

FALL, 2005 Volume 19, Number 3

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Druid Hills Day Planned for November 6

Mark your calendars right now and save Sunday afternoon, November 6, 2005, 1:00-4:00 PM, for the reinstatement of an old Druid Hills tradition—Druid Hills Day—brought to you by the Druid Hills Civic Association.

Enjoy an old-fashioned leisurely Sunday afternoon in the park. Feel free to BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic) or create a potluck event with your neighbors. Why not take this opportunity to invite a neighbor you've wanted to meet but can't quite find the time? Drinks and snacks will be available.

Druid Hills Day will be held in The Meadow, formerly known as the soccer field, in Deepdene Park. Deepdene, a 22-acre heavily wooded old-growth forest, is the easternmost segment of the Olmsted Linear Parks on Ponce de Leon Avenue and will be the last park to be restored. Tours of Deepdene will be incorporated into the festivities to highlight this special treasure in our neighborhood.

Activities for this event are not finalized at press time, but possibilities include live music, a guided trolley tour of Druid Hills, pony rides, contra dancing, three-legged races (both adults and children invited to participate), face painting, and a variety of children's activities. Druid Hills Day is being planned by the newly created Community & Lifestyle Committee—come see what they have in store for you.

Please plan to attend and enjoy the beauty of your neighborhood and the camaraderie of your neighbors.

6th Annual Trees Atlanta TREE SALE to be held in Piedmont Park Saturday October 8 ~ 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

All proceeds will benefit Atlanta neighborhood tree planting projects. The sale is located adjacent to the Educational Complex just west of Monroe Drive off of Park Drive.

Trees Atlanta invites you to its 6th annual Tree Sale. Again this year, the Tree Sale will feature unusual and hard to find trees. This year's focus is upland shade trees unavailable at nurseries or planted by most landscape companies. These trees are disappearing in many parts of Atlanta and in a way part of our landscape is also vanishing. Help rejuvenate our declining tree canopy and re-create a healthy diverse forest by finding a place to plant these difficult to find natives. Remember all proceeds go toward in-town tree plantings, so buy an extra tree and find a treeless place to plant it.

There will be over one hundred species of trees, shrubs, and vines available. A few native trees that are difficult if not impossible to find include two-winged silver bell, beech, paw paw, franklinia, shagbark hickory, yellowwood, and several varieties of oaks. Our focus is on native species, but we will also offer non-invasive, unusual exotic trees; look for varieties such as camellias, parrotia, and butterfly magnolia. Visit www.treesatlanta.org/treesale for updates

For more information about The Tree Sale, Trees Atlanta and volunteer opportunities, visit www.treesatlanta.org.

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

Newsletter of the Druid Hills Civic Association

P.O. Box 363 Decatur, GA 30031-0363

PRE-SORT STANDARD PAID Permit No. 3259

Atlanta, GA

U.S. POSTAGE

Druid Hills July 4th Parade Turns 30

The 30th Annual Druid Hills July 4th Parade was enjoyed by all who participated. A big "thank you" goes to Phil and Caroline Moise who donated the lemonade and their front lawn for the after-party. The cookies and watermelon, courtesy of the DHCA, were also big hits. Congratulations to prize winners for









Don't miss the GLENN SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CLOTHING SALE

Atlanta's best consignment clothing sale, since 1986!

Friday, September 16 • 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

(Please...No children or babies, even in carriers/car seats, before noon)

Saturday, September 17 • 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Half-Price Day!)

Items for Sale:

Fall and winter clothes in girls' infant through size 14 Fall and winter clothes in boys' infant through size 14 Children's shoes and accessories

Baby equipment and accessories

Maternity items

Toys, books and games

Please note: Checks written for purchase will require a current driver's license or other photo identification. All items are sold "as is" and should be inspected before purchase.

Please bring your own shopping bag or basket!

Glenn Memorial Youth & Activities Building, 1669 North Decatur Road

For more information call (770) 331-5731, or on the web at www.glennclothingsale.org.



Create a Wildlife Sanctuary

Here in Druid Hills we already have what is needed—food (from plants and feeders), shelter, and water—to create a certified sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. It's easy, it's fun, and it's educational! The Atlanta Audobon Society can tell you how.

Email: Jacqueline.McRae@comcast.net Call Jacqueline McRae, 404-633-5225

Druid Hills Walking Tours

Walking tours of Druid Hills depart every Saturday (except in case of rain) at 10:00 a.m. from St. John's Lutheran Church at the corner of Oakdale and Ponce de Leon. The tour takes about an hour and a half and costs \$10 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and is free for members of the Atlanta Preservation Center, the sponsoring organization. Even if you have lived in Druid Hills since you first learned to walk, you might learn something new. No reservations are required.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS Officers

378-5070
378-6040
373-3255
687-0395
634-4467
373-5831
378-4403
371-9768
327-4195
249-9215
377-5712
378-3784
876-2951
373-3923
325-9930
Lines)
687-8082

	DHCA	BOARD	OF DIRECTORS
		Past I	Presidents
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1	Chuck Palmer	373-7762	charles.palmer@troutman.sanders.com
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earhart9@bellsouth.net

judishur@hotmail.com

tgryboski@mmmlaw.com

373-5830

377-2003

378-9775

Allan Ballard

Tom Gryboski

Carolyn Riordan

Julie Ralston

Joanna Stroud

Judi Shur

Jim Earhart

Living Liturgy:Reconnecting Story, Song and Ritual

FREE CONCERT and SONGFEST featuring Marty Haugen, Mary Preus and Tom Witt

September 23, 2005 • 7:00 p.m.



St. John's Lutheran Church

1410 Ponce de Leon Avenue Atlanta, Georgia 30307



Contact St. John's Lutheran Church www.stjohnsatlanta.org or 404-378-4243 for more information.

Recommended Repair-people

Do you know the perfect plumber? An extraordinary electrician? A colossal contractor? Are you willing to share this person's name? The *Druid Hills News* hopes to start a list of reliable repair-people. If you know someone of this ilk please send the name, phone number, profession, and an optional little description to the editor of this paper, Mary Angela Whyte, at <a href="mailto:ma

John Tehan, Computer Troubleshooters (404-892-9030) (Libba Fairleigh).

Leonard Blackwell (770-337-1348)—Remodeling, painting and tile work. (Priscilla H. Padrün)

Rory O'Halloran, Greenpoint Contracting (tree guy) Call Jennifer O'Halloran (404-593-5416) for estimates. (Danny Spencer)

Meredyth White, ASID, Project Designer. 404-373-7544. (Jean Paddock)

Barney Opfer—Handyman. 678-641-2932. (Hugh Bell)

Get the Most Out of Your Advertising Dollars

The *Druid Hills News* is published in April, July, September and December. It reaches thousands of people who live, shop, and work in Druid Hills. With thousands of copies of each issue distributed in the area, the publication's advertising rates are a bargain for businesses that want to reach Druid Hills customers.

For information on ad sizes and pricing, please call 404-373-3255.

ATLANTA WATCH CAPTAINS

Fairview Road	Jane Carney	3/4-/198
	Linda Herrin	
Lion's Gate	Jim Webb	377-1101
Lullwater Road	Dennie Peteet	373-4131
Oakdale Road	Lynn Hiller	373-4193
Ponce de Leon	Jim Jackson	373-1303
Ponce de Leon	Eugene Novy	378-0000
	0 0	

DEKALB WATCH CAPTAINS

Artwood Rd	.Beverly Head	373-3151
The Byway	.vacant	
Barton Woods Road	.Linda Grant	378-2397
	.Jeff Stone	
Burlington Road	.Kim Papastavridis	377-1540
Chelsea Circle	.Kathy Morawetz	.378-3784
Chelsea Circle	Lindy Grebbe	.370-1232
Chelsea Circle	.Charlie DeJarnette	.373-4514
Chelsea Circle	.Mark Bashor	.373-8486
Clifton Rd. (779-969)	.Trudy Kretchman	.378-1104
	.vacant	
Cornell Road	.Missy Aue	.378-6975
	.Paul Brown	
Durand Falls Drive	.Sue Osier	.373-6131
E. Clifton Road	.Jo Koch	.377-3001
Edinburgh Terr	.R. Cary Bynum	634-5082
Emory Circle	.Paul Brown	.378-7913
Emory Drive	.Mary Angela Whyte	373-0291
Emory Road (upper)	.Judv Book	377-3914
Emory Road	.Sue Shuster	.373-8710
Harvard Road	.Shannon McDonald	.378-7660
	.Jackie Wilkinson	
Lullwater Road	.vacant	
N. Decatur Road (4)	.Marci Nunnery	378-9595
	.Rachel Friday	
Oakdale Road	.Mark Herold	.378-6446
Oxford Road	.Vivian Moody	.378-8928
	.David Cherry	
	.Jan Smyth	.636-5055
Ridgewood Dr. (mid)	.Julie Ralston	.370-0554
Ridgewood Dr. (upper)	.Susan Fox	.377-4240
Springdale Road	.Georgia Marshall	.371-1998
The Falls Court	.Mary Emma McConaughy	.377-1500
Vickers Circle	.Charlie Snelling	.378-6154
Vickers Drive	Sue Briss	.377-7060
	.Bobbie Wakamo	
	.Mary Larson	
	•	

Please call 404-523-DHCA to volunteer for vacancies and back-up spots

HELP WANTED

The Druid Hills News offers an opportunity for Druid Hills residents to list needs for services. Here division chairs can list streets needing delivery persons, localized causes can list issues needing workers, enterprising teenagers can mention their skills at babysitting, lawn care, etc., needy parents can advertise for enterprising teenagers, and on and on. It will be what you make it. Please send a description of your needs and/or willingness to volunteer to Sue Heerin at jheerin@aol.com or call our voicemail at 404-523-DHCA.

