we have battled for almost a decade, and one brought to our doorstep last month.

Buckler-McCullar Property (formerly Nunan). The first threat involves the Buckler-McCullar property, three lots (1142, 1150, 1158 Clifton Rd.) purchased by two developers about nine years ago. At any time over the last nine years, they could have developed or resold these three lots without litigation and without changing the law. But, in order to maximize profits on this speculative purchase, they have sought to develop and sell more lots than they purchased, by subdividing the land into many more lots. To date, this has resulted in nine lawsuits and three appellate opinions. Additionally, in the last two legislative sessions, one developer has attempted to get a special interest “pet project” bill passed by the Georgia legislature, which would in part disable the state’s Historic Preservation Enabling Legislation. The developers’ most recent attempts, through litigation and legislation, would allow developers to shoehorn multi-lot cul-de-sac subdivisions into historic districts statewide, with no oversight from Georgia’s 130 –plus local Historic Preservation Commissions, in effect, first decoupling a Historic Preservation Commission’s review of changes to sites from its review of changes to structures and second, disabling the review of changes to sites altogether. Think of the site of Monticello being subdivided into quarter-acre lots, leaving the structure of Jefferson’s home intact but surrounded by Levittown. If the developers here were to be successful on Clifton Road, we could expect many of these types of high density intrusions punched in throughout our neighborhood. It would be the end of Druid Hills as we know it.

The Buckler-McCullar property lies adjacent to the Burbanck Park (corner of Clifton Road and Oxford Road), and the proposed detention pond for the proposed subdivision would be located almost on top of the park’s granite wall. We nominated this site for greenspace several years ago. Given that it adjoins the Burbanck Park, even a partial purchase would be beneficial. Negotiations between the County and the developers have occurred. It is not known what the developers’ asking price has been, as the developers decline to share this number with the DHCA and have insisted the County keep this number confidential. At this point, it does not appear that the developer’s secret asking price is within the County’s range for greenspace acquisition. So, while the greenspace option would be a wonderful result, it is difficult to assess a realistic possibility while the asking price is withheld, leaving us with no viable alternative but to seek protection of our neighborhood from this development threat through the courts.

I share the concern about the significant costs which litigation necessarily entails. Like most of you, I would prefer that our resources be directed into more immediately tangible

endeavors such as planning, greenspace, park maintenance, streetlights, and youth sports-- all of which DHCA has supported. Fortunately, the times we have had to go to court to defend the neighborhood have been relatively few over the years and the duration of those cases has often been limited. In fact, our litigation expenses prior to 2012 have been minimal since the Presidential Parkway fight in the 1980’s. As neighbors, we rose to the occasion to stop the road, and here with a threat no less significant, we have again risen to the occasion.

This precedent setting threat of slicing and dicing larger lots into smaller Gwinnett type cul-de-sac subdivisions throughout Druid Hills has been brought by two non-resident developers. It is a fight the Civic Association did not pick but one worth fighting to win, not just for this stretch of Clifton Road, but for the entire neighborhood.

Fernbank Science Center. The second threat involves the potential closure of the Fernbank Science Center (FSC), which only surfaced in May 2012 when the Budget Committee of the DeKalb Board of Education voted to close the Center. When this became known, the DHCA Board was immediately polled; a letter opposing the closure was sent to each School Board member, and we spoke against the closure at School Board meetings. A reversionary clause was found in the FSC deed, conveying the four --acre site from Fernbank Inc. to the DeKalb County School District. If the FSC ceases teaching science on this site, the property and facilities revert to Fernbank Inc., the owner of the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

Due to the reversionary clause and a groundswell of support for the FSC, it has been removed from the closure list for one year. The DHCA recommends that a countywide task force be established to help define and support the mission of the Fernbank Science Center. We believe that a Foundation and a “Friends” group will be needed to supplement school district funding and to provide an organized constituency for the Science Center. We would also like to explore any opportunities for synergy between the FSC and the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Fernbank Inc. has taken back the operation of Fernbank Forest and is reportedly developing a master plan for their properties, including the forest and museum. SusanAnne MacKenna, who also serves as our Communications VP, is DHCA’s point person on this issue.

These two issues have taken up most of the oxygen in the room. However, other land use issues reported in the last issue of the DHN still exist. These include:

The Frazer Center, located on South Ponce De Leon Avenue has proposed a Zoning Overlay District and a Special Land Use Permit for the 22-acre unincorporated DeKalb portion of their 35-acre property. This area lies within the Druid Hills Historic District. Issues to be addressed include noise from events, traffic, buffers, and potential expansion. Since this is a proposed Zoning Overlay District, rather than a rezoning, the application must be submitted by a county commissioner. Robert Ballou is the DHCA Point Person and Chuck Palmer is our volunteer attorney.

The Matthews property on Vilenah Lane at Oakdale Road will be re-platted to include 10 single family building lots, all conforming to the current R-85 zoning,. Since this property was earlier submitted to DeKalb County for greenspace acquisition, we have suggested that one of the lots be set aside for greenspace. Other issues include county

requirements for sidewalks, a detention pond, and a turn-around on the dead-end street. Justin Critz is the DHCA Point Person

The Lullwater Apartments at the corner of Lullwater and North Decatur Road remains under contract for re-development. While the property is zoned for apartments at 18 units per acre, most of the 5-acre site lies within a FEMA Floodplain or a 75 ft county streambuffer.

On the Greenspace front, a “Visioning” process has been concluded for the 1.8 acre Rutledge Park. at 1812 Ridgewood Rd. The vision for this interior block park includes a small playground, nature trails, and re-vegetation with native plants. Streambank stabilization with native materials will also be needed. Park Pride, Inc. is to be commended for listening to the public and balancing the desire for children’s play space with the privacy and security needs of the abutting neighbors. This site was nominated by the DHCA under the County’s greenspace program several years ago.

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

Bonfires and Illuminations

On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks.

The custom eventually spread to other towns, both large and small, where the day was marked with processions, oratory, picnics, contests, games, military displays and fireworks. Observations throughout the nation became even more common at the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain.

On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C., to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote. In it, Jefferson says of the document: "May it be to the world, what I believe it will be ... the signal of arousing men to burst the chains ... and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. That form, which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. ... For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them."

Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870, and in 1938 Congress reaffirmed it as a holiday, but with full pay for federal employees. Today, communities across the nation mark this major midsummer holiday with parades, firework displays, picnics and the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" and marches by John Philip Sousa.
<http://www.pbs.org/capitolfourth/history.html>

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Lullwater Garden Club Wins Award

Wanda Moore, president of DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, presents an award to Darlene Mashman, president of Lullwater Garden Club.



