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March 2025 | Volume 40 | Number 1

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Explore our neighborhood's unique personality

Our Tour is back, May 2-4!

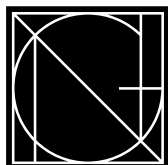
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COMPASS

COVERED IN THIS ISSUE

Join DHCA & partners for these Spring events!

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2-9pm

COCA-COLA "CLEAN UP THE CREEK" CONCERT

Yes Ma'am Family Band will be headlining this year's FREE Coca-Cola "Clean Up the Creek" Concert on the lawn in Emory Village. Brought to you by Emory Village Alliance.



WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 30

DRUID HILLS GALA AT CALLANWOLDE

Join us this year for another great party at the Callanwolde mansion. Joe Gransden will be back, and so will all of the great food, drinks, and fun people. Grab your tickets and book your sitter now!



FRIDAY, MAY 2 - SUNDAY, MAY 4

HISTORIC DRUID HILLS HOME & GARDEN TOUR



SATURDAY, MAY 3 & SUNDAY, MAY 4

CHILDREN'S & GREENSPACE EVENTS

For this year's Habitat Helpers, on Saturday morning, children will be helping to beautify the newly renovated Springdale Park playground in Olmsted Linear Park. We will also be hosting a make-your-own garden fairy event Sunday morning in Deepdene Park, using natural elements found in the woods.



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CONTACT US TODAY 770-623-6220 info@frontporchatlanta.com

Chair's Corner

By *Harriett Lane*

From May 2-4, the Druid Hills Civic Association is delighted to once again showcase the breathtaking homes and landscapes of our historic neighborhood! This year, we are especially excited to feature Deepdene Park, the largest of the five scenic Olmsted Linear Parks nestled within Druid Hills' old-growth forest.

As part of the 2025 Druid Hills Spring Celebration, we are honored to collaborate with esteemed partners, including the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, Olmsted Plein Air Invitational, The Lullwater Garden Club, South Fork Conservancy, Emory Village Alliance, and Georgia Native Plant Society. Together, we are curating a vibrant week of events for residents and visitors alike.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous homeowners, sponsors, and dedicated volunteers. Your support not only makes the Tour possible but also enables the Civic Association to reinvest nearly all proceeds back into the community ensuring Druid Hills remains one of Atlanta's most cherished neighborhoods.

We can't wait to celebrate with you this May!

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one of the best we've ever had!
I can't wait to see you all there.

Molly

Molly Carter
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DH
 HISTORIC DRUID HILLS
*Home & Garden
 Tour*

MAY 2-4, 2025

FRIDAY: 1-5pm, SATURDAY: 10am-5pm
 SUNDAY: 1-5pm

TICKETS
 & INFO



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April 26 - May 4

April 26 • Free Concert in Emory Village
April 30 • Druid Hills Gala at Callanwolde
May 2-4 • Home & Garden Tour



Tour & Gala Tickets

Presented by



This year we highlight the unique personality of Olmsted's Druid Hills.

Frederick Law Olmsted's vision for the ideal suburban development was achieved with Druid Hills - a serene neighborhood with a focus on nature, open space, and community engagement. He called for home styles to be widely varied yet cohesive and designed to blend with the natural environment. Homeowners would incorporate their own tastes and unique interests into their homes and gardens.

Our 2025 Tour celebrates the unique charm and personality of the neighborhood. Guests will make stops in lovely Olmsted Linear Park and have the chance to explore a variety of home styles. Each of our seven featured homes is truly stunning and showcases the unique personal passions of their owners. Fabulous art and rare antiques, mint vintage cars and rare baseball memorabilia, pristine gardens and meticulous renovations - this tour has something for everyone!



1348 Fairview Road



1655 South Ponce de Leon Avenue



Deepdene Park, segment of Olmsted Linear Park



821 Oakdale Road

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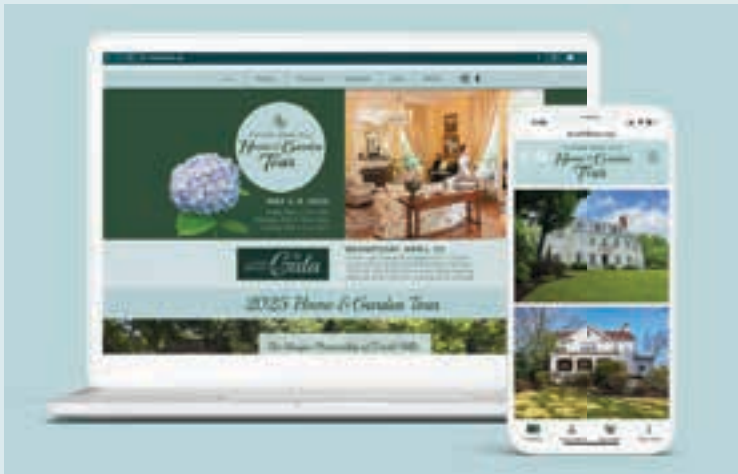
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2249 East Lake Road



Visit DruidHillsTour.org
to learn more!



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Volunteer with the Tour

A fun, rewarding way to serve our community

We may know neighbors who live on our street or the parents of our childrens' friends from school but in this fast-paced life, opportunities to get to know people outside our circles come few and far between. Volunteering during the Historic Druid Hills Home & Garden Tour is not only a great way to contribute to our beautiful neighborhood, but also a fantastic way to learn about its history and a perfect chance to widen those circles!

Take a shift (or two!) as a Docent

The Tour cannot take place without a very large number of docents! During their 4-hour shift, our docents are stationed around our Tour homes and gardens; they direct tour-goers through the homes, point out and explain interesting features, answer questions, and more. Don't worry - docents are given a script to guide them at the beginning of their shift so there's no pressure to memorize or have particular expertise. Plus, docents get a free ticket to the Tour to use outside of their shift(s)! While most of the docents are adults who live in the neighborhood, it's also a great way for high-school and college students to get community service hours.