The Druid Hills Civic Association is looking for volunteers to work on the new **Community and Lifestyle Committee**. We need people to do the following:

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

If you would like to help and, at the same time, meet your neighbors and have fun, please contact Judi Shur at 404-378-9775 or judishur@hotmail.com .

The Druid Hills Civic Association is looking for volunteers to assist on the **Membership Committee**. We need people to:

- Welcome new DH residents
- Assist with administrative tasks
- Create new opportunities for residents to join DHCA

If you would like to volunteer for the Membership Committee, please contact Dee Daly at 404-876-2951 or deedaly3@comcast.net.

Is the Historic Druid Hills sign that tops your street sign damaged, in the wrong place, even missing? Please call the DHCA hotline and report the problem so it can be remedied.

Distributor Needed: Looking for a neighbor to deliver occasional flyers to:

• N. Parkwood and Lakeshore Dr.

Are You New to Druid Hills?

If you have not received your welcome/information packet, give your division chair a call.

Division chairs are listed on this page.

Recycle at Emory

Emory Recycles encourages the community to use its 24-hour drop off site, located near the end of Peavine Creek Drive and the Lower Fields parking lot. Magazines, newspapers, white paper, tin cans, aluminum cans, plastics #1 and #2, phone books, cardboard, and green, brown and clear glass are accepted.



For more information, call 404-727-1796 or visit



http://www.emory.edu/FMD/web/Recy cling/recycling.html.

(404) 377-6006

Druid Hills Civic Association Board of Directors Meeting

by Walter Saunders

The Special Task Force to address strategic redevelopment issues, comprised of Steve Misner, Clarke Weeks, Chuck Palmer and Debbie McDonald is looking at areas of Druid Hills that could become ripe for redevelopment. The committee hopes to anticipate and encourage appropriate development.

The Transportation Committee has been contacted by Ann Lee of the Fernbank Museum. She reports that there are at least two automobile accidents a week at the intersection of Clifton and Ponce. She is going to contact the City and County to get statistics on accidents at the intersection.

The committee is also studying the creation of a left turn lane from southbound North Decatur onto eastbound Clifton Road. The committee recommends creation of a protected left turn with traffic signal.

Ponce/Moreland Corridor Study—The City of Atlanta has agreed to put a lagging left turn from Briarcliff onto Ponce. The Engineering should be complete by 2006 and Installation by 2007.

1189 Ponce de Leon (Golden Key Property)—The Zoning Committee of the Atlanta City Council recommended that the full City Council approve the Special Use Permit (SUP) for ReMax Cityside to open an office in the Golden Key property. See an expanded article about this on page 6.

Paideia COA —Paideia School has applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Urban Design Commission (UDC) for redevelopment of the corner of South Ponce De Leon and Oakdale. This property is currently occupied by non-historic condominiums. The plan would allow for the expansion of the current gymnasium. This would breach the current lot line. This extension across lot line is the critical issue of this application. The staff report seems to be relying on the Law Department's assessment that the lot line "disappears" and therefore so do the set back requirements in the ordinance if Paideia combines/aggregates the lot legally. The plan further calls for the construction of the middle school building.

Nunan Property—The Developer has filed suit against DeKalb County due to the denial of this variance request by the Zoning Review Board.

Can You Find The Utility Lines In This Picture?

On the surface, your yard looks green and pristine. Underneath the beauty lay a network of utility lines that if broken could interrupt service and potentially present life threatening dangers. Be a good neighbor and call the Utilities Protection Center (UPC) before you dig in the yard. Careless digging can damage utility lines.

Established in 1974, the UPC is a non-profit utility notification with more than 700 member utility companies throughout Georgia who benefit through reductions in lost time, accidents, service interruptions, and costly repairs. The UPC provides the best in utility damage prevention through advanced technology and skill and an ongoing commitment to be a "state-of-the-art" one call center. Our notification system has saved the public at large and member utilities millions of dollars in expensive repairs and prevented countless potentially life threatening dangers and inconveniences associated with service interruptions.

The UPC continues to remind those digging with mechanized equipment to "Call Before You Dig. It's the Law." Call the UPC at 1-800-282-7411 or if calling from the Atlanta area, dial 770-623-4344. Georgia state law requires those who will be digging underground to call the UPC at least 48 hours in advance of the work (excluding weekends and holidays). The UPC, in turn, notifies the member utility companies of the impending work. The 48-hour lead-time gives each of these companies with lines in the work area an opportunity to mark all underground pipes or cables so that they are easily identifiable. The UPC strives to encourage four Dig Safely practices:

- 1) Call before you dig.
- 2) Wait the required length of time.
- 3) Respect the marks.
- 4) Dig with care.

For more information visit the Website at www.gaupc.com. The service is free—and it won't cost you any friendships.

The President's Column

by Jeff Rader

The Call to Leadership

With the coming of fall, we on the Board and Committees of the Druid Hills Civic Association begin to see the home stretch of our annual cycle coming into view. On one hand, it's a motivator to bring projects and committee work to fruition, and on the other hand, we're looking for those who can plant the seeds for next year's efforts.

On the harvest side of the ledger, I'm hoping that by the time you read this, you have visited our newly revamped website and will take advantage of the broader and more up to date content. I'm also looking forward to the work of standing and special committees working on transportation, historic preservation, redevelopment, and land use regulation. And we're well on our way to planning a "Druid Hills Day" that matches the great community and lifestyle we so enjoy.

But it's the other side of the ledger—the new crop—that will make the difference in the long run. Every year, our bylaws dictate that a nominating committee, this year chaired by Julie Ralston, bring forward a slate of officers and board members. We also have slots for specialized areas of service, including liaisons to Freedom Park Conservancy, the Peavine Creek Watershed Alliance, DeKalb Neighborhood Coalition, and other groups. Then there are the Division Chairs, who serve as points of contact and information in each of our 10 geographical areas.

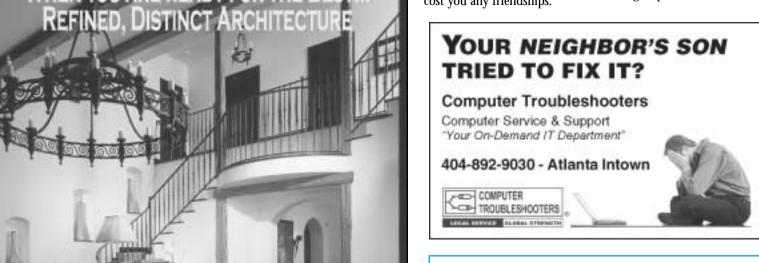
By serving in any of these roles, you can make a major contribution to the quality of life in our community, and you don't have to be particularly "plugged in" to get involved. Some of our most enthusiastic leaders are newcomers; why, three years ago all I knew about DHCA was what I read in the *News*!

For my part, a great deal of the job of president consists of listening to some pretty good ideas from people who obviously care and have thought a lot about an issue. The thing that always leaves me scratching my head is why they often don't turn up at a monthly board meeting, or on a committee. They've made the connection between a problem and solution—that's more than half the battle—now they need only to advance their solution to action!

DHCA has the resources and the organization to make a difference. The wonderful outpouring of neighborhood spirit that is the Tour of Homes provides us with the capacity to rehabilitate parks and natural areas, fight threats to our historic district, and provide the icing on the cake at community celebrations like the Fourth of July Parade. What we (and all community groups) have to strive for is to attract your time and effort

to keep the Civic Association connected to the issues that matter most to you.

So, if you have an idea and an itch to lead, drop an email to execdir@druidhills.org, or leave us a voice mail at 404/523-DHCA. I hope you join in!