School News

by Chris Usry-Arnold

Briar Vista Elementary

- Spring semester was business as usual, with many field trips by all the different classes. A few of the places visited were the Atlanta History Museum, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, and the World of Coke.
- Briar Vista hosted its first annual "Fun Run" at the conclusion of the school's Olympic Week activities and Spring Fling Carnival. The Fun Run raised \$6000 which will go to fund many of the exciting projects around the school.
- Bridging Day for the 5th graders was celebrated with a concert by the Briar Vista Band and Honors Chorus. This was followed by a performance of the finalists in the School Talent Show and a special appearance by Elvis. Each graduating 5th grader was presented with a medal, memory book, and certificate. The graduates and their families were treated to a reception in the school courtyard following the ceremonies.

Mary Lin Elementary – no report

Springdale Park Elementary – no report

Ben Franklin Academy

- Ben Franklin Academy's Baccalaureate and Graduation were held Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5, at Glenn Memorial Church on Emory's campus. They are very proud of their 37 graduates!
- Ben Franklin Academy Headmaster Dr. Wood Smethurst received an Outstanding Service Award from the deans at Emory Medical School in May 2012, for helping students with study and test taking skills. Drs. Smethurst and Burdette (Dean of Studies) have co-authored a text with Dr. Bill Eley, Executive Associate Dean of Emory University's Medical School, and three other Emory professors entitled *Achieving Academic Success*. The text is distributed to all incoming M-1's at Emory and is available to upper level medical school students, as well. Outlined in the book are many of the strategies that Drs. Smethurst and Burdette have used with medical school students in more than thirty years of instruction.
- Ben Franklin Academy junior Elizabeth Lane was recently selected to serve on the Teen Advisory Council at the High Museum. Fifteen creative high school students who share a common interest in art and community engagement are selected for the Council. The Teen Team gets behind-the-scenes access to the museum, plans teen nights and events, assists with summer camp, and learns about the museum's exhibitions and collections. Most importantly, the teens share with the administration at the museum what's working for teens at the High and what's not.
- Ben Franklin Academy College Counselor Tianna Bailey was honored as an 11 Alive Community Awards recipient for her volunteer work in the community with her afterschool program, I.M.A.G.E. - I Must Achieve the Goal to Excel. This program provides activities, academic assistance, health education, and opportunities to more than 300 school age children in

the Edgewood and Whiteford communities. Tianna was honored at the awards reception sponsored by 11 Alive, The Coca-Cola Company, and UPS.

The website for more information is:
<http://www.11alive.com/life/community/csa/default.aspx>.

Fernbank Elementary

Fernbank Elementary has launched a new school website: www.fernbankelementary.com. Please take the time to see what is going on at Fernbank.

Fernbank is also offering advertising in the Fernbank Directory. The directory is used by more than 360 Fernbank families (75% of the Fernbank community) on a regular basis. Next year, for the first time, the directory will include color dividers for business advertisements. June 30 is the deadline to finalize your ad and artwork, so act fast if you are interested!

For more information, contact Deborah Maslia masliad@yahoo.com or Lucy Brown lucywbrown@gmail.com
 Fernbank Directory Ad Pricing

- 1/4 page - 2.25 in x 3.75 in (WxH): \$100
- 1/2 page - 4.5 in x 3.75 in (WxH): \$200
- Full page - 4.5 in x 7.5 in (WxH): \$300
 (Inside Cover: \$400, Color Back Page: \$500)

The Paideia School

- The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named six Paideia seniors finalists.
- The Paideia high school robotics team went to the Vex Robotics World Championships in Anaheim, California
- Paideia students received top awards from the National Scholastic Art and Writing awards and will be honored at Carnegie Hall in June.

- A Paideia student won first place in the Pace Academy/Atlanta Celebrates Photography competition. Three students received exceptional merits.
- Noa Allen '14, a fencer, won a bronze medal for women's saber at the national North American Cup.

Druid Hills Middle School – no Report

Druid Hills High School – no Report

To learn more about our neighborhood schools, visit their websites, listed below:

Briar Vista Elementary School:
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/briarvista

Mary Lin Elementary School:
www.srt3.atlantapublicschools.us/lin

The Paideia School:
www.paideiaschool.org

Ben Franklin Academy:
www.benfranklinacademy.org

Druid Hills High School:
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/druidhills

Fernbank Elementary School:
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/fernbank and
www.fernbankelementary.com

Druid Hills Middle School:
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/shamrock

Springdale Park Elementary School:
www.srt3.atlantapublicschools.us/springdale

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BOOK CLUB NEWS

Standouts

by Faye Andresen

There are books that stand out from the printed masses. Some of them win awards and accolades. Some join the ranks of timeless literature; others are made into movies. And some just resonate with readers. Craftsmanship, artistry, resonance, and good everyday popularity make for some of the best reading.

Proud Mary Book Club read this year's stand out novel *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Ubreht (not to be confused with *Tiger Moms* – very different books). This is a National Book Award Finalist, *New York Times* Best Seller and named one of the Top 10 Best Books of the Year. Ubreht does an impressive job of weaving history, fable and modern sensibilities in this first effort from a very young writer. It offers a wonderful story of the tales told by an elderly Balkan doctor with memories of the narrator, his granddaughter. He is the fabulist; she the impressionable audience. It is the Balkans, and Ubreht establishes a world where imagination and storytelling triumphs over omnipresent death. The book club followed by reading *Scoop*, written by Evelyn Waugh, the renowned British satirist. Think *Chancey Gardener* meets *Fleet Street*. Through a series of misunderstandings, a back-country writer of essays on the local badger population ends up a war correspondent for a major British newspaper, writing about an impending African revolution. Amazingly, he bumbles his way into the big scoop. This is satire at its best by a master of the craft.