Become a House Manager

The Tour needs two "House Managers" for each home for the Tour weekend. House managers share the responsibility of managing the property and are the Tour committee's and homeowner's point of contact. They help manage the home's docents, answer questions, and more. This is a very fun way to meet new people!

All serving as House Managers are given Tour tickets and also included in all Tour-related events, including our Appreciation Party and fantastic Druid Hills Gala at Callanwolde on 4/30!

Interested? Email us at 2024tourofhomes@gmail.com

Tour Committee

The Druid Hills Civic Association has a committee dedicated to organizing and running the Historic Druid Hills Home & Garden Tour each year.

We have several leadership roles and committee members who offer help with tasks, provide input, and more. While we have our leadership roles set for 2025, we can always use extra help! We also welcome leadership candidates to apply for a role in 2026.



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HISTORIC
DRUID HILLS

Gala



Wednesday,
April 30th
Callanwolde

2025 is your year to book that sitter and pick out an elegant new outfit to attend our fabulous Historic Druid Hills Gala!

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center will once again welcome our guests to their breathtaking historic mansion on Wednesday, April 30th. Enjoy live music from Jazz legend, Joe Gransden. Kick up your heels with your friends and neighbors while sampling delicious food from Zest Atlanta, signature cocktails courtesy of Herb Chereck at Decatur Package Store, and premium beer and wine at this black-tie-optional event.





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April 30 • Druid Hills Gala at Callanwolde
May 2-4 • Home & Garden Tour



Tour & Gala Tickets

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FREE CONCERT on the Lawn • SATURDAY APRIL 26

Emory Village Alliance Presents the FREE

Coca-Cola Clean Up the Creek Concert



2:30pm: **The Flying Saucers**
4:30pm: **The Gathering**
6:30pm: **Yes Ma'am Family Band**



Bring your Friends, Family & Lawn Chairs | FOOD • DRINKS

Emory Village Alliance presents the Coca-Cola Clean Up the Creek Concert on April 26

The Emory Village Alliance is proud to present the Coca-Cola Clean Up the Creek Concert on Saturday, April 26th, on the Emory Village Green.

The schedule is as follows:

- 2:30 - 4 p.m. The Flying Saucers**
- 4:30 - 6 p.m. The Gathering**
- 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Yes Ma'am Family Band**

The headliner, the Yes Ma'am Family band, is an epic Georgia music collaboration, with connections that span the most prolific years in Peach State music history. The core members are Caroline Aiken, Liz Melendez, and Diane Durrett.

These collaborators invite a “movable feast at the Yes Ma'am Family Band's

expansive table” to honorary and occasional guests Donna Hopkins, Michelle Malone, Danielle Howle, and other talented musicians. Their music includes harmonies to live for; guitar mastery that runs the full gamut of aching subtlety, acoustic intensity, and soulful electricity; and commanding piano that rouses the senses.

Opening bands include Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church's The Gathering and The Flying Saucers, a local band that plays Ventures'-style instrumental music.

Bring the whole family and a blanket to sit on. There will be a food truck and adult beverages for sale.

Funds raised will help South Fork Conservancy complete the stabilization of the creek bank in Emory Village near Panera Restaurant and install a trash trap and rain garden to slow down and absorb storm water.






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“Habitat Helpers” is back for our Spring Celebration!

Kids have the chance to give back (and have loads of fun!) in Olmsted Linear Park

In 2023, the newly launched Druid Hills Spring Celebration featured a children’s Habitat Helpers event, “Help a Hummingbird”, affording children the opportunity to learn about and plant a nectar-producing plant to support hummingbirds as they migrate through Georgia. In 2024, our young neighbors helped create a new butterfly habitat in the Lullwater Conservation Garden, installing both host plant and nectar plants in the new butterfly garden. Georgia butterflies, like the Zebra Swallowtail, and migratory butterflies, like the endangered Monarch, will surely be benefiting from the children’s efforts for years to come.

This year’s planting event will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 10 am and 11 am at the soon-to-be completed Springdale Park playground, part of the most western segment of Olmsted Linear Park. Children will help install special native plants to both beautify the area, and create a new habitat for our wildlife friends.

The previous playground was installed over 20 years ago, and endured years of failed stormwater infrastructure. Collapsed storm pipes created sinkholes near the playground on several occasions, further causing severe flooding. In partnership with the City of Atlanta Parks & Recreation Department, construction commenced on a multi-faceted playground and

stormwater infrastructure improvement project last August. Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) hired Tunnell & Tunnell Landscape Architecture to manage and oversee the entire project, which is now nearly complete after the removal of antiquated stormwater structures and the installation of new stormwater pipes around and underneath the playground. When we go to press, the area still looks under construction but the “fun stuff” will be happening in the coming month! The play equipment will include a nest swing, a climbing sphere and musical flowers, and the beloved spinning saucer will receive a new surface and be reinstalled.

Not the sort of child who enjoys digging in the dirt? Join Sue Sullivan in Deepdene Park on Sunday, May 4th, at 10:00 or 11:00 am, to create your very own Garden Fairy! These assemblages take a “found art” approach, using materials like acorns, seed pods, and twigs to create darling additions to hide in a flower bed or potted plant. And, if you walk through the Deepdene Park in the weeks leading up to this event, you might even spy a few hiding on the trails there.

Visit druidhilltour.org for a complete listing of all Spring Celebration events. It’s going to be such a fun week in Druid Hills! See you there!