WWW.MOONBROS.COM

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS Newsletter of the Druid Hills Civic Association

P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363, Voicemail 404-523-DHCA *Published by Volunteers*

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Photos by Barbara Baggerman, Warren Jackson, Kimmy Naib, Peri Phillips, Judi Shur

CIRCULATION MANAGER Clarke Weeks

Your Letters A re Welcome



Druid Hills schools are getting lots and lots of new blood this year. Of all the schools that have responded to our request for information, Paideia is the only one without new leadership. In alphabetical order, here is a very brief rundown on the new principals:

Briar Vista welcomes Augretta Tutson. Included in her 23 years of experience is a recent stint as an administrator at another DeKalb Montessori school.

Druid Hills High School's new principal in Everett Patrick. After many years in the classroom he spent the last two years as the Vice Principal for Instruction at DHHS

Fernbank's Jason Marshall has long experience with the school since he's an alumnus. Before moving back to his alma mater, he was a teacher at Murphy Candler and the Assistant Principal at Winbrook.

The new head at **Howard** is Mari Fred Cilella. She comes from Park Tudor School in Indianapolis. The Howard School has broken ground on its new facility at the corners of Huff and Foster Streets where they hope to be by August 2006.

Finally the new principal of **Shamrock** is Robert Thorpe who has held various administrative positions, including principal. in Gainesville, GA.

Welcome to all these new folks. We feel sure they'll enjoy and be favorably impressed by their students from Druid Hills.

Keep up with the latest news and schedules from each of our neighborhood schools:

The Howard School www.howardschool.org.

Shamrock Middle School www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/`shamrock.

Paideia School www.paideiaschool.org

Fernbank Elementary School www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~fernbank.

Mary Lin Elementary School www.marylinpta.org and www.apskids.org/lin

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

Birar Vista School www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~briarvista

Publix and Fernbank Team Up to Support School

Publix Super Markets is working with Fernbank Elementary to help raise funds through their Publix Partners program. Participants present their Publix Partners card to the cashier at check-out. Publix keeps track of every dollar spent by a Fernbank participant and awards the school \$500 for every \$75,000 spent. This program raised \$1,995.21 for Fernbank in the '04-'05 school year.

Publix Partners cards are distributed free of charge to parents, relatives and friends of Fernbank students. Fernbank Elementary would like to ask interested residents in Druid Hills to participate in the program. If you shop at Publix and have no allegiance to another elementary school, Fernbank could use your help. If you are interested in receiving a Publix Partners card tied to Fernbank, please fill out the form below and mail it to Fernbank Elementary PTA. A Publix Partners card will be mailed to you shortly. Then remember to take it with you every time you shop at Publix (including the Publix pharmacy) and present it at check-out. This is such an easy way to raise funds. By expanding the base of participants beyond just parents, Fernbank can quickly build up contributions.

Thank you for considering this program. And happy shopping!

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Mail to: Fernba	ank Elementary	School PTA
157 Heaton Par		
Atlanta, GA 30	307	
Attn: Nan Brins	son	
Public Partners	Card Request	

Cultural Events in Druid Hills Fall 2005

by Virginie Kippelen

CALLANWOLDE 980 Briarcliff Road, NE 404 872-5338 www.callanwolde.org

October 16, 2005 CALLANWOLDE CONCERT BAND at 3 p.m.

Lead by conductor Raymond Handfield, the highly-entertaining band will perform a program of varied popular selections.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in advance by calling (770) 279-2263.

LYRA STRING QUARTET FEATURING ENSEMBLE RADIEUSE at 7:30p.m.

The LYRA concert is an interactive musical experience allowing the public to interact with the musicians and to discuss the musical interpretations during an after-show reception. Program highlights include Tim Grundmann's "Inbox" and Beethoven's "Razumovsky Quartet No.1." Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for seniors and adults. Call (404) 373-7670 for ticket information.

EMORY UNIVERSITY

www.arts.emory.edu Art at Emory Box Office: (404) 727-5050

Theater Emory at the Mary Gray Munroe Theatre October 6-8 & 13-14, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. October 15 at 7:00 p.m. & October 16 at 2:00 p.m. in the Schwartz Center

ALCESTIS

Translated by Ted Hughes

This modern retelling of Euripides' Greek tragedy by Ted Hughes, poet laureate to Queen Elizabeth II, speaks to issues of values, selfishness and relationships, while weaving in classic stories from Greek mythology. Tickets are \$15. October 7 is Pay What You Can performance.

October 14 at 8 p.m. King's Singers

The 2005-2006 Candler Series begins with Sacred Bridges, a program which will feature psalms set to 17th-century music by Islamic, Christian and Jewish composers. The King's Singers will be joined by Sarband, a musical ensemble that works through a spectrum of vocal and instrumental techniques, including improvisation. Full-price tickets: \$48; discount prices apply with series subscription.

November 10 at 8 p.m. Mark O'Connor's Hot Swing

Violonist/composer/fiddler Mark O'Connor will pay tribute to French jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli and his Hot Swing tradition He will be accompanied by bass player Jon Burr, guitarists Bryan Sutton and Howard Alden, and vocalist Roberta Gambarini. Full-price tickets: \$48; discount applies with series subscription.

MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM 404 727-4282

571 S. Kilgo Street on Emory Campus www.carlos.emory.edu

Through November 27, 2005

Excavating Egypt: Great Discoveries from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology,

University College London

Experience the adventurous spirit of the early days of Egyptian archaeology through the discoveries of British pioneer Sir William Flinders Petrie (1853-1942). More than 200 objects drawn from the London museum are featured, including one of the world's earliest surviving dresses (ca. 2400 BC), mysterious mummy portraits, and royal art from the pharaoh Akhenaten's famous city at Amarna.

FERNBANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY Clifton on Ponce de Leon

404 929-6400

and the Southwest

www.Fernbank.edu/museum

Opening Oct. 1 through January 2006 Totems to Turquoise Native North American Jewelry Art of the Northwest

More than 500 pieces reveal the richness, complexity and diversity of Native American artistry, providing a historical perspective of the techniques, materials and styles that have evolved over the past 100 years.

Showing at the IMAX Theatre Opening Oct. 1 Grand Canyon

FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER 156 Heaton Park

678-874-7102 www.Fernbank.edu

Fall Planetarium Show Einstein's Universe September 8 through November 20

Shows how modern physics impacts astronomy, explores black holes and gravitational lenses. Thursday & Friday at 8:00 p.m.; Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Show not recommended for young children.

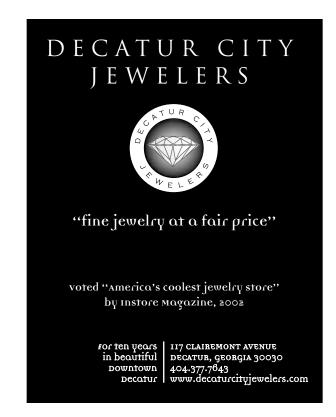
Coyote the Trickster

Opening September 24, through November 20.

Explore the night sky through the eyes of Native American sky watchers. Hear stories about the Coyote and how he made the stars, moon, and sun.

Saturdays & Sundays: 1:30 p.m. (not shown Oct. 22-30.) Young children welcome.

Admission: \$4 adults, \$3 students and seniors.





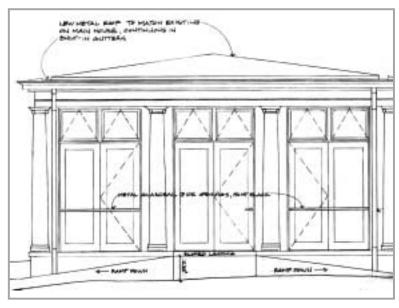
They Did It Right

by Clarke Weeks

It seemed like such a simple problem. Carolyn and Billy Hall needed to add a ramp to their home. The house had an open side porch which was the logical place for it. By enclosing the porch, it would be possible to add the ramp without changing the facade of their Georgian home, improve the circulation in the living room area, and improve the site drainage.

Working closely with their architect Cynthia Tauxe, their contractor Weidmann & Associates, and their interior designer Deborah Dyste, they were able to come up with an award winning design that maintained the historic form of their c.1915 home and greatly improved the function. The land falls away toward the rear of the home so a ramp to the

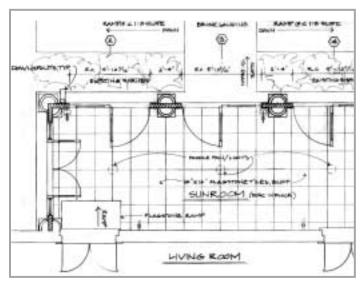
back would have been very long and would have looked out of proportion to the house. To solve the problem, they decided to grade the patio up to the side of the old "sun parlor," in effect, making the entire patio a gentle ramp. Now the brick paving simply runs up to the porch and there is no sense of it being anything but a patio and walk. At the same time, the patio gives excellent wheelchair access to the home. The carefully sloped paving also directs water away from the foundation of the house. In the early days of Druid Hills. people were very interested in living outside and wanted to have their homes open and flowing to the outside so that there seemed to be no division between the building and the garden and lawn. This makes for a very pleasant environment but can also allow water to enter the basement. The Halls'

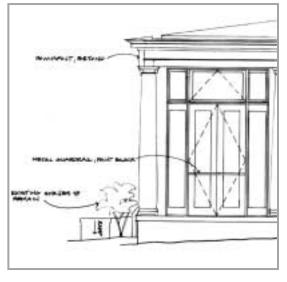


carefully graded patio keeps the rain away from the walls of the house. With a historic home in the historic district, the Halls wanted to be sure that their new porch looked as if it had been there from the beginning. This is where the expert craftspeople made their contribution. They used PVC molded to look like boards and trim to replace the rotted wood and five new sets of dual pane French doors made to match exactly the original windows. Paint adheres to the PVC much better than to wood and the PVC will never rot. The architect was able to find replacement columns to match the original Schemes capitals. The finish carpenters cut these into quarters and halves and built the foam-insulated walls between them so that the porch appears to have been part of the house since it was built. With careful planning and coordination, the Halls and their construction team were able to build a seamless addition to their home. Now they have a heated and cooled space which becomes a natural circulation area when they entertain their guests.