The voice of Jack, the five-year-old narrator of *Room: A Novel* by Emma Donaghue, rings so true the book has grabbed the attention of many a reader. It grabbed the attention of the Last Tuesday Book Club. As Jack describes his and his mom's steadfast routine of breakfast, exercise, cleaning, nap time, dinner, to preparing for Old Nick's evening visit, the reader quickly realizes all is not right. He and his mother are captives. After years of routine, a stunning escape plunges Jack and his mother into a totally new world of demands and challenges. Throughout it all, Jack's voice personifies the concrete thinking of a five year old and is a poignant reminder of what it means to be five. Next, the club read John Baxter's *The Most Beautiful Walk in the World*. Baxter's love of Paris, its streets, history and past celebrities, is evident in this memoir of his days as a Parisian tour guide. Recalling artists and writers of times gone by, the book stands out as a must read for the Parisian traveler. The club moved from Paris streets to British mystery in *Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson. The tired and tender detective Jackson Brodie is faced with three very different unsolved deaths. Each is a mystery to be sorted and solved... and he does it. As good as the story telling is, Jackson Brodie is best portrayed by Jason Isaacs in the PBS series of the same name. This is a time where the visuals beat the printed word. Rent it if you can.

Wine Women & Words chose the very pleasing *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* and *The Tiger's Wife*. Major Pettigrew is the iconic English gentleman steeped in tradition but having to evolve with the world around him in Helen Simonson's first witty and heart-felt book. The Major and Jasmina Ali, a local shop-keeper, find comfort with each other as they face the challenges mounted by their families. Simonson's writing makes this December-December romance of two very different people fresh and fun and memorable.

The Lit Chicks met a very different English major in J. G. Farrell's farce *Troubles*. Returning from the Great War, Major Brendan Archer travels to Ireland to his fiancée and her family's once grand Majestic Hotel. As the English Empire collapses around the world and Ireland's demand for independence grows, the hotel collapses around the major, room by room, quirky guest by quirky guest. This funny, moving, and masterful 1970's novel was awarded, retroactively, the Lost Man Booker Prize.

The Harvard Road Book Club started with a powerful and emotional novel, *A Gathering of Old Men* by Ernest Gaines. Showcasing the ever-present racial tensions in the modern south (1970's), the book chronicles the actions of a group of elderly black men after the death of a white Cajun farmer on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation. Readers were struck by the strength of the story, the characters, and the stunning ending. *The Road to Ubar: Finding the Atlantis of the Sands* by Nicholas Clapp is a story of discovery. In the 80's, Clapp stumbles on to the Koran's legend of Ubar, the most glorious city in Arabia, destroyed by God and buried in the desert. With the help of space techies, archaeologists, geologists and dogged determination, Clapp uses satellite imagery to trace ancient trading routes, locate, and unearth (unsand?) the magnificent, outstanding lost city.

Whose Job is It?

For Druid Hills-in-the-City-of-Atlanta Residents

1) Water Use/Conservation - Ours

We can water between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. 7 days a week (the old odd/even address system is out except for washing of cars)

(Some exceptions - check out www.atlantaga.gov and go to Departments, then Watershed)

2) Bulk Solid Waste Pick-Up - City


For the NE quadrant, bulk pick-up whether yard waste or hard stuff is the first week of each month. Must be at curb by Monday and will be picked up during that week.

3) Sidewalk Repair - Ours

Property owners are responsible for repairing broken sidewalks.

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Praise for Perennials That Plant Themselves

by Paula Refi

Have you heard the cynic's definition of a herbaceous perennial? It is a plant that, had it lived, would have bloomed every year. Sad to say, many perennials fail to prosper, except on the covers of glossy magazines and in garden catalogs. And these celebrity plants are not inexpensive. It's as if the cost of the plant is inversely related to its chances of survival. After all, someone has to compensate the holders of the plant patents and underwrite the branding programs that tempt us to buy them.

Other perennials manage to thrive where they're planted and, better yet, procreate. They gift us with seedlings that grow into impressive patches of seasonal color. These offspring take time to make an impression, but they reward the gardener who is willing to wait or just too busy to tidy up on a regular basis. In a typical scenario, the gardener takes a long-overdue stroll through the border before embarking on a major cleanup. And what does she see but a brood of infant Lenten roses (*Helleborus*) huddled beneath the shelter of an established colony, or cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) babies that have created a nursery in a gravel path. These discoveries are occasions for joy.

A perennial that displays its botanical imperative to propagate is usually what horticulturists call the “straight species.” It is the wild form, the one that occurs in nature without having been artificially propagated by manmade cuttings, tissue culture, etc. It has evolved over countless generations to fill a particular environmental niche. That’s why it prefers a home in the place it was bred to be, not where we plant it. But this is not to say that, once sprouted, the seedlings can’t be moved.

Seeds often prefer to germinate some distance away from the parent plant. They like gritty sites in paths, in good light and away from deeply mulched beds. At our house, the curb next to the street has proven to be a repository for many seeds. Things originally planted in back have migrated downhill, where they grow from seed that lodged against the granite curbing. Now we have a utility pole accidentally accented by Spanish bluebell, star of Bethlehem, bugleweed and a species lily that came from who knows where. Other perennials have sprouted in the paths that weave through flowerbeds. For years I looked for baby foamflowers near the parent plants, but seedlings inevitably turned up on the mossy stones that edged the beds. Then I learned that the seed of some perennials requires light in order to germinate. Columbine (*Aquilegia*) and blue woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) have this requirement. Yellow wood poppy (*Stylophorum*) and hardy begonia (*Begonia grandis*), on the other hand, prefer rich soil and a cozy bed.

Some of my favorite ferns have minds of their own. It must have something to do with the intermediate stage in their development that produces a microscopic plant, the prothallus. It needs a shaded, extremely moist location. The mossy rocks that line our pond are prime real estate for several fern species. Time and a patient—or busy—gardener made it happen.

My friends with dry, sunny gardens have a different group of favorite, self-seeding perennials. A species hollyhock (*Alcea zebrina*) produces three- or four-foot spires of lavender blossoms over a long period. Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), blue Stoke's aster (*Stokesia laevis*), scarlet swamp hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*), orange butterfly weed (*Asclepias*), golden black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia*) and blanket flower (*Gaillardia*) fill the summer border. Hardy ageratum (*Eupatorium coelestinum*) and New England asters (*Aster novae-angliae*) flower in the fall. To encourage volunteer seedlings, keep competing plants away and limit or completely avoid mulching close to the parent perennial. Water during dry spells. When volunteers appear, let them grow large enough to handle and transplant them in spring or fall. Water the seedlings well the day before the move, then again afterward.

Watch for self-seeders that can turn into noxious pests. This list varies regionally and even within neighborhoods like Druid Hills. Some common garden perennials, notably purple loosestrife (*Lythrum*) and maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), have been outlawed in other states because of their tendency to displace native species. Local native purists advise against planting heirloom Queen Anne's lace and ox-eye daisy. For more information about invasive species, consult the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council at www.gaeppc.org.