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Takeaway Impressions from the 2024 Historic Druid Hills Home & Garden Tour

As we look forward to the 2025 Historic Druid Hills Home & Garden Tour, read more from some of last year's Tour homeowners about their takeaway impressions and participation in Atlanta's longest-running home tour. Homeowners are pictured with custom ink washes of their homes created by artist and Druid Hills resident, Laura Murphey.

Many thanks to Laura Murphey for creating custom designs as thank you gifts to the Tour homeowners. Pictured - Laura Murphey holding her custom design of her own home featured on the 2024 Tour.



"Totally agree - this is a wonderful community and Doug and I were delighted to meet all of you and contribute to this amazing event! Looking forward to new opportunities to see you all again."

- Drs. Viola Vaccarino & Doug Bremner
Pictured - Drs. Viola Vaccarino and Doug Bremner

"Our thanks to Kit, Mike and the multitude of volunteers who prepared for months and worked in our homes to make this year's tour such a success. We enjoyed meeting so many members of our Druid Hills Community and our beautiful neighborhood."



-Sharon & Mike Talbert
Pictured - Sharon Talbert

"Sagar and I were happy to support such a deserving cause. And it was a gift to meet all of you and make new friends! Take good care."

-Jennifer Culley & Sagar Lonial
Pictured - Jennifer Culley



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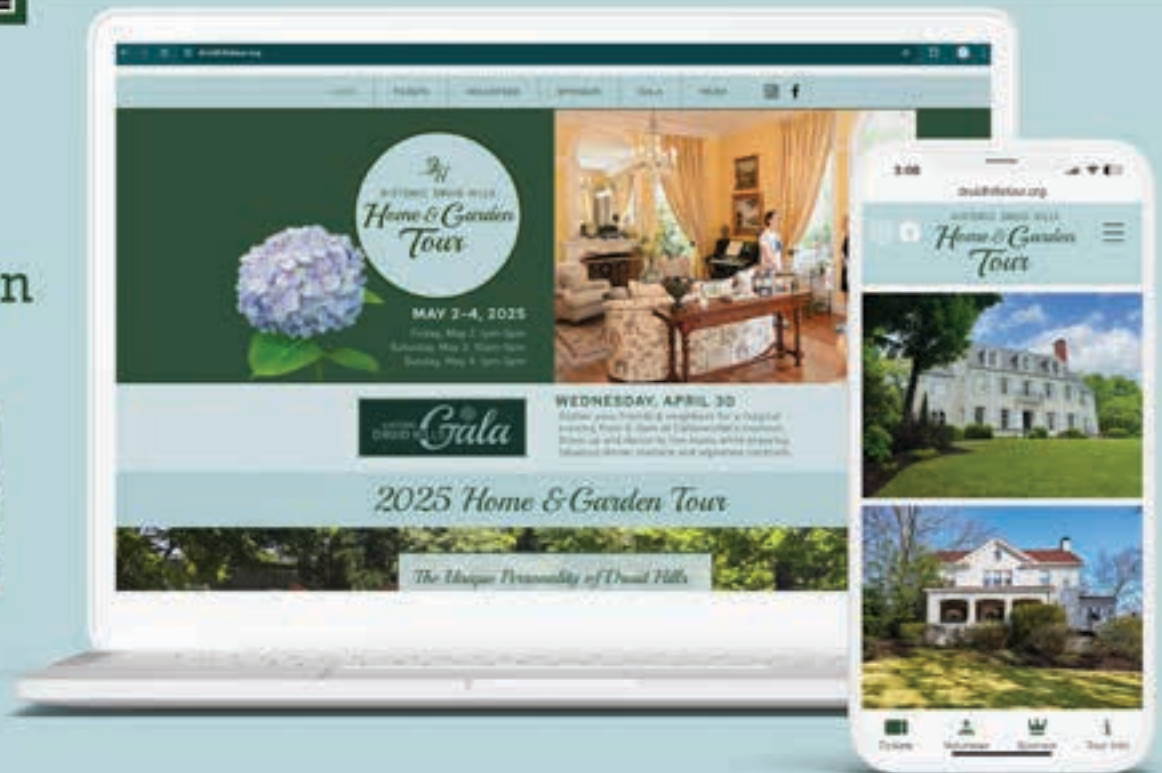
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Special Ticket Deal for DHCA Members!



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DHCA Members Get One Half-Price Tour Ticket

A special member perk for 2025

Our Tour is the Druid Hills Civic Association's largest fundraiser of the year. The money we raise helps the DHCA support our local parks & green space, provide grants to neighborhood schools and other local non-profits, host or sponsor community events, provide great communication with our neighbors, and much more.

We have a special Tour perk for current DHCA members.... we are offering one half-price Tour ticket for every member household!

- Current 2025 members, you should have received an email from us with a special code for \$20 off of your total ticket purchase. Contact us if you need the code at 2025DruidHillsTour@gmail.com

- Members who join through the Tour will receive the code in your membership confirmation email. Join DHCA by visiting druidhills.org or using the QR.
- Please note, the Tour is DHCA's biggest fundraiser of the year so we ask that you use the code only ONE TIME per household membership and do not share it.

Haven't been a DHCA member in a while? This is your year to sign up! Use the QR code or visit druidhills.org and help the Druid Hills Civic Association make a difference in our wonderful neighborhood.



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PARK VIEWS

News from the DHCA Parks Committee

IT'S SPRING PLANTING TIME!

The weather is lovely, and you are wanting to go outside to plant. Consider turning an area of thick monkey grass into a bountiful area of native plants.

By Donna Shapiro, Parks and Greenspace Committee

Did you know that Monkey Grass (Mondo/Liriope) is not good for our parks, forests, and greenspaces?

Many of us have planted this "grass" as a substitute for turf grass. We thought we were doing a good thing, cutting down on water needs and mowing. Unfortunately, it turns out that we are causing a problem in spite of our good intentions.