Carolyn says they felt the Historic Commission was very helpful, and that working within the guidelines gave them a much more satisfactory result. Billy says that working with good people is vital to a remodeling project. "The only thing worse than paying too much is paying too little. Contractors who cannot make a reasonable return on their work cannot do the quality of work that you want."

The Halls did extensive remodeling to the interior of their home, as many people saw during the Druid Hills Tour in 2004. They replaced all the major systems and finished the attic into a full ceiling height area and reopened the interesting secret passages which run from top to bottom in this house. With all their work, the house appears no different than it did ninety years ago. This is the sign of a loving, skillful, and well thought out renovation. Carolyn and Billy truly did it right.





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Book Club News

by Faye Andresen

With the storms and fallen trees this summer, it seems appropriate that the Last Tuesday Book Club started their summer reading with The Control of Nature by John McPhee. The book chronicles three all-out attempts by man, using his energy and engineering skills, to control nature—nature continues to win. Their next read was Richard Russo's Empire Falls. Although most of the group liked the book, many wondered why this story of one man's life in a small dying northeast town had won the Pulitzer Prize. In July, they read a short story collection, How to Breathe Underwater by Julie Orringer. It prompted a discussion around the themes of the book, the complex and sometimes cruel nature of adolescent girls, but all agreed it was an extremely engaging read. For August, the book club read *The Devil in the White City*, historical non-fiction about two men—the architect of Chicago's 1893 World's Fair and a serial killer who uses the fair to lure his victims. It is an exciting book. Hard to believe it is non-fiction.

Harvard Road Book Club read The Lost Boys of Sudan by Mark Bixler, a book that chronicles the experiences of four young men escaping the ravages of war in the Sudan and adjusting to the "civilized world," complete with newly discovered electric lights and other delights. (A portion of the proceeds from this book will go towards helping Sudanese refugees in Atlanta.) In July, they chose Year of Wonder by Geraldine Brooks. Narrated by a young girl, this book tells not only of the grim suffering and panic experienced by a small town during a 1666 plague but of the courage, faith and redemption found from within during such despair. The club wrapped up the summer with Malcom Gladwell's Tipping Point. A bit of scientific study, a bit of psychology, Tipping Point explains change— how it happens—or how and why change sometimes comes suddenly and unexpectedly—think epidemic.

Wine, Women & Words also read a variety of books this summer. Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs is a strange story of an extremely dysfunctional childhood. Readers took satisfaction that, even on a bad parenting day, they look like paragons of child-rearing compared to adults in the book. Most appropriately, in June, the club chose *A Year in Provence* as their summer food and travel selection. They agreed it was the next best thing to being there...well, not quite, but still fun. This was followed by *Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Kraker. Interwoven throughout the saga of the 1984 Lafferty murders in which the defendants claimed they were carrying out a directive from God is the history of the Mormon Church and the extreme fundamental cults linked to the religion. August held sway with an historical fiction, The Other Bolelyn Girl written by Phillppa



Gregory. Although a bit longer than it needed to be, the book gives a feel for the political poker games played by families of position close to King Henry VIII and how young women were the aces played in hopes of winning power and prestige. Losers lose their heads.



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Being Impolite was a Delight at Fernbank Museum

Sometimes being gross is good. The recent special exhibition Grossology—The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body, which was on view at Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Druid Hills from May 28-August 21, was a good way to get people talking about why our bodies do the things they do. The exhibition far-surpassed expectations in popularity, generating more than 140,000 visits to Fernbank Museum from members, locals and out-of-towners through early August. Memberships are at an all-time high with nearly 6,800 additional member households joining in the past 12 months.

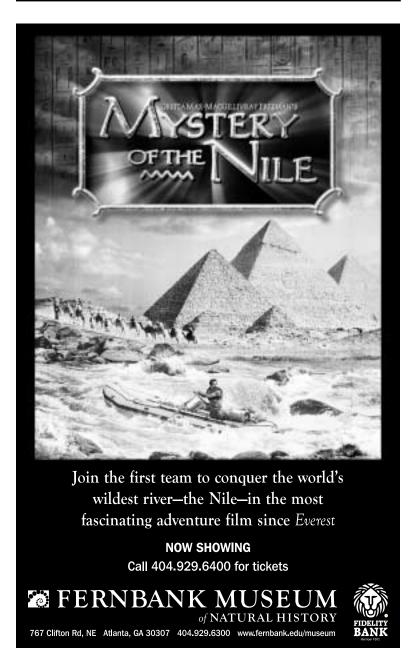
Grossology incorporated the valuable teachings of the original Grossology children's book series into a hands-on learning environment that broke down scientific topics into easy-to-understand, fun-to-learn facts. Filled with interactive learning stations, Grossology included a variety of activities including Gas Attack Pinball, the GI Slide, a giant version of the Operation board game, the Tour du Nose, a rock climbing Skin Wall and a guess the body smell station.

This educational exhibition taught Fernbank not only that people can enjoy a good biology lesson but also that they want family-friendly learning activities that are fun for all ages. With adults "having a gas" as much as the kids, Grossology awakened people's interest in learning new and interesting facts. The exhibition taught visitors that they shed more than 40 pounds of skin cells in a lifetime, they swallow a quart of snot every day, vomiting is the body's way of eliminating bad stuff, and burps are a complicated scientific reaction to what we eat and drink.



Since families are a significant part of Fernbank's audience, the Museum has plans to add activity-based learning opportunities to future special exhibitions. The Museum began incorporating Education Alley areas to exhibitions so younger visitors can connect what they are seeing in an exhibition to concepts they can understand through fun, interactive activities. The upcoming exhibition Totems to Turquoise, a jewelry arts collection representing Northwest and Southwest Native American cultures, will open on October 1 and will feature an Education Alley programming area that includes books, videos and hands-on activities to introduce younger visitors to the Native American crafts and traditions presented in the exhibition.

For more information on Fernbank's programming, including Family Fun Days, IMAX presentations, special events and educational instruction, visit www.fernbank.edu/museum or call 404-929-6300.



LANDMARK DISTRICT UNDER SIEGE

by Alida Silverman

SUP for 1189 South Ponce de Leon Avenue...

The Atlanta City Council granted a special use permit with 16 conditions for use of 1189 South Ponce de Leon Avenue as a realty and builder developer services office at its June 20 meeting. REMAX Metro Atlanta Cityside will occupy the gateway property formerly headquarters of the Golden Key Honor Society.

To grant the SUP, the Council has to find (a) "such nonresidential use of the existing structure is not incompatible with or detrimental to the residential character of the district;" and (b) "that the structure ...can no longer feasibly be used as a residence."

Several specific elements must be considered and the burden of proof is on the applicant.

The Atlanta Urban Design Commission addressed (a) with a review and comment that went to the zoning review board with 14 conditions, all from the list drawn up by the Civic Association's attorney. One commissioner stated there was no way this property was not feasible for residential use and another suggested a 5-year time limit on the permit in order to assess its use.

Part (b) fell to the zoning review board, staffed by the bureau of planning. The staff report recommended approval conditioned on the site plan and the fact that the permit would cease when REMAX no longer occupied the property.

The Civic Association opposed the SUP application on these grounds: such a commercial office use was not appropriate for Ponce de Leon Avenue and the burden of proof required by the Landmark District ordinance had not been met. One specific consideration is how long the property was on the residential market. This property was never on the residential market. Commercial brokers handled the property. The purchase price was \$225,000 in 1982. The asking price in August 2003 was \$2.4 million, listed by a commercial broker as office property. The Lexis (DeKalb) appraisal is \$1.133 million.

At a meeting arranged by District Council Member Anne Fauver before the Council zoning committee meeting, the planning staff stated they had not seen the Druid Hills information packets, hand-delivered to the secretary of the zoning review board one week before the ZRB hearing. Council Member Fauver supported the SUP.