Azalea Park

by Alida Silverman

Azalea Park is a very small park across from Deepdene where East Lake Road comes into Ponce de Leon Avenue. It is on the 1905 Plan of Druid Hills in just that spot. Unlike Elm Park, also on the Plan just to the east, Azalea Park actually happened.

When Deepdene's turn came during the restoration/rehabilitation of the linear park, Azalea Park became part of that project. A planting plan was done – azaleas, of course, and some trees – and the plantings were installed along with a pile of mulch. (Brian Bowen, the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance's heroic Capital Projects Committee chairman, remembers that the mulch was dumped on the space covering some of the plantings.)

Maintenance of Azalea Park, however, is not done by OLPA. The OLPA board agreed with their administrator George Ickes that Azalea Park would not be part of his responsibility both because of the difficulty of getting equipment to that location and the extent of the maintenance work involved in the six segments of the linear park. George has paid help three days a week, as well as volunteers, both individuals required to do community service and neighbors who want to help in some way. Trimming and mulching require his supervision. OLPA's maintenance budget comes from 5% of the Maintenance Endowment (begun with the initial phase of the restoration/rehab project in the late 1990's) and proceeds from the Party for the Park and membership. The County and the City do the mowing of the grass.

A meeting with Bob Ballou, the longtime chair of Division 2 for the Civic Association, aka "the mayor of East Lake," resulted in his commitment to enlist neighbors to maintain Azalea Park. Bob put a great deal of time into the maintenance effort and had good help from Tom Felcher, former member of the Church of the Epiphany's buildings and grounds committee. (It was they who spread that pile of mulch.) Because mowing by neighbors was just too dangerous, Bob got the County – with Commissioner Jeff Rader's help – to agree to resume mowing the grass twice a month. Neighbor volunteers would tend to the azaleas and the weeds and watering as well as picking up trash. There is water in the park. Tools bought with a small grant from the Civic Association are kept at the Church. Bob has sent out a number of appeals for volunteers on the East Lake Neighbors website, which he launched. The most recent call for volunteers seemed to take a cue from the Central Park Conservancy in New York City by also asking whether anyone would like to take on "Chief Gardener of the park. . .currently way vacant." Only time will tell.

Olmsted Linear Park Alliance Receives Awards

by Jennifer J. Richardson

The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) of Atlanta received two prestigious preservation awards on April 20, 2012. The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation selected OLPA as recipient of an Excellence in Rehabilitation Award, which honors projects that have contributed to the excellence of preservation in Georgia.

The Trust said, "Planned by Frederick Law Olmsted and his sons as part of the Druid Hills subdivision at the start of the 20th century, the Olmsted Linear Park is now enjoying a fresh beginning to its second century. The park fell into disuse and disrepair in recent decades as it was threatened by highway development and otherwise viewed as an expendable resource in the ever-growing city of Atlanta. The rehabilitation of this park, its landscapes and structures, over the past 13 years has proved to be a wonderful healing process both for the land and for the community, and the project has inspired other community design efforts in the city."

On hand to receive the award in historic Roswell, Georgia, were OLPA founder Sally Harbaugh, past president Tally Sweat, current president Kirk Elifson, landscape architects Spencer Tunnell and Matt Sussman, and board members and former Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta presidents Lynn Kerpel and Jennifer Richardson.

The Marguerite Williams Award was also won by OLPA and accepted on the Alliance's behalf by Sally Harbaugh. The Marguerite Williams Award is one of the highest awards presented annually by the Trust. It is given to the project that has had the greatest impact on preservation in the state of Georgia.

OLPA is honored to accept these awards and pleased that its work has been an inspiration to other preservation groups.



(L-R) OLPA officials accept their award. Matt Sussman, (landscape architect of Tunnell & Tunnell), Sally Harbaugh (founder of OLPA); Kirk Elifson (OLPA President); Tally Sweat (OLPA past president); Mark McDonald (President and CEO of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation); Jennifer Richardson (OLPA Board member); Spencer Tunnell (landscape architect of Tunnell & Tunnell); and Lynn Kerpel, (OLPA Board member).



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DeKalb County Water Restrictions

DeKalb County Residents are urged to follow water restrictions to preserve water pressure for the protection of health and safety. It is very important that all citizens adhere to these restrictions.

Outdoor Water Use Information

The Georgia Water Stewardship Act, which went into statewide effect on June 2, 2010, allows daily outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. by anyone whose water is supplied by a water system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division.

- The following outdoor water uses are also allowed daily, at any time of the day, by anyone:
- Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Code Section 1-3-3;
 - Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines;
 - Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section 31-3-5.2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
 - Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water;
 - Irrigation of personal food gardens;
 - Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;
 - Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;
 - Hand watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;
 - Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;
 - Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;
 - Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;
 - Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or
 - Hydroseeding.

Outdoor water use for any purposes other than watering of plants, such as power washing or washing cars, is still restricted to the current odd/even watering schedule.

- Odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
- Even-numbered and unnumbered addresses are allowed to water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

For more information, please call the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management at 770-270-6243 or visit the Georgia Environmental Protection Division Website at www.gaepd.org.

THESE GUIDELINES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

Water Citation Inspectors will be dispatched during this restricted period. Watering violations should be reported to the Department of Watershed Management at 770-270-6243. The current enforcement was adopted by the Board Of Commissioners on November 13, 2007. The Enforcement Process is as follows:

1st Offense - Written Warning; 2nd Offense - \$250.00 fine; 3rd Offense - \$500.00 fine;

4th Offense - \$1000.00 fine, jail time, and termination of water service.

Druid Hills Families
Keep The Dogwood
Invitational on Par

Every year since 1941, approximately 85 amateur golfers tee-up on the glorious greens of Druid Hills Golf Club for The Dogwood Invitational, now the 13th best amateur event in the nation and the 25th in the world. For the 10 days surrounding the tournament, volunteers from across the Druid Hills community work to ensure The Dogwood Invitational’s international visitors receive the ultimate welcome mat in the community known as “the gracious green heart of golf.” In order to fulfill this goal year-after-year, a well-oiled machine of more than 100 volunteers hosts housing for players, manages recruitment of the world’s best amateurs, secures media coverage of The Dogwood in television, radio and print/online outlets around the globe, and even “tweets” player updates throughout tournament week.