A reason we have chosen *Ophiopogon japonicus* (mondo) or *Liriope muscari/spicata* is that these plants grow easily in shade and are low maintenance. Also, they are evergreen and have pretty purple-flowering spikes. Those flowers, however, turn into berries that birds readily spread to our forested areas. Because this plant grows so well in the shade, it takes over the forest floor, creating thick mats that suffocate our native ground layers. (Trees ATL)

Why should we care about this? Why does it matter that the forest floor loses its native ground layers? The reason is that the forest floor is extremely important for life on Earth. The native ground layers of our forests produce vital nutrients that are returned to the soil and are used by trees, fungi and plant life to grow and survive. A healthy forest sustains more than half of the world's land-based animals, plants and insects and over 1.5 billion people (World Wildlife Federation).

According to the World Health Organization and the National Institute of Health, forests mitigate floods, droughts and the effects of noise; purify water; bind toxic substances; maintain water quality and soil fertility; help in erosion control; protect drinking water resources; and can assist with processing wastewater. Forests can mitigate climate change and may help in regulating infectious diseases. Woodlands and trees have a positive impact on air quality through deposition of pollutants to the vegetation canopy, reduction of summertime air temperatures, and a decrease of ultraviolet radiation.

If preserving our forest floor is important to you, you can replace mondo and liriope with similar-looking native sedges such as Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), Appalachian sedge (*Carex Appalachianica*), Texas sedge (*Carex texensis*), Blue Wood sedge (*Carex flaccosperma*), or Plantainleaf sedge (*Carex plantaginea*) or other evergreen groundcovers like native pachysandra (*Pachysandra procumbens*) and Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*). For sunny spots, there is the magnificent blue-eyed grass (*Sysirinchium angustifolium*).

Go to <https://gnps.org/georgias-native-plants/sources-native-plants/> to find sources.



Blue Wood Sedge



Blue-eyed Grass



Pachysandra Procumbens

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PARK VIEWS News from the DHCA Parks Committee

New and Noteworthy News from Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA)

Contributed by Olmsted Linear Park Alliance

Olmsted Linear Park Alliance Welcomes Mike Paul

OLPA is thrilled to welcome Mike Paul as our new Park Maintenance Manager! Mike brings over 12 years of experience from the Piedmont Park Conservancy, where he managed the volunteer program before transitioning to operations, overseeing IT and facilities maintenance. His passion for parks and the outdoors extends beyond work—he enjoys tending to his own yard and spotting diverse bird species at his feeders. In his free time, Mike embraces music and art, playing the drums, dabbling in woodworking, and listening to records with his wife and their cat, Pepper. Welcome to the team, Mike!



Stream and Trail Restoration Efforts Move Forward in Deepdene Park

For years, Deepdene has struggled with severe storm runoff, leading to stream bank erosion and trail damage throughout the forest. Earlier this year, OLPA met with representatives from DeKalb County Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs and Pond & Co. to discuss plans for stream bank and trail restoration. This project will incorporate natural features to enhance stream biodiversity while stabilizing the eroding banks. Foot crossings will be reinforced, and walking trails will be resurfaced. The restoration plans are still being developed and will be shared for public comment later this year.

Meanwhile, OLPA continues its woodland restoration efforts in partnership with Michael Hudgins and his Woods Keeper team. These conservation efforts focus on removing invasive species such as liriope, chaff flower, wisteria, English ivy, and privet so that native species, such as Bloodroot, will thrive. Volunteers gather in Deepdene every third Saturday to support this work. If you're interested in volunteering, you can register through Hands On Atlanta at <https://bit.ly/41FjpfJ> or on the OLPA website at atlantaolmstedpark.org/volunteer.



Bloodroot



Stream in Deepdene Park



PARK VIEWS

News from the DHCA Parks Committee



Freedom Park Photography Contest

Freedom Park is Atlanta's designated Art Park. As part of our efforts to promote the arts in the City of Atlanta, the Freedom Park Conservancy is launching an annual photography contest—The Park is Art! This photo contest will be open for submissions from April 25 to May 8, 2025. Submission categories will include professionals, hobbyists, teens, and youth. Submitted photos should be scenes or objects from Freedom Park. Keep your eyes peeled for more announcement details in early April on FreedomPark.org.

Pop-Up Atlanta – Hosted by Olmsted Network

The Olmsted Network is heading down south on April 4-6, and you are invited to join us for three days of food, fun and educational tours. Itinerary includes:

Friday, April 4:

The trip will begin at 6 pm with dinner at Mary Mac's Tea Room. Known as Atlanta's Dining Room, Mary Mac's has famously served up classic Southern cooking and hospitality since 1945. Dinner will include a buffet of Southern staples, a brief presentation on the Olmsted Network and Atlanta's Olmsted heritage and the chance to mingle with other Olmsted fans. Dinner tickets are available for \$50 each.

Saturday, April 5:

On Saturday morning, the group will see firsthand how Atlanta continues to champion Olmsted's vision of "parks for all people" through projects like the Atlanta Beltline, a 22-mile railroad corridor that has been redeveloped into a series of parks and trails. We'll stroll down the vibrant Eastside Trail before

heading to Druid Hills—Olmsted's last suburb—for a tour of Olmsted Linear Park and glimpse into the Spring Festival on Ponce. After sampling the festival food trucks and snapping a photo with Big Head Fred, the group will be swept off to tour the LP Grant Mansion and Grant Park with our local partners. The day will end with dinner and shopping at the iconic Ponce City Market.

Sunday, April 6:

Piedmont Park—with its stunning views of the Midtown skyline—will mark the last tour on our whirlwind trip. Expert guides will walk us around the lake and through the Meadow, highlighting the park's community gardens, the Atlanta Botanical Garden and more. Staying in the city that afternoon? Our partners at Olmsted Linear Park Alliance are hosting an event with Big Head Fred. Details coming soon.