The Druid Hills ordinance, passed in December 1982, essentially was to protect the historic Olmsted plan. After the covenants ran out in 1940, Druid Hills experienced some hard times, particularly in the City portion along Ponce and Briarcliff. There was no protection . The Druid Hills ordinance provided for Ponce to have residential and school uses, with some non-residential uses conditioned on their being the only way to save historic houses. Times have changed for the better and the Landmark District ordinance has had an important role. The Adair Estate is an example of successful rehab/re-use of large homes.

The ordinance distinguishes between offices and private, non-profit educational organizations. Two years after purchasing the house, the Golden Key Honor Society received a certificate of appropriateness from the AUDC to use the house as their headquarters. To buy the house today, a C of A would be required. Offices require a SUP. So do quasi-governmental organizations like the Georgia Conservancy and residences for senior citizens.

What are the implications of the Council's decision for the Landmark District? This is the question to be faced.

C of A for Redevelopment of Corner Lot on South Ponce/Oakdale

The Atlanta Urban Design Commission granted a certificate of appropriateness with 10 conditions to the Paideia School for redevelopment of the corner lot on South Ponce at Oakdale Road at its July 13 meeting. A demolition permit had been approved earlier for the townhome complex built in the late 1960's and early 1970's on that lot where there had been a home with a fine garden. Since the townhome complex was not built during the historic building period, there was no issue regarding demolition for the Landmark District Preservation Committee. The replacement development was the issue.

The LDPC opposed the C of A for the redevelopment project because that project includes extending the existing gymnasium across the back of the corner lot, thus crossing the lot line. What defines the historic Olmsted plan for Druid Hills is the spatial relationships between structures: there is space between structures. Much of the LD ordinance is devoted to setbacks—front/side/rearyard—on a block by block basis. This is the way the pattern of voids and solids in the building/platting pattern is maintained. The City's position seemed to be that aggregation of the lots by the single owner would make the lot line "disappear" and therefore the requirement for sideyard setbacks. One of the 10 conditions was that the school combine the corner and adjacent lot.

Again, the question is: What does this decision mean for the Landmark District?

"Quality of Life" program Sidewalk installed

A sidewalk has been installed along the east side of Oakdale Road beginning at the intersection of Fairview Road and ending at North Avenue. This sidewalk was requested by Council Member Anne





Fauver at the behest of parents of Mary Lin School students. Because of the jog taken by Oakdale at the Fairview intersection, placement of a sidewalk on the east side presents an awkward situation for the pedestrian. Current crosswalks guide the southbound pedestrian across Oakdale and then across Fairview to the west side of Oakdale where there is a generous right-of-way for a sidewalk and residential planting strip. A sidewalk on the west side was part of the City's TEA application for the Moreland Gateway/Freedom Park East project in 1997. That sidewalk was to extend to North Avenue along Euclid. Pedestrians on Oakdale were to cross Oakdale at the "Y" intersection with Euclid over to the east side where there is room for a full-width sidewalk. The installed sidewalk was not reviewed by the AUDC as required.

CHECK OUT THE NEW DHCA WEB SITE

The Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA) web site is being revamped to be more user-friendly and this is what you can expect to see when you log onto druidhills.org. In addition to information about the DHCA's history, board of directors, and bylaws, we will now have the latest board meeting minutes and current *Druid Hills News*, as well as past meetings minutes and past *Druid Hills News* issues. The calendar of events will give you the "what-when-where" of neighborhood happenings, while the membership page will outline member benefits such as the merchant program and a convenient way to join the DHCA and sign up for ELERT, our email communication tool.

New features include hot topics on the home page, historic preservation guidelines with links to the city and county, and the Druid Hills bulletin board for neighbors to post pertinent events and



issues. This is a work-in-progress, so there may be sections still under construction when you check it out, but peruse the site, enjoy, and get involved in the neighborhood. If you would like more information about the web site or the *Druid Hills News*, please let Pam Terry, Communications Vice President, know at commvp@druidhills.org.

MBI Construction

Cookies: Gooood. Pastry: Gooood. Diet: Baaaad.

By Sheila McIntosh

Some places will kill a diet quicker than a storm kills trees in Druid Hills. Places where all sense of reason and restraint just fly out the window. Places where the goodies might be a bit of a mystery unless your are truly bilingual.

Every city has one somewhat like it...Alessi in Tampa, Mike's Pastry in Boston, Ferrara's in Manhattan...ethnic bakeries that have held onto the old ways and recipes.

I've finally found one in Atlanta—and it's the Panaderia. I think that's Spanish for heaven. No? Then why did I heard angels singing on entering and see a golden glow emanating from the bins where each variety of sinful goodness was displayed? Why did an unseen force fill my basket with more calories than I normally eat in a week?

In all seriousness, La Suprema Panaderia on Clairmont Road, just north of Buford Highway, is a treat full of treats. Also seriously, I could not tell you the name of a single one of the items I purchased and there were quite a few! That was part of the fun. I had little idea what I was buying, just that most contained a cream cheese filling, or better yet, chocolate, and was combined with a wonderful flaky crust. Breakfast, lunch and (ok, I admit it!) dinners contained a little surprise for the next few days.

A display case of cookies and several varieties of bread were offered, too. In case you want to make lunch of a huge doughnut with dark chocolate frosting (who'd ever do THAT?), there are bottled soft drinks and milk in a refrigerator case. Nothing fancy, but the effort is reflected in the food. Give it a try for something different! La Suprema's address is 4054 Buford Highway but the storefront is on the east side of Clairmont Road about 100 yards north of Buford Highway. Look for an apricot-colored stucco building with the sign "Panaderia."

Talking Turkey

It seems true that turkeys don't have the sense to come in out of the rain, but neither did the neighbors on Emory Drive who found the fowl family strolling down their street. Absolutely comfortable walking with humans, mom and dad and their two chicks were in no hurry. Dad walked ahead, the picture of self-importance, while mom and the kids (not well supervised) straggled behind. Cars stopped and drivers ogled at one of our most quirky Druid Hills attractions.

We've heard one of the turkeys was once shot with an arrow but rescued by humans. True? Urban myth? Please let us know if you're



willing to share the story with our readers by calling 404-523-DHCA.

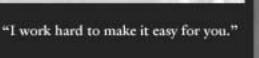
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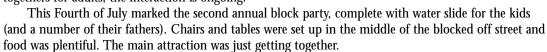
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Emory Drive: Where Everybody Knows Your Name

A one-block street that twenty years ago had a few teenagers and very few children, now has at least 20 under ten years of age, most preschool! Not only have these young families moved in, they've organized the block. From play dates for the little ones to casual ("bring some chips and a six pack") Friday evening gettogethers for adults, the interaction is ongoing.



Last year the young moms held a women-only brunch in honor of the street's newest mom and a mom-to-be, and all ages attended. When one young mother was seriously injured in an accident, her "sisters," as they seem to be, again organized the block to provide food, child care, laundry, and yard work while the family made their own arrangements.



And now, everyone is welcoming two little girls, adopted from China. One has arrived and all eagerly await the other. Recently, the still-waiting adopting mom gave a brunch and shower for the mom whose new child would arrive that night. These children will find they have an extended family ready to welcome them to the neighborhood that is Emory Drive.

"You feel like you're in the north Georgia mountains"

by Barbara Baggerman

This is a common reaction when standing on the wooded cliff overlooking Rock Creek, in the nature preserve behind the old Louis Kahn home at the top of Markan Drive off E. Rock Springs Road. Surrounded by lush forest, unable to see any nearby homes, you forget you're in the middle of the city. You can find beauty and serenity among the mass of bright new green as the leaves emerge in spring, in the intensely luminous gold of low-angle sun rays through leaves in autumn, in the sculpture of bare trees in winter, in the symphony of birdsongs and the resounding hoots of owls.

This little gem of nature on the border of Morningside and Druid Hills is slated to be replaced by mini-mansions.

The Kahn home sits on a 1-acre forested parcel that juts into the surrounding Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve, adjacent tracts forming a 34-acre city park. The site is the only hill in the otherwise bottomland park, and as such is the prettiest, and most ecologically intact, spot in the park. The hill drops off sharply on the west to an old quarry on the edge of Rock Creek. It is a favorite play area for children, who love to climb on the huge boulders in the creek.

Anne Salter, former Druid Hills Division 6 chair, began trying two years ago to get DeKalb County to purchase the vacant Kahn property for the park, then turned the effort over to the Edmund Park Homeowners' Association to pursue. Last October, she was dismayed to learn that the property was under contract to an Edmund Park developer.

Members of the Rock Creek Watershed Alliance, stewards of the park for more than 8 years, were equally dismayed to learn that the parcel for sale included land long believed by both the public and the City Parks Dept. to be part of the

park. The 1978 deed giving the land to the City, as well as all maps provided to the group by the Parks Dept., indicated park boundaries which included the quarry plus a significant amount of land on top of the cliff. Public-use trails have existed there for generations, and the RCWA has done volunteer work removing invasive plant species in the area for years without objection.