Behind the scenes, more than half of the 85 golfers are placed in homes of Druid Hills residents for the time of preparation and tournament play. Some of these amateur golfers have stayed with the same family for multiple years. The reasons for this commitment are many --- from the life lessons learned via the sport to helping raise funds for college scholarships and the free programs awarded to needs-based applicants at the Atlanta Junior Golf Association.

For example, Pete and Cathy Hasbrouck, who live in a home they custom built in Durand Mill, made the decision to host a golfer in the hopes that they might meet a role model for their teenage children, as well as make a lifelong friend. The Hasbroucks got both.

Beginning in 1999, Ryan Hibble, then a University of Georgia golf team member and top 10 U.S. ranked amateur, stayed with the Hasbroucks each summer for five years. “Ryan was a great student-athlete - an academic All-American who walked his talk and showed our sports-oriented children that you could have both superior athletic accomplishments and academics in your life.” Ryan, who is now the head golf coach for Oklahoma University, still visits the Hasbroucks and is considered a member of their family.

“We had such an awesome experience with Ryan, that after he became a golf coach, we wanted to continue the tradition,” says Cathy, who went on to host some wonderful amateur golfers including Clemson graduate Ben Martin and now-pro-golfer Webb Simpson. “Serving as a host family for The Dogwood Invitational is a great way for our family to serve the club, teach our teenagers the beauty of the game, and reinforce golf’s great code of ethics. It’s a win/win for any family.”

In a similar scenario, Rick and Tara Boyd can look out from their Lewis Crook-designed living room window across Olmsted Park into the entrance of Druid Hills Golf Club. Five years ago, they made the decision to open their home as host for The Dogwood Invitational’s amateur players. “We signed up to host a golfer from the Australian National Amateur team because we wanted the opportunity to learn about a different culture. On arrival day we received a call to see if we could take two Aussies instead of one,” chuckled Rick Boyd, as he recalled the experience. “We picked both players up at the airport that night, and the rest is history.”

An avid golfer himself, Rick is quick to point out that not only have he and Tara benefitted from the young golfers staying in their home and learning about their Gold Coast and Queensland-based cultures, but also they have used The Dogwood Invitational as an opportunity to network with clients and prospects for their individual law practices. “Both Tara and I enjoy inviting our clients to the tournament, watching the long drive contest, playing with clients or prospects in the AM-AM, and more. The Dogwood Invitational is a great backdrop for building relationships.”

This year, Druid Hills Golf Club is celebrating its Centennial, and The Dogwood is leveraging this 100-year benchmark with additional events and observances. “The Dogwood celebrates the Bobby Jones standard for exceptional amateur play,” said Edward Toledano – Dogwood chairman. “In a community known for its rich history of golf, we’re honored to host The Dogwood on Druid Hills’ fabled links and raise money to send scholars to college --- when everyone wins – the community, the amateurs, and the college bound – you just can’t get better than that.”

For more information on The Dogwood Invitational, visit: www.thedogwood.com or join on Facebook via: www.facebook.com/TheDogwoodInvitational.



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Thanks for a Successful Tour!

Tour...continued from page 1

child and a clogged toilet, “I felt a great sense of community – that no matter what went wrong, people would rescue me!” Coincidentally, both Dr. McNicholl and Dr. Vaccarino and Dr. Bremner sought refuge at Callaway Gardens during the weekend, with the latter two blissfully unaware that their dog, left with a friend, had suffered congestive heart failure. (He made it through.)

As Saturday afternoon passed at 804 Springdale Road, Dave Garner of Charleston, S.C., who lived in the house between 1943 and 1967, arrived with his wife and friends. He regaled tour goers, docents, and homeowners Sandra and Bill Sexson with tales of his childhood. It turned out that Mr. Garner’s grandparents had lived next door at number 794, known as “Boxwood.”

About 45 people attended a lecture, “The Architectural History of Druid Hills,” presented by local architect Wright Marshall on Saturday afternoon. The children of the neighborhood supported the tour by selling lemonade from stands along Springdale Road. Whole Foods offered fresh pineapple in the motor court of 857 Oakdale Road and Greene’s Fine Foods provided chocolate-covered pecans to lucky visitors at 794 Springdale.

“We have resisted being on the tour for 25 years,” Bill Sexson reflected later, “but this was actually the easiest major event I have ever done.” A great bonus – “I learned a lot about the house that I had never known.”

For Evan Lindsay, whose Neel Reid home had appeared on the tour in 2006, the weekend seemed to be going splendidly despite his wife Nancy’s absence (her position with the CDC required her presence in the Netherlands). Unfortunately, on Sunday morning, Mr. Lindsay reported, he “managed to slip on a piece of plant material in the grocery store, resulting in a complete hamstring avulsion of the left leg.” Neighbors and tour volunteers pitched in to help with errands and food. “Unfortunate way to end what was otherwise a wonderful experience,” he noted.

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2012 Druid Hills Artist Market: A Busy Weekend at St. John’s Church

by Tysie Whitman

Once again St. John’s Lutheran Church was at the center of the activity during the Druid Hills Tour weekend. The fun kicked off on Thursday, April 19, with the Artist Market Opening Reception. The festive white tent set the mood for a great evening of live music from The John Willingham Band and delicious appetizers courtesy of our Presenting Sponsor, Whole Foods Briarcliff. All the desserts that night were generously donated by Druid Hills residents (and were quickly devoured). Sherlock’s Wine Merchants kept the wine pouring through the evening as neighbors and Tour sponsors ate, drank, and shopped at the artists’ booths. Foot traffic at the Artist Market was good this year, despite the threatening skies. One or two artists in the outdoor booths did suffer wind damage to their tents, but fortunately the rain held off. The Market featured approximately fifty artists, including thirteen who reside in Druid Hills, the most “homegrown” talent we’ve ever had. The neighborhood artists were Sue Apolinsky, Gregg Bauer, Cary Calhoun, Margaret Foust, Amanda Freer, Betsy Halford, Joy Hartsfield, Lisa Hill, Laine Hoadley, Steve Purdon, Joanna Stroud, David Swerdlow, and Barbara Vogel. Artists also came from several neighboring states—and even Africa. One of the most talked-about booths featured paintings done entirely by chimpanzees and orangutans; funds raised from the paintings went to Children of Conservation, a nonprofit group that fosters conservation and education efforts in Cameroon, Kenya, and Uganda.

St. John’s also played host to a new event that weekend, an architectural lecture on the history of Druid Hills. Neighborhood resident Wright Marshall, owner of Revival Construction, gave a talk on Saturday in the St. John’s sanctuary titled “The Architectural History of Druid Hills, 1909–1929: Atlanta’s Classically Eclectic Suburb.” The lecture drew a good crowd and could perhaps become a Tour tradition.