More info: olmsted.org/events/pop-up-atlanta/

Registration closes on March 21. Space is limited to 25, though, so please secure your spot soon. For questions, feel free to email us at info@olmsted.org.

Update on Oxford Streetscape

Contributed by Emory Village Alliance

After just shy of a decade, the County is implementing the Oxford streetscape improvement project that EVA proposed, and provided a sketch plan for, in June of 2015. The photos in this article were taken in January 2025. The design realigns the head-on parking in front of shops on Oxford to be parallel like the rest of the parking on the street. This makes the sidewalk safe for pedestrian movement and creates outdoor dining space in front of the restaurants. EVA welcomes your donations to support landscaping in the planter strips next to the new curbing.



DRUID HILLS NEWS WELCOMES YOUR ARTICLES

The Druid Hills News is published quarterly by the Druid Hills Civic Association. Articles are welcome for consideration. Please

limit unassigned articles to no more than 600 words or notify the editor in advance.

Submissions may be edited for length or grammar. Please send articles and photos to editor@druidhills.org.

DEADLINES

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

JUNE 2025

DEADLINE - MAY 10

SEPTEMBER 2025

DEADLINE - AUGUST 10

EDITORS

Managing Editor: Sarah Reidy-Ferguson

Editors: Fran Putney / Sharon Day

Communications Chair: Michael Ross

Design Consultant: Hillary Kilfeather

STAY INFORMED!

Don't miss important information about neighborhood events and community concerns. Subscribe to DHCA's monthly e-newsletter at: www.druidhills.org or scan this QR code.



Experience Live Music Under the Stars at Callanwolde's 2025 Spring Concert Series

Contributed by Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

Get ready for an unforgettable season of live music under the stars at Callanwolde! The fine art center's highly anticipated Spring Concert Series showcasing an incredible line up of jazz, blues, R&B, and indie-rock artists kicks off on March 28. From soulful melodies to high-energy performances, this series promises something for every music lover.

The Callanwolde Amphitheater, nestled in the historic 12-acre Callanwolde estate, provides an intimate atmosphere to spend time with friends, unwind, and experience an evening of live music surrounded by the natural beauty of the Callanwolde estate. The amphitheater features VIP tables and General Admission lawn seating. Guests are invited to bring blankets, chairs, food and drinks.

You can even host a special event during an amphitheater concert! Special event packages are offered for groups from 10 to 50. Outside food, drink, and catering are welcome.

And while enjoying a magnificent evening of music, you will be supporting Callanwolde Fine Arts Center's mission of providing the Atlanta community with premier, accessible arts education, especially to the underserved, while promoting enjoyment of the arts at the historic and inspiring Callanwolde estate. As a leading provider of high-quality and affordable arts programs for all ages, Callanwolde strives to support the community with classes, workshops, special events, gallery exhibitions, and more.

March 28: Ruby Velle and the Soulphonics

Always a sold-out show, the Atlanta band entertains audiences with a mixture of funk, Southern soul, Motown, and R&B. Much more than just a group of revivalists trying to create a period piece, powerhouse singer Velle and her band will settle for nothing less than bringing these classic sounds glimmering with a fresh new modern sheen. A world-class modern soul revue topped off with the cherry of Velle's sultry voice, she deftly toggles between sweetly crooned R&B tunes and expertly belted barn-burning get-downs that can instantly jolt a roomful of wallflowers into a wild dance party.

April 11: Rose Hotel

Rose Hotel's label debut *A Pawn Surrender* sees Atlanta-based singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Jordan Reynolds claiming her agency with a 10-song set of nuanced indie-rock songcraft that pulls from a palette of psychedelic shimmer and folk influence via her Southeastern roots. With a drive to pay homage to the legends of the art form, she uses the trappings of psychedelic rock not as source material, but as ornamentation, as she explores relationships, feminine rage, lust, temptation, blissful ignorance, frightening apathy, delusions, and illusions.

April 25: Luke Winslow King

Luke Winslow-King has spent his career as a guitarist, singer, producer, and songwriter, crafting a rich, soulful tapestry that blends delta blues, roots, rock, and folk. His music is a journey through the heart of America, characterized by masterful guitar work, captivating lyrics, and a voice that resonates with authenticity. After spending over 15 years in New Orleans, Winslow-King has taken his refined craft to stages across the globe, captivating audiences with dynamic performances and forming deep, personal connections with listeners.

May 9: Ever More Nest

Ever More Nest's dynamic, homegrown voice—hugged by lush, church-pew harmonies—is complemented by ghostly, effusive guitars, spirited mandolin and banjo, mournful fiddle, and a rhythm section steady as a country train. Whether in a cinematic crescendo of all-consuming sound or in a quiet soliloquy of only voice and guitar, Ever More Nest allows audiences to wade deep into the waters of their humanness or stay safely ashore, where the rhythm of waves – the steady rock and roll – bring contentedness and joy.

For more information and to buy tickets for the Spring Concert, visit <https://callanwolde.org/events/>



The Big Picture: Tracking Druid Hills Crime

By Gary Tapp

The Druid Hills Civic Association’s Public Safety Committee has been tracking crime in Druid Hills, on a monthly basis, since May 2018. These statistics provide an opportunity for an objective look at how much crime occurs, what type of crimes occur, and determining any seasonal patterns. This article gives highlights of our larger report, which is available on the DHCA website. (Chart numbers reflect their numbers in the larger report.)

Our information for DeKalb County comes from Crime Mapping.com, which is a private, national database to which DeKalb County feeds data. For Atlanta, we use the Atlanta Police Department’s Open Data Portal. Both DeKalb and Atlanta also send their reports to the FBI, where they are compiled into the national Uniform Crime Report (UCR). Ellen Meshnick, our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, compiles the reports from these two databases. Doug Rollins is chair of the DHCA Public Safety Committee.