It turned out there was an earlier deed which contradicted the 1978 deed. "Had we known the quarry and cliff were private property, we'd have pursued this acquisition for the park years ago," says Peggy Barlett of RCWA.

The group, along with members of the Morningside/Lenox Park Association and NPU-F, began negotiations with the developer to purchase a portion of the property to preserve as park buffer or, failing that, to lessen the impact of development. The developer offered three purchase options: one for the



This photo shows the quarry trail erosion and need for proposed 15' buffer.

developer offered three purchase options: one for the quarry area below the cliff, and two others that would reduce development on top of the cliff by 1 and 2 houses, respectively. The original 5-day offer was extended to 2 months.

Preserving wooded land on top of the cliff is essential to maintain the undisturbed look and feel of the park's most beautiful area, as well as to protect against cliff erosion and increasing runoff damage to the creek. Thus, RCWA pursued the largest option, which would have reduced the total number of houses in the development from 8 to 6, still allowing a quality development but leaving a forested buffer on top of the cliff.

RCWA began the daunting task of raising \$595,000, realizing it would take a miracle to reach that goal within the 2-month deadline. Community support was truly heartwarming. The spot holds a special place in the heart of local nature lovers, bird watchers, dog walkers, children past and present, and others who welcome the respite from the city.

But miracles happen. Emory University rated the site 5 on a scale of 1-5 for environmental value. Many neighborhood stakeholders, citizens, local foundations, as well as City of Atlanta and DeKalb County, joined together so that on the morning of the Jan. 3 deadline, RCWA had the necessary funds.

Unfortunately, snafus happen, too. The land appraised for significantly less than the asking price, meaning the City

could contribute less than originally planned. The developer allowed the month of January to work out the appraisal discrepancy, and RCWA continued fundraising to make up the difference needed. However, on Jan. 31, citing contractual details, the developer declined RCWA's offer to pay the difference under a separate contract.

All was not lost. The developer was still willing to sell the unbuildable quarry area along the creek and a 5-foot rim along the cliff for \$125,000. This transaction was successfully completed by The Conservation Fund, with the land to be transferred to the City and County and added to the existing park.

While disappointed that they were unable to acquire the cliff parcel they offered to buy, RCWA is grateful to have succeeded in protecting the quarry area near the creek. Instead of mature hardwoods on the cliff, empty sky and large homes will loom over the quarry, despoiling the away-from-it-all ambience of the surrounding area below. The narrow trail on top of the cliff may not survive erosion after the trees are cut, but at least the quarry and big boulders are preserved for public access and enjoyment.

The RCWA thanks the many individual contributors from Morningside, Druid Hills, and beyond, as well as the Druid Hills Civic Assoc., Morningside/Lenox Park Assoc., the Gables and Ashwood development companies, and local restaurants Caramba Cafe, Doc Chey's, Atkins

Park, Sala, and La Tavola for their generous support.

Meanwhile, the Watershed Alliance continues its work revitalizing the park. Invasive privet, ivy, and kudzu are being removed and native species reintroduced. Trail improvement is ongoing. Future plans include a pedestrian bridge over Rock Creek. Come and enjoy this tranquil urban oasis. As of this writing, you can still experience the cliff in its natural state. The current park entrance is off Beech Valley Road in Morningside, north of East Rock Springs Road.



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Wanted: One Liners From Locals

Here's your chance to be a contributor to the DHN! We're seeking contributions for a future article that will be titled: *You might be (living) in Druid Hills if...* So put on your funny hats, open your eyes and send all the clever, cynical, snarky and silly one liners you can think of to make light of some of the unique and perplexing things about our neighborhood.

Need help getting started? Here are a couple of examples to give you food for thought.

You might live in Druid Hills if:

- -Your renovation is so huge it requires two porta-potties.
- -You stay home from work on the first Monday in May (Emory graduation) 'cause you know you're not going anywhere, anyway.

Send your submissions to guindy@mindspring.com with the title DHN Article by September 20. You could see your thoughts in print!

Donations Needed!

The Lullwater Conservation Garden needs funds for emergency cleanup of fallen trees and damaged bridgework from summer storms.

Three levels of support are available: \$50 for Friend, \$75 for Sponsor, and \$100 for Patron. Any amount of donation is appreciated and your donation is tax-deductible! Make your check payable to Lullwater Conservation Garden, Inc. and send to PO Box 133135, Atlanta, GA 30333.

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STORMS RAVAGE DRUID HILLS

By J.J. Williams

Our community lost one of its most valuable commodities—trees—in a series of violent late-summer storms. A combination of rain-drenched earth, high winds, and years of drought damage caused mighty oaks to be plucked from the ground as easily as carrots pulled from a home garden. Some storms, containing hail and tornadic circular winds, twisted off the tops of grand trees twenty to thirty feet



from ground level and caused numerous large limbs to litter the streets and yards of Druid Hills. Homeowners experienced grave property damage, with trees landing on homes and vehicles.

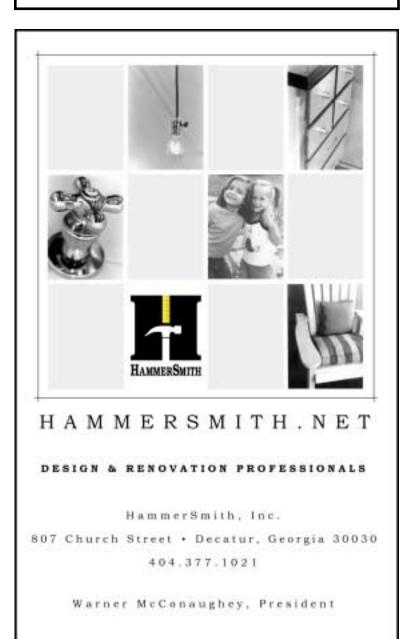
Tree trucks lined the lanes of Druid Hills, with their crews manning cranes, whining chain saws, and chipper-shredders. When the noise abated, our community was missing hundreds of old friends. Twenty-two trees were lost on the Druid Hills Golf Course alone, and the Olmsted Linear Park was also hard-hit. In addition to Mother Nature's wrath, some motorists caused human injury by driving through Olmsted's Dellwood Park, creating deep ruts in the mud in order to avoid a tree blocking the road. Still further insult occurred in the parks when crews dumped tree limbs and debris on top of flower and shrub beds carefully tended by Olmsted Park volunteers.

There are several theories as to why our neighborhood was named "Druid Hills." In Celtic languages, the word "druide" literally means "oak-wise." The Druids were a Celtic Religious order of priests, poets, and musicians who were viewed as creative and wise leaders. The ancient Druids revered all trees, but especially respected the oak, and often held their religious services under the outstretched limbs of oaks.

It's time now for us to honor our namesake—the Druids—and be "oak-wise." Though we can't replace the towering trees felled by the storms, we can plant trees now for future generations so that in fifty or more years our "Druid Hills" will continue to be a neighborhood inside a forest.

Wherefor "art" thou?

Interest is being evaluated for a return of the Druid Hills Artist Market in conjunction with the Druid Hills Tour of Homes April 21-23, 2006. To express interest in opportunities for adult artist booth space, young artist booth space (ages 13 to 18), the children's art booth, or to participate on the artist market committee, send email to mail@druidhillstour.org. A response will be sent by return email!



Springdale Restoration Almost Complete; Deepdene Project Offers View of Future

Springdale reveals its restoration progress to every passerby on Ponce de Leon Avenue, but the visitor must turn onto the less-traveled North Ponce de Leon Avenue to see the recently completed Deepdene demonstration project.

Springdale and Deepdene are the gateway segments of the Olmsted Linear Park and the last to undergo rehabilitation. Springdale has been closed to the public since June due to construction. The asphalt path system is complete, but work continues on planting grass, shrubs, and trees. Springdale will remain closed until the installation of a playscape in the southeastern corner. The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) plans a dedication in 2006.

Deepdene's three-acre demonstration project allows visitors to explore a lush woodland and to envision the extraordinary resource the community will enjoy when all 22 acres are reclaimed. Located on North Ponce de Leon just beyond the soccer field, the area is marked by a curb and gutter system. Three mulched trails lead into the forest, where a granite bridge and two smaller wooden bridges cross ravines.

OLPA has raised \$2.1 million of the \$4.8 million required to rehabilitate Springdale and Deepdene and complete a maintenance reserve for all six segments. Atlanta and DeKalb County mow and remove fallen trees in their respective segments, but OLPA provides all other upkeep. The need for increased funds became apparent last summer when storm damage and illegal dumping marred the park.

Anyone who observes the dumping of woodchips or other refuse is asked to call the relevant police department: Atlanta or DeKalb County. Violators will be cited or arrested. Callers should report the location, the violator's tag number, and the name of the company if it appears on the vehicle. OLPA requests that a report also be made to its office (404-853-7159).