Outside the church, it was hard to miss the food trucks parked next to Ponce de Leon. The Tour committee decided to try something new for the luncheon this year, and the feedback was positive. Tourgoers were able to buy their lunches at the food trucks and enjoy them under the big tent, which remained up all weekend. With salads, paninis, and homemade ice cream for sale, there was something for every taste.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generosity, helpfulness, and support of the staff at St. John’s Lutheran Church. Myrna Lance, the church secretary, and sexton Clyde Paxton always make sure that all our needs are met. The Druid Hills Tour Committee sends a special thank you and a goodbye to Pastor Bradley Schmeling, who, after many years, departed St. John’s Church in May to accept another calling. We wish him well and look forward to working with the interim pastor. The Artist Market is currently looking for new co-chairs for next year’s event.

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A Call for Homes and Gardens for the 2013 Tour

by Mary Emma McConaughy

Calling all architects, designers, remodelers, and homeowners! Do you know of a special Home or Garden that we might consider for next year's Tour? The committee for the 2013 Tour for Druid Hills Homes and Garden is seeking suggestions for possible homes and gardens, and we want your participation. A Tour can include not only the stately homes for which Druid Hills is known, but also historic sites and hidden gems that are especially beautiful or unique. The ultimate selection of the Homes and Gardens will depend on numerous factors, such as the theme for that year's Tour, the location in relationship to other homes, ease of transportation for the tour goers, parking, etc. Therefore, we must emphasize that suggesting a home does not guarantee selection. Please submit your recommendation to Tour@druidhills.org or mail to DHCA, P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031 by September, 2012.

Most of the homeowners who have had their homes on Tour in the past have found it to be a very positive experience. By being a Tour homeowner, you will help raise funds for the Druid Hills Civic Association, which uses the money to preserve our historic neighborhood and to protect the unique heritage of our area, as well as buy and maintain new green spaces for our neighborhood, etc. Be a part in selecting the Homes and Gardens or historic sites for 2013 and help make the 2013 Tour a unique one!

FERNBANK...continued from page 1

conducted research, using our staff’s scientific expertise. Research studies past or ongoing include the following topics:

- Wildflower occurrence and bloom times
- Invasive plant species
- Bird species inventory and breeding counts
- Aquatic macroinvertebrates
- Forest composition
- Soil carbon
- Herptile population monitoring
- Slime molds, including describing a new species named after Fernbank
- Forest succession following natural disturbance
- Impact of Hurricane Opal
- Low level ozone and plant hydrocarbon emissions
- West Nile Virus and its impact on bird populations
- Amphibian disease occurrence (Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis)
- Long-term study of the forest structure (permanent plot system)
- Watershed studies monitoring storm crests and siltation levels

Our staff has been active in research, education, and management of plant exotic, invasive species. A rigorous program was implemented to address exotic species without broadcasting herbicides (poisons) and destroying the very forest ecosystem we are trying to protect, greatly reducing exotic species the last 17 years. We organized a huge volunteer base of students to help in this activity, with thousands of volunteer hours hand removing invasive plant species, primarily English Ivy, very labor intensive, costly, and never-ending. The birds bring in hundreds of exotic plant seeds daily. The Fernbank Museum staff, surprisingly, has not contacted me or our staff about our management, knowledge, or research of the forest. We also have not been thanked for almost fifty years caring for their property, keeping it in such condition that they are now proud to take control of it.

No matter who manages the forest, I hope the intact ecosystem approach is taken. I know there are restrictions as to development, and failure to comply could jeopardize the Fernbank, Inc. ownership. This forest is a jewel for local people, Atlantans, and Georgia. It needs to be carefully managed to retain its pristine nature. This means allowing the forest to act as a functioning ecosystem. No use of broadcast herbicides or pesticides should be used. Trees should only be removed if dead and a safety hazard to the trail and visitor. Fallen debris is part of a natural cycle; let nature take care of the nutrient cycling. When Fernbank Science took over management of Fernbank Forest, fencing the property and paving the trails, “not a single tree was cut down to do that.” Let us keep our forest as an old growth treasure; if not, it will become just another Atlanta park.

Finally, we thank the countless Fernbank Science Center staff members who have taught classes or worked in the maintenance, management, and security of the forest and the many who spent their working careers to keep it in its present pristine state. We also thank the hundreds of student volunteers who spent thousands of hours helping remove exotic invasive species.

The Fernbank Museum will let the public know their plan. We do know that after June 30, 2012, the public will not have access to the Forest via Fernbank Science Center. We do know that DeKalb County School District students and the general public, after 48 years of free access, would have to pay to access the forest. I would guess access will come via the back gate on Clifton Road or, if an easement can be established, from behind the Clifton Road properties adjacent to the museum, leading down to the forest.

I am not sure what Fernbank Inc. and Fernbank Museum has planned for the forest. I truly hope they will continue the partnership that Fernbank Science Center has maintained with researchers using the forest for scientific studies. Since the Museum has never dealt with operating Fernbank Forest, I hope it will strongly encourage neighbors to voice their opinions on its future management.

Let's Play!

by Wendy Baer

DeKalb County has purchased a 1.8 acre property between Ridgewood Drive, Emory Drive, and Burlington Road for greenspace in Druid Hills. The space had been neglected for years and was overgrown with invasive plants such as privet, bamboo, and wisteria, along with trash that had been accumulating for decades. In March, DeKalb County and residents of Druid Hills partnered to implement a clean-up process which continued May 12 with a full day of trash and plant removal. Now that the space is more visible, many Druid Hills residents are getting excited about building an exceptional park that will include a play space for kids of all ages, and nature trails for exploring the trees, birds, plants, and flowers that make Druid Hills so special.

A Rutledge Park steering committee has partnered with Park Pride to help with planning to make Rutledge Park an excellent place for the community to come together and enjoy the outdoors. The steering committee is headed by Tim Ralston, who lives on Ridgewood near the park, and the Friends of Rutledge Park includes many of the neighbors of the park. Three public meetings for community input have helped the steering committee and Park Pride create a vision for the park, which includes natural looking playground equipment, trails, benches, educational posts created by members of the Audubon Society, and plantings of native species all in Druid Hills will enjoy watching grow and blossom through the years!