Chart 1 shows the overall trend since May 2018, with the top (red) line showing crimes on all 105 streets in Druid Hills, and the bottom (blue) line showing crimes on streets that are primarily single-family residences.

As you can see, except for a large outbreak of car break-ins over one week in November 2022, crime in Druid Hills fluctuates widely, but it has shown a gradual declining trend over the last 6.7 years. The average number of crimes per month has fallen from about 29 in the 2018-2019 period to about 25 in December 2024.

Chart 1 shows some fairly clear seasonal patterns. The October-January period tends to see higher crime numbers, and summers tend to see the lowest. For example, highs for the years occurred in October in 2018 and 2019, in January in 2021 and 2023, in November in 2022 and 2024, and in February in 2020. Lows for the years occurred in July in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Lows were also recorded in May in 2021, June in 2023, and March in 2024.

Chart 1: Crime in All DH Streets and on Single-Family Streets

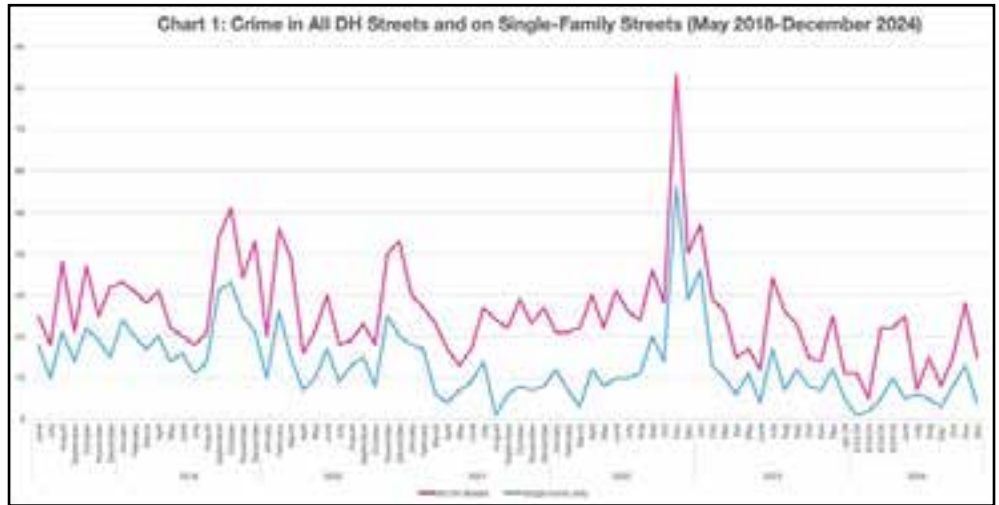


Table 1 provides a detailed summary of the types of crimes reported in Druid Hills, with violent crimes in the first section and property crimes below that. Note that the 2018 data only includes May-December of that year. Also note that we can only capture crimes that are reported to the police by the public. Over the entire period, about 90% of all reported crimes in DH were property crimes, and 10% were violent crimes, of which 82% were simple assaults.

Table 1: Summary of Violent and Property Crimes

VIOLENT						
Year	Murder	Robbery	Simple Assault	Agg Assault	Rape	All violent
2018	0	0	12	0	0*	12
2019	0	2	21	1	0*	24
2020	0	3	24	4	1*	32
2021	0	3	34	2	2*	41
2022	0	1	19	5	2*	27
2023	0	1	27	3	4	35
2024	0	2	40	3	0*	45
TOTALS	0	12	177	18	9	216
PROPERTY						
	Residential Burglaries	Larceny/theft	Auto Theft	Other*	All property	All Crimes
2018	5	157	12	40*	214	226
2019	13	291	14	34*	352	376
2020	8	225	20	48*	301	333
2021	8	167	18	44*	237	278
2022	4	289	18	47*	358	385
2023	9	176	12	53*	250	285
2024	10	60	8	62	137	182
TOTALS	57	1365	102	328	1849	2065
2018 data is May-December				*Includes Scams, Swindles, DUI, Vandalism		

PROPERTY CRIMES

About 90% of all crimes in Druid Hills are property crimes; until midway through 2023 about 80% of all crimes were auto-related larcenies (primarily auto-break-ins). Other property crimes include damage to property, vandalism, shoplifting, theft of landscaping tools, and a rapidly increasing set of scams and swindles.

Chart 2: Auto-Related Crimes Have Been Declining

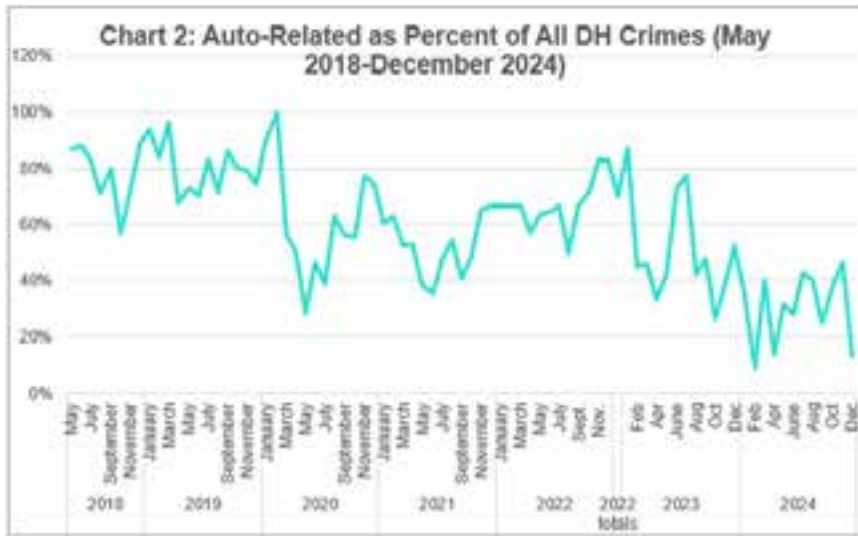


Chart 2 includes both auto-break-ins and stolen cars, although DH averages only about 15 stolen cars per year, or just over one per month. In fact, the last two years have seen the lowest number of auto thefts in DH since we began our tracking (see Table 1). Note that Chart 2 shows the percentage of all DH crime that is auto-related, and that between May 2018 and January 2023 we spent most of the time between 70% and 100%. But since February 2023 we have had only three months when that percentage has been higher than 50%.