Please support restoration and maintenance efforts by sending a contribution to the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, PO Box 5500, Atlanta, GA 31107.



Green Park, a student organization at Emory University, spent several Saturdays weeding and spreading mulch in Shadyside Park. John Hemby (left), maintenance chairman of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, invites other community groups interested in volunteering to call the OLPA office at 404-853-7159. Photo by J.J. Richardson

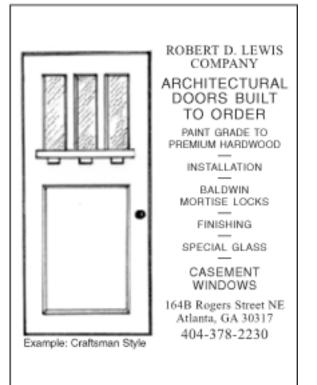
Alliance to Improve Emory Village, Inc. ~quarterly notes~

by Lauretta Miller

Fund raising takes center stage

The next phase for the Alliance to Improve Emory Village is the preparation and launch of a large fund raising effort with the community and foundations. It will be important for foundations to see financial support from the community; they see such support as an endorsement of the project from the community, according to Davis Fox, co-chair of AIEV and a Druid Hills resident. Approximately \$2 million will need to be raised to fully implement the revitalization and beautification projects envisioned in the plan.

One of the major expenses of the project is burying overhead utilities. AIEV has a little more than \$2 million in Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) funding from the Atlanta Regional Commission and DeKalb County, but that funding is specifically designated by the federal government so that it can not be used for utility work. The consequence of not being able to bury the overhead lines would be that there could be very few mature trees of any significant size. This would obviously mean a lack of trees that could provide meaningful shade to residents and patrons. "I know it's hard for people to get excited about giving money to bury utilities, but there will also be funding needs for developing a new greenspace and for restoring Peavine Creek," says Fox.



Contributions tax-deductible

"We are gearing up for a fund raising campaign in the fall, and I hope Druid Hills residents will consider Emory Village a worthy asset to their community and will support its revitalization with their charitable contributions," Fox adds. AIEV is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and contributions are tax-deductible. AIEV also will be requesting additional LCI money to defray some of the costs, and DeKalb County has committed significant resources to the road work that will be needed.

Preparation for the construction of the roundabout is on track. To view plans for the Village, including a graphic of the roundabout, see the Village web page below. Look for construction to begin next year, probably in the spring or early summer. The construction is scheduled to take nine months. To contact AIEV, call 404-373-7579 or go online to www.emoryvillage.org.

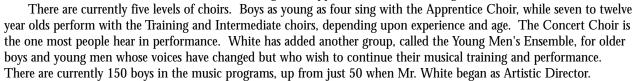
HIDDEN TREASURES OF DRUID HILLS

Atlanta Boy Choir Teaches More Than Music

By J.J. Williams

When David White came to Atlanta to become Director of the Atlanta Boy Choir in 2001, he assumed leadership of a group with a lengthy and rich heritage. Fletcher Wolfe founded the choir in 1957 and remains as Director Emeritus. Today, the choir's headquarters is located in an historic mansion (circa 1911) and two newer buildings in Druid Hills. Throughout the years, the Boy Choir established itself as one of Atlanta's premier performing organizations, gaining worldwide recognition through its tours, concerts, and recordings.

David White's background is in vocal performance, and he founded and directed several Boy Choirs before coming to Atlanta with his wife Rosemary and children Emily, Duane, and William. The Boy Choir organization got not just a conductor, but an entire family of musicians. Mrs. White is a pianist and accompanies the Boy Choir, Emily, age 14, plays cello and is a rehearsal assistant with the Apprentice Choir, Duane, 12, is a soprano in the Concert Choir, and William, 7, will soon be moving from Apprentice choir to Training Choir.



The boys look sharp both on and off the stage. While performing, they wear red choir robes, or identical pants, shirts, and a Boy Choir tie. When traveling as a group, the young men learn the "color of the day" from Director White, and wear identical red, yellow, blue, or white polo shirts with a Boy Choir emblem.

"Having them in the same color means they look great, and it also helps to keep up with them!" quipped Mr. White.

Keeping up with them is no small order, for the Boy Choir has traveled throughout the world. Their 2004 Hellenic Tour was a fantastic success, with performances throughout Greece. Their 2005 tour will include performances at Carnegie Hall in New York, and other impressive venues. The Choir has performed at such varied events as the opening of the Braves' season, the holiday lighting of the Georgia State Capitol Tree, and at the great cathedrals of the world. In addition to rehearsals, tours, and performances, the Boy Choir also records music. Their new compact disc, "Garden of Beauty," will be released in June.

While learning the fundamentals of good vocal technique, adding challenging repertoire, and achieving excellence in concert performances are important, the Boy Choir offers more than music education: it also provides a way to build strong, healthy character in young men.

"Our training starts with discipline," said Mr. White. "And our boys take it very seriously. They're at a very impressionable age, just soaking up everything, and character development is very important. We instill respect for each member of the choir and for our audiences, and we learn about our history and what it represents. Our boys learn proper behavior and respect for themselves and others. They're all very proud of being a part of the Boy Choir heritage."

Sometimes the boys get tired at rehearsal or struggle with learning a particularly hard piece of music. "I tell them," says White, "that being tired is a small sacrifice to make to be prepared to give our best at a concert."

David White is, himself, an exemplary model for the young singers. He's animated and full of positive energy, often making sweeping gestures with his hands, which always seem to be in motion. He's able to quote beautiful poetry and the words of choral works from memory. Of course, music education is one thing he strongly encourages.

"Music brings enjoyment to the self, family, others, and our Creator," he said. Though he was a soccer player and enjoys the Braves, he believes that young men can learn to nourish their spirits through music as an even better form of teamwork than sports

All musicians have those "magic moments" that occur every once in a while and capture the essence of what music is all about. One such moment for David White was when he was recording the upcoming CD. "That was a special moment, to be surrounded by my family making music," he said. Another glorious musical experience was when the Boy Choir performed Michael Haydn's Mass at the Salzburg Cathedral, where Michael Haydn had once conducted and even composed the piece for his own Boy Choir.

Mr. White has a special affinity for beauty. "There's nothing in our popular culture in a young boy's life that encourages an appreciation of beauty. The sounds, sights, attitudes, television, videos and popular music all seem against beauty, and yet every great accomplishment throughout history has come from beauty. What is our current culture teaching about beauty?"

It's a tough societal issue to grapple with, but White is teaching beauty one boy at a time on Ponce de Leon Avenue. For the fortunate boys who sing under White's conducting, they are exposed to soul-inspiring music, the ability to travel and see the world as a group, and the ability to grow strong characters—all while learning from a master about the mysteries of beauty that are found everywhere—if only we look for them.

Editors Note: The Atlanta Boy Choir can be reached at 404-378-0064 or by visiting www.Atlantaboychoir.org.

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Gentle Gardening

by Paula Refi

When we arrived in Druid Hills more than 30 years ago, our neighbor across the street, Emory theologian Hebe Rece, told us that the builder of our 1930s home had used a mule to grade the property. Home sites then were gently nestled, one at a time, into the natural topography, and many existing indigenous trees were spared. Today, it's different. No plot of land is considered "unbuildable." Contractors perch dwellings on precipitous slopes, and landscapes are intensely planted with a variety of native and exotic species. Some residents employ a team of landscape professionals to keep them tidy, and automatic irrigation systems ensure that they never lack for water. A growing number of homeowners, however, has begun to look at the broader consequences of what we do in our own backyards.

Adopting a more earth-friendly approach to landscape gardening doesn't demand that we abandon the use of fertilizers and supplemental watering or allow weeds to overtake ornamental species. Nor does it require that the gardener reject design principles in favor of letting nature take its course. Simply put, it suggests that we factor environmental stewardship into our desire for beauty, order, and (for some of us) the need to experiment every year with a few compelling new plants. This mission can be accomplished with only a little adjustment to some routine garden practices.

Take water usage, for example. In-ground irrigation may seem like the most efficient way to ensure that plantings thrive, but too many homeowners kill their plants with kindness. The lawn is the most thirsty landscape component, and over-watering is all too common. It's far better to water the lawn deeply, once a week, than to deliver several shallow applications. Irrigation timers should be adjusted seasonally. On the other hand, established woody plants—trees and shrubsneed little supplemental water. This means that irrigation systems should be designed with several zones, based on the differing needs of beds and lawns. Landscape plants that are conditioned to an abundance of water will be the first to decline when the inevitable drought imposes watering restrictions. Wean over-watered lawns gradually, and they will be more likely to survive a county-mandated watering ban.