While DeKalb County has paid for the land and is paying part of the Park Pride fee, Druid Hills residents and friends need to raise thousands of dollars to fund the playground equipment, landscaping, development, and maintenance. Two fundraisers are already planned, one a night of music at the Red Light Cafe in Amsterdam Walk (8 pm, August 18) and another in September, near the park site. The Druid Hills Civic Association, which nominated the Rutledge site for county acquisition under its Greenspace program several years ago, naturally has a strong interest in supporting Rutledge Park, too. Please join the steering committee and neighbors who have already contributed to the Rutledge Park fund by visiting parkpride.org. Click on "make a donation," then go to the last line and click "donation to a specific local park." Choose Rutledge Park from the drop down menu, third to the last.

We have a great opportunity to build an amazing play space for all of us to enjoy. Imagine a crisp fall day, leaves turning colors, mosquitoes long gone and you decide to take a walk. Stroll through Emory Village for a snack and then burn the calories with a walk to Rutledge Park where you may run into your favorite neighbor, finally unwind from a long work week, or just enjoy hearing the wind in the trees and the water trickle along the stream. Oh, the possibilities! Let's make the east side of Druid Hills come alive, enhance everyone's property values, bring our kids outside and PLAY! Rutledge Park can happen, but we need your help, so visit parkpride.org today!

Thank you for your support. Please email questions to Wendy Baer wbaer5@gmail.com.

Lullwater Garden Club Celebrates Champion Trees

by Jennifer J. Richardson

The Lullwater Garden Club held a Celebration of six trees named "Champions" by Trees Atlanta on June 9, 2012. The trees, all marked with permanent engraved stones at their bases, are the largest of their species inside the I-285 Perimeter and are all located in the Lullwater Conservation Garden. It's rare for one location to house so many champion trees. In addition to the local award, one tree, an American Beech, has been designated as a "State Champion."

A large crowd gathered to enjoy refreshments and witness the awards ceremony. Included were representatives from many conservation and civic groups, including Trees Atlanta, Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, Druid Hills Civic Association, Georgia Native Plant Society, Southfork Conservancy (among others), and officials from the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. Special guests included Kathie Gannon, DeKalb County Commissioner, and The Honorable John Lewis, U.S. House of Representatives, Fifth District, and members of his staff.

After the awards ceremony, several groups led by tree experts toured the Conservation Garden and viewed the newly named champion trees. The nearly four-acre garden, through which a portion of Lullwater Creek runs, is situated between Lullwater Road and Lullwater Parkway. The Lullwater Garden Club is the group responsible for protecting, maintaining, and improving the garden. Recent work has included renovations to an historic wishing well, removal of invasive plants, mulching of paths and plants, weeding, and planting native species.



Ben Spears of Rep. Lewis' office, The Honorable John Lewis, Congressman from the 5th District, Darlene Mashman, President of the Lullwater Garden Club, and Aaron S. Ward of Rep. Lewis' office in Lullwater Conservation Garden on June 9, 2012, just following an announcement that the Conservation Garden has a State Champion Beech Tree.

Sheep May Safely Graze at Lullwater Estate

by Betsy Marvin

Frank Muckler remembers the area west of his Lullwater Estate townhome back in 1982, as a park with the outline of a tennis court. "My kids played under the magnolia trees!"

In earlier days the Estate had been called Rainbow Terrace, and a multitude of azaleas brightened the hill northeast of Lullwater Bridge.

Muckler recalls, "We walked down there to see the unique grotto, now overgrown with ivy, where water must have cascaded at least 40 feet into a pool," mused Muckler. "The residents of Lullwater Estate would all enjoy this beautiful area." With a desire to return to this memory, he is heading up the environmentally favorable project of clearing the underbrush by using sheep. Along with Lullwater Estate's president, Shirley Hollberg, he researched the availability of suitable domestic animals and found a shepherdess, Jennif Chandler, a textile crafter who has put her wool-producing blue-faced Leicester sheep to "work," although for them, it's dinner! Goats were also considered, but the committee eventually decided that they might be unmanageable in the busy urban setting.

A pilot group of two ewes and a lamb arrived early in May, with a few more several weeks later. They will munch anything, including poison ivy, up to a height of about six feet, leaving a formerly impassible acreage cleared and ready for mowing. They are especially fond of privet, an invasive around here.

The sheep, sometimes seen from the bridge, are enclosed in an electric fence, checked each day by a committee from the LE community. And what do the other residents think about the ovine visitors? Well, at least one social occasion, the "Baa-baa Bash," has been held in their honor, and residents and their friends can be found along the fence during most waking hours. What do you say to a sheep? Ask anyone at Lullwater Estate!

If you or your organization wish more information about these ravenous ovines, you may contact Jennif Chandler, Shadybrook Farm, Colbert, GA, (706) 248-3745.

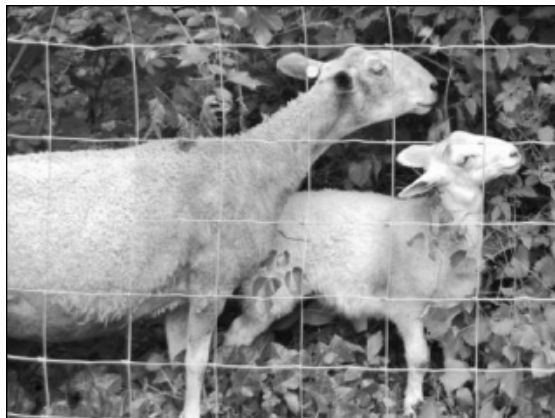


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Emory Point

Source: Clifton Community Partnership Update/Summer 2012

The first retail development in at least 20 years within the Clifton community includes many familiar retail businesses and some original shops. Recently, three new retailers and a sixth restaurant have signed leases at Emory Point. The new leases include three locally-owned women's boutiques – fab'rik, Lizard Thicket and American Threads – and a new restaurant from Westside Atlanta West Egg Café called The General Muir.

Cousins Properties previously announced that CVS Pharmacy, Marlow's Tavern, La Tagliatella and Jasmin Spa – in addition to other merchants – had signed leases at the mixed use development. Phase 1 of Emory Point features 80,000 square feet of retail space and 443 luxury apartments, which is scheduled to be complete beginning this fall. The second and third phases of the project will be developed according to market demand.

Visit www.emory-point.com for details.

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Charity Lives on Gatewood

Source: Clifton Community Partnership Update/Summer 2012

Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities (ARMHC) provides temporary housing and support services to families of ill and injured children being treated at local hospitals. One of the city's best kept secrets is that Atlanta was home to the fourth Ronald McDonald House in the world, which opened in 1979 and has since served more than 40,000 families.