VIOLENT CRIMES

The incidence of violent crime in Druid Hills is so low that we can almost list them all individually. For robberies, for example, (taking property from a person or persons by force or threats of force) we have had only 12 in Druid Hills in the 6.7 years of tracking, or about 1.8 per year. They included a landscaping truck on Oxford, Jimmy John’s in the Village, a domestic robbery in the Sage Hill parking lot, and two street robberies (Emory Village, and East Lake Dr.). Only one robbery appears to have occurred on a single family street (Beech Valley Rd.).

Most of the violent crimes (177, or about 26 per year) were simple assaults, which can include a punch, a shove, throwing something, spitting, unwanted touching, or making threats. About 72% of those cases occurred in institutional or commercial areas, including the two health facilities on Briarcliff (Laurel Heights and Pruitt Health), Emory Hospital or its parking decks, and Emory Village. Only about 14% of the simple assaults occurred on single-family streets. The remainder of cases occurred in apartment complexes.



Opportunities to Help Your Druid Hills Patrol

For nearly 30 years, the police officers of the Druid Hills Patrol have provided surveillance of our streets and completed security checks on our homes. Our off-duty police officers have worked hard to keep our community as safe as it is today. Recent crime reports attest to the effectiveness of the DHP, with the most recent statistics showing fewer reports of crime than in 2023. These statistics indicate that residential property crime in Druid Hills is significantly lower than in some adjoining neighborhoods while much of the crime reported occurs around commercial and apartment areas.

These statistics are encouraging, and they suggest that our Druid Hills residents are careful about their property and follow the precautions found in recent Druid Hills newsletters. And, we have our DHP officers to thank for supporting the safety of our community.

Our team of dedicated volunteers invites you to join us to maintain this level of safety and security. Three years ago we elected new officers for DHP. As their terms end, we are looking for new volunteers to share those responsibilities. Whether you are a new resident or an old-timer, we need you!. Currently we are looking for a Recording Secretary, a Membership Committee, and others who would be willing to serve on an “as needed” basis when there are specific tasks. If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors and helping our organization, please send us an email to admin@druidhillspatrol.org.

To become a member of the Druid Hills Patrol, please visit our website www.DruidHillsPatrol.org to become a member. Each and every additional member provides more hours for a security police officer to patrol our community.

Spotlight on The Franklin Players

Contributed by Ben Franklin Academy

Ben Franklin Academy's Theatre Program, home to the Franklin Players, is devoted to immersion into the study of drama (the script), performance (the delivery method), and theatre (the profession). With a three-show season each year, they balance experimentation with classic foundations.

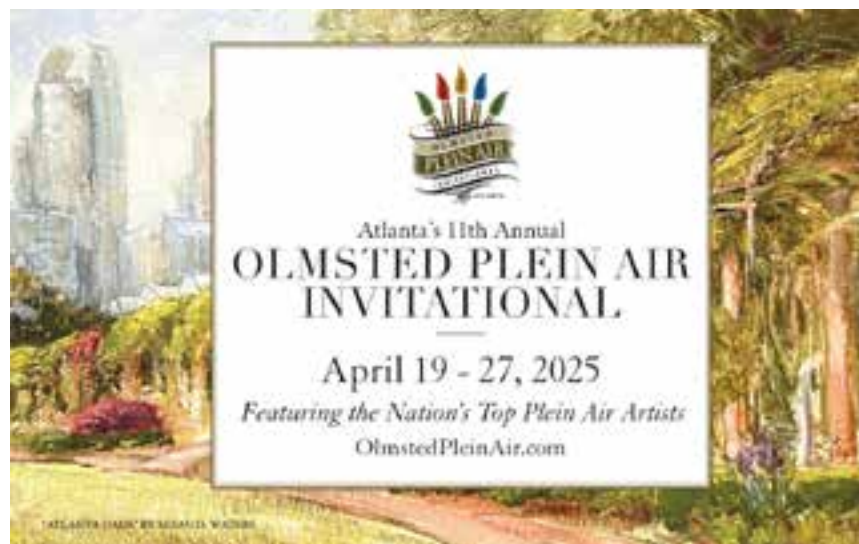
The Franklin Players look for a challenge as they search for plays to present. The students try to find pieces that are well-written examples of their literary genre as well as those which have potential for embracing new technical effects and contain an idea or message they can pursue in a deeper way for conversation on and off the stage.

This season the Players selected Eric Coble's *Swagger*.

The play was brought to life by three very different dream-makers who were brought together in a seeming act of violence, which was captured by a phone camera and went viral. The play used both humor and tragedy to deliver an impact to the audience. The production included a live DJ, who colored the scenes with music and sounds from the streets of the neighborhood. It was a huge success with the audience.