Maintaining a monocultural lawn, with nary a weed, is an unnatural condition achieved only by the regular application of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. A few violets or a little clover in the lawn can be a good thing, especially for the bees, whose populations are declining. Rather than signing on with the lawn service "one size fits all" agenda, adopt an "as needed" agreement. Excessive chemicals have a way of traveling off-site to nearby streams where they impact wildlife.

Select plants that are adapted to your site conditions. Sun or shade, wet or dry, nature and the nursery industry provide many possibilities. Consider natives, when appropriate. These are the species that will lure native critters. Aim for a layered landscape (trees, shrubs, and groundcovers) and a diverse plant population. You'll create a garden that is irresistible to wildlife.

If you feed the soil instead of the plants, you can limit the use of chemical fertilizers. Incorporate organic matter (compost, aged manure, or mushroom compost) into new planting beds. This practice improves soil friability and, therefore, root growth. And it promotes a diverse population of soil microbes that makes plants thrive. Limit chemical fertilizers to the heavy feeders, like annuals and flowering shrubs. Established trees and evergreen shrubs should be fine without an annual feeding.

If space permits, keep non-weedy yard waste at home, in a compost pile. Then use the finished product to feed the soil, incorporating it into new beds or applying an inch or two as top-dressing. Compost teems with worms and microbes that are far more valuable than any granular 10-10-10 product from the garden center.

Don't panic at the first sign of an insect or disease problem. Give natural predators an opportunity to intervene and allow a minor problem to run its course. If treatment is required, try a low-impact chemical first, rather than a broad-spectrum product. Read labels thoroughly. Many chemicals adversely affect desirable insect and animal populations. Seek advice on low-impact landscape practices from the DeKalb County Cooperative Extension Service or one of the helpful internet sources. Check out: www.earthwiselandscape.com or aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind.

I can only imagine the effort of the mule that painstakingly prepared a place for the home we love. It's an image that I keep in mind as I nurture my garden, not just maintain it. It's a living thing, so I tend it gently, searching for the most earth-friendly way to accomplish every task. Maybe there should be a gardener's version of the Hippocratic oath: "Above all, do no harm."

2005-06 DHCA Calendar

NOTE: Refreshments begin at 7:00 p.m. Board Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

September 21: September Board Meeting St. John's Lutheran

OCTOBER

October 19: October Board Meeting—St. John's Lutheran

October 23: Tentative Date Fall Picnic

NOVEMBER

November 16: Nov. Board Meeting—St. John's Lutheran

DECEMBER

December 21: December Board Meeting if necessary (Location TBA)

JANUARY 2006

January 18: January Board Meeting—St. John's Lutheran

FEBRUARY 2006:

February 12: 2006 Annual Meeting—2:00–4:00 p.m.

What Division Chairs Do

by Bruce McGregor

Division Chairs are the backbone of the DHCA. They are the equivalent of "boots on the ground." In past years, division chairs were in charge of almost everything that needed doing within their division. This has changed, with the advent of the DHCA Committee system (Transportation; Historic Preservation; Land Use/Planning & Zoning.etc). Now, the division chairs play more of a coordination role. While they still handle routine complaints related to things such as code violations, noise, and assorted nuisances, their main responsibility is to communicate neighborhood issues to the Board and vice versa.

In the case of land use or transportation conflicts, division chairs do things such as organize neighborhood meetings, handle petitions, see that flyers are distributed and new residents welcomed, and set up phone banks. Since each of the nine divisions contains approximately 450 households, a system of block captains is highly recommended. The block captain system is crucial in distributing information on a broad basis. The block captains can be more attuned to specific local issues, given the large size of Druid Hills.

Druid Hills residents needing help or information should first consult their division chairs. To find out who your chair is, check the list on page 2. If you can't figure it out from this list, call the DHCA line at 404-523-DHCA and ask who your chair is. Leave your address and phone number and our omniscient voicemail answerer will let you know. Division chairs often need help in the areas mentioned above, so if you are willing to get involved, let them know.

We all know a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. The system of block captains and division chairs is the chain that unites us. By working with and through your division chair, your source of information and contact with the Board of Directors, you can help assure a strong association, well advised of division concerns.

DHCA revises, reinvigorates committees

One brand new committee and several nearly moribund committees are being reinvented by the DHCA. The first concerns lifestyle and social events. The DHCA has weathered criticism in the past for being too stodgy and not having enough fun. This committee's role is to quash that problem. Its mission will be to show that people can work hard and have a good time, as well. Its first efforts will be concerned with the annual fall picnic. If you enjoy planning and participating in social events, this could be the committee for you.

Another committee will be devoted to increasing membership and figuring out ways to make membership more desirable. Why should anyone want to join the DHCA? This committee will come up with some reasons. It will, of course, work closely with the social committee since many of their goals are similar.

The third newly reinvigorated committee watches and monitors institutional growth in the area. We are so lucky to have great institutions like Emory and its assorted affiliates like the Carlos, Emory's music and theater offerings, Fernbank, Callanwolde and more. How we can have synergistic relationships with these groups will be the thrust of this committee.

If any of these areas intrigue you, call the DHCA voicemail at 404-523-DHCA to express your interest.

Druid Hills Civic Association—Member Benefits

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

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): _____ State:____ ZIP:____ City:____ Home phone:_____ Work phone:____ Mobile phone:_____ Fax:_____ 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 Membership Planning Historic Preservation Land Use/Zoning _Traffic/Urban Design Tour of Homes _Flyer Distribution Peavine Watershed _Other—specify__ [] Please feel free to contact me for help **Annual Dues** (Check one:) Amount Paid: \$____ _Individual/Family Member \$25 - \$49 _Sustaining Member \$50 - \$99 Please make checks payable to Druid Hills Civic Association. _Druid Member \$100 - \$249 Mail to: P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363 Olmsted Member \$250 or more

Essential Phone Numbers

DeKalb County Government404-371-2000
Non-Emergency Police
(dial 911 for emergencies)
Homeland Security
Animal Control
Board of Education
Board of Health
Chamber of Commerce404-378-8000
Code Enforcement
Family & Children Services404-370-5000
Keep DeKalb Beautiful
Parks & Recreation
Roads & Drainage Emergency 404-297-3840
Maintenance
Sanitation
Senior Affairs
Senior Connections
Sheriff's Department
Tax Assessor's Office
Tax Commissioner—Auto Tags 404-298-4000
Voter Registration
Water/Sewer Billing
Water Emergencies
Women's Resource Center

Membership Levels and Benefits:

All membership levels are eligible for discounts from area merchants participating in the DHCA Merchant Program, and all membership levels are entitled to a free Druid Hills Walking tour by the Atlanta Preservation Center on designated DHCA days. Higher membership levels receive additional benefits as described below:

<u>Member—\$25-\$49</u>

Merchant discounts and Druid Hills Walking Tour, plus a \$5 coupon towards a ticket to the Druid Hills Tour of Homes*

Sustaining Member—\$50-\$99

Merchant discounts and Druid Hills Walking Tour, plus two \$5 coupons towards tickets to the Druid Hills Tour of Homes*

<u>Druid Member—\$100-\$149</u>

Merchant discounts and special "Druid Member Day" Druid Hills Walking Tour, plus three \$5 coupons towards tickets to the Druid Hills Tour of Homes* and special recognition in the Druid Hills News (if desired). A great recognition for organizational or business members.

Olmsted Member—\$250 and up

Merchant discounts, special "anytime" ticket for the Druid Hills Walking Tour, four \$5 coupons towards tickets to the Druid Hills Tour of Homes*, and "extra special" recognition in the Druid Hills News highlighting neighborhood projects that benefit directly from these donors' contributions. Especially appropriate for organizational or business members.

* All discounted Druid Hills Home Tour tickets must be bought from a DHCA Division Chair or Board Member.



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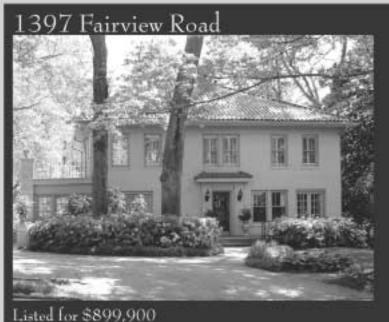
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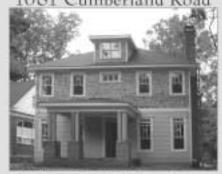


5 Bedroom / 5.5 Bath Nouveau Italian Villa in Midtown, \$1,749,000



5 Bedroom / 3.5 Bath 1885 Victorian Home in Palmetto, \$499,000

1081 Cumberland Road



4 Bedroom / 3,5 Bath Custom Home in Morningside, \$1,030,000

184 Peachtree Battle Ave.



5 Bedroom / 5 Bath Upgraded Home on Great Lot, \$1,635,000

1230 Beech Valley Road

4 Bedroom / 3 Bath On Wonderful Street in Morningside, \$649,900

Piedmont Avenue



7 Bedroom / 6.5 Bath Landmark Mansion in Midtown, \$1,650,000