Nowadays, Atlanta is home to two Ronald McDonald Houses – one of which is located in the neighborhood just off Clifton Road near Emory's campus.

The spacious 50-bedroom Gatewood House opened in June of 2008 and is LEED certified. It features the Carlos and Marguerite Mason Transplant Wing with rooms that are specially equipped with 10 private, two-bedroom suites for families of post-transplant children who have received heart, liver, kidney and blood and marrow transplants. It has served more than 5,500 families.

Atlanta's second House, the 11 bedroom Peachtree Dunwoody House, is located in Sandy Springs and has served more than 9,000 families since opening its doors in June of 1994. To meet the growing demand, future plans include the expansion and construction of a new 31-bedroom facility.

Caring volunteers and staff create a welcoming atmosphere for the families to make dealing with their child's illness easier. In addition to providing all the comforts of home, volunteers, corporate or civic groups cook and serve a freshly prepared meal nightly for the families.

ARMHC is grateful to have support from the Clifton Community. If you would like to volunteer, donate or join the Family Meal Program please visit www.armhc.org or call 678-704-8089.

To stay connected with ARMHC follow them on Twitter: @ARMHC or join their Facebook Fan Page: "Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities."



Druid Hills Neighborhood Fall Yard Sale

(Date to be determined)

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.

YARD SALE

Druid Hills Civic Association

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

Join online at www.druidhills.org/join/memberform.htm

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION—MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please [] enroll me [] renew me as a member of the Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA).
PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Mobile phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Occupation: _____

Membership Involvement and Interests

Please indicate your level of interest in the following areas on a scale from 0 to 10.
(0 = Not at all interested 5 = Neutral 10 = Very interested)

____ Public Relations/Communications	____ Newsletter
____ Historic Preservation	____ Membership Planning
____ Traffic/Urban Design	____ Land Use/Zoning
____ Tour of Homes	____ Flyer Distribution
____ Peavine Watershed	____ Other—specify _____

[] Please feel free to contact me for help

Annual Dues (Check one:)

____ Individual/Family Member	\$25 - \$49	Amount Paid: \$ _____
____ Sustaining Member	\$50 - \$99	
____ Druid Member	\$100 - \$249	Please make checks payable to Druid Hills Civic Association.
____ Olmsted Member	\$250 or more	Mail to: P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363

NATALIE GREGORY
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME



520 SOUTH WESTMINSTER WAY, DRUID HILLS

Executive brick home with six bedrooms and five-and-a-half bathrooms sited on a quiet cul-de-sac street within walking distance to Emory and CDC. This home features 10-foot ceilings, an abundance of natural light, and spacious rooms. The main level offers a formal living room, dining room, kitchen with breakfast area leading to the deck, family room with fireplace flanked with built-in cabinetry, and an attached three-car garage. Upstairs features an owner's suite with sitting area, two walk-in closets, double vanities, separate shower and whirlpool tub. Three more bedrooms are on the second level and each has a private bathroom. Terrace level, with separate entrance, offers a large media room, game room and private guest suite. Professionally landscaped backyard provides a private outdoor living area with a stone fireplace and patio.

\$925,000



1194 CLIFTON ROAD, DRUID HILLS

Walking distance to Emory and CDC, this recently renovated brick traditional offers four bedrooms and three bathrooms. Craftsman style details include handsome moldings and 9-foot ceilings. Formal living room features brick fireplace and opens to a side porch and a sunroom. State-of-the-art gourmet kitchen incorporates the details that you dream of from the magazines. Owner's suite offers walk-in closets, renovated bathroom, sitting area and an office. Ample storage is available with a full basement and a two-car garage. Multi-level deck with fire-pit and deep private backyard offer plenty of room to play and entertain.

\$650,000 UNDER CONTRACT



433 BURLINGTON ROAD, DRUID HILLS

Gracious front porch with swing greets you at this renovated and expanded brick bungalow with four bedrooms and three-and-a-half bathrooms. Formal living room features handsome mantle and marble surround fireplace and built-in bookcases. Large cased openings with elegant beveled glass transom windows lead to the separate dining room. The spacious kitchen with stainless appliances and cherry cabinetry features granite countertops, gas stovetop, and double wall ovens. Kitchen leads to a separate family room with flat screen television, built-in desk and shelving. Guest suite with private bath is also found on the main level. Owner's suite is located upstairs along with two other bedrooms and an additional living area. Living is easy with a two car garage, laundry closet on the main level and upstairs, and large closets throughout.

\$575,000



335 LAMONT DRIVE, DECATUR

This four bedroom, two-and-half bathroom brick residence brings the outdoors in with a charming open air side porch to greet you at the side entrance. The yard is professionally landscaped with mature maples and shrubbery. Enjoy the views of the level, fenced private backyard (complete with play set and a potting shed) from the spacious sunroom / recreation room off of the kitchen. Located just a short walk to Decatur's shops, parks and restaurants, this home offers a large living room with sunny bay window, fireplace, and built-in bookcase. Main level also provides a dining room, master suite with private bathroom, a guest bedroom, and a powder room. Second level provides two more bedrooms, a playroom or office, hall bathroom, and the laundry room.

\$550,000



415 EAST PONCE DE LEON AVE, DECATUR

This renovated and expanded 1920s Brick Bungalow features five bedrooms and three bathrooms. Upon entering, a spacious foyer leads you into an extraordinary open floor plan. Large windows and skylights throughout ensure that every room receives natural light. The inviting living area encourages you to entertain in front of the gorgeous brick fireplace. From the living room, you have a view right into the dining area, and from there the remarkable kitchen with stainless appliances, granite countertops, and custom maple cabinets. Beautiful hardwood flooring, crown molding, plenty of storage space, and numerous energy-saving features are just the icing on the cake for this home!

\$519,000



456 BURLINGTON ROAD, DRUID HILLS

Enjoy the quiet tree lined street from the front screened porch of this brick Craftsman bungalow. Located just a short walk from Emory University and the Emory Village. This three bedroom, one bathroom home is a treasure to find! It has been fully renovated including: new roof, new insulated windows, renovated kitchen and bathroom and all new systems. Living room features a fireplace and separate dining room leads to the kitchen with maple cabinets, granite countertops, and all new stainless steel appliances. Doors from the kitchen open to a spacious deck with room for a grill and table for outdoor dining with views of the large private backyard.

\$349,000



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