Ben Franklin Academy respects every member of our community, and works to foster an inclusive community. The high school is dedicated to providing equal opportunities and equal access to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, genetic information, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Ben Franklin Academy offers rolling admission. Families may call the school at 404-633-7404 to set up a personalized tour. Please visit the website at: www.benfranklinacademy.org/admissions/getting-started





Exciting Spring Events Happening at Druid Hills High School

Contributed by Druid Hills High School

Druid Hills High School has so much happening this Spring! Red Devil Productions is putting on a production of “The Addams Family Musical” on April 23-25 in the Alfred Uhry Theatre. (Did you know that our theatre’s namesake graduated from Druid Hills High School in 1954 before going on to win a Pulitzer Prize, an Academy Award, and multiple Tony Awards -- the only playwright in history to win all three?). Our Spring Fine Arts Showcase will be in early May and the Druid Hills ESPYs and Hall of Fame Ceremony will celebrate student-athletes and their achievements on May 14th.

Our primary fundraiser each year is the famous Red Devil Bash, on Friday, March 28, and we cordially invite everyone in the community to join us! Hosted by the Druid Hills Education Foundation, this fun-filled, adults-only evening is our annual benefit auction to support Druid Hills High School. This year’s event will be held on the top floor of Emory University’s Goizueta Business School. Tickets are \$65 in advance and \$75 at the door, and include food, beer and wine, music, games, and more!

Support our Druid Hills Red Devils! charityauction.bid/DHHSauction2025

Blossoming Connection: Flowers from Paideia’s Farm Brighten Our Community

Contributed by The Paideia School

Paideia seniors Raffaella Merino and Lucy Rotenberg are co-leaders of the high school club PiBlooms, a service-based club that distributes flowers to a local nonprofit nursing home. The club saw an opportunity to use the flowers that were grown on the farm to enhance biodiversity as an equal opportunity to brighten seniors’ lives.

Over the past 15 years, Paideia’s urban agriculture program has expanded from a few on-campus garden beds to a two-acre farm in East Atlanta. Throughout the school year, students of all grade levels work with Director of Urban Agriculture Emily Roberts, Farm Manager Erin Cescutti and Farm Assistant Cassie Chandonnet to maintain Pi Farm, planting and harvesting a variety of vegetables, fruits and herbs. In 2024, Pi Farm shared 7,723 pounds of produce with our community.

During the summer of 2023, more than 40 high school students volunteered on Pi Farm, including Lucy and Raffaella. One hot June day, the girls overheard a conversation between Cescutti and a parent who was appreciating the beautiful blooms that surrounded the rows of crops. “I heard Erin say that she wished we could do something with the beautiful flowers, but that there just wasn’t enough bandwidth for such an endeavor,” recalled Raffaella. Lucy heard the same interaction, and both girls realized this could be an opportunity to start something new and impactful.

Through their previous work at the farm, Lucy and Raffaella formed a strong sense of what productive, considerate civic engagement should be. With the support of faculty members, the girls utilized the resources available to them to share these flowers with the horticulture therapy program at a local nonprofit nursing home. “The knowledge that these flowers will brighten a community member’s day makes the act of harvesting exponentially more meaningful,” shared Lucy.

Throughout the 2024-25 school year, PiBlooms have continued their partnership with the nursing home, while also providing blooms for multiple campus events and spreading a whole lot of joy.



PiBlooms club leaders (L-R) Frank Yeboah '26, Eloise Miller '26, Lucy Rotenberg '25 and Raffaella Merino '25 pose with flowers harvested from Paideia’s farm.

Warmer Weather Means New Discoveries at Fernbank Museum

Explore new exhibits, films and more this spring.

Contributed by Fernbank Museum

As the days get longer, spend a few hours exploring Fernbank Museum where new exhibits, films, events, programs and more are coming this spring.

Opening this February is the exhibit *Ultimate Dinosaurs*, where guests can explore the bizarre and fascinating dinosaur species that evolved in isolation in South America, Africa and Madagascar. Through an impressive blend of skeletal displays and augmented reality, visitors will learn how the supercontinent Pangaea broke apart and altered the ancient world, forcing dinosaurs to adapt and evolve differently.

Inside *Ultimate Dinosaurs* guests will find 14 full-scale dinosaur skeletons and a variety of casts and fossils, including displays from the *Eoraptor*, *Malawisaurus* and *Suchomimus*. There is also a fully articulated *Giganotosaurus* skeleton, which is one of the largest land predators to ever exist. Guests will also be able to interact with responsive technology and real dinosaur fossils in this exhibit, created to bring these dinosaurs to “life” as you explore.

Accompanying *Ultimate Dinosaurs* is a lecture by Dr. Anthony Martin, a professor of practice in Emory University’s Department of Environmental Sciences. This lecture, entitled “On Frozen Ground Down Under: Polar Dinosaurs, Insects and Other Cretaceous Fossils of Australia,” will be about how prehistoric creatures were able to survive near the North and South Poles. Dr. Martin’s lecture is slated to occur early this March.

Later this season is the outdoor artistic exhibit *Spirit Guides: Fantastical Creatures from the Workshop of Jacobo and María Ángeles*, opening March 29. Visitors will be able to immerse themselves in a breathtaking exhibit created by renowned Oaxacan artists Jacobo and María Ángeles. Presented among the natural environment of Fernbank’s WildWoods and inspired by the Zapotec calendar, this collection of brightly colored and richly patterned sculptures depicts imaginary hybrid animals.

In the Giant Screen Theater, audiences can travel to the harsh Namib Desert in Southwest Africa as they follow baby elephant Little Foot and her family in *Desert Elephants*. This film depicts the incredible abilities elephants possess to help them survive one of the driest places on Earth, from foreseeing sandstorms to finding underground aquifers, offering an inspiring example of survival and hope.

Fernbank will continue to host its monthly adults-only series, *Fernbank After Dark*, on the second Friday of every month. The next one is *Fernbank After Dark: Ultimate Time Explorers* from 7 – 11 p.m. on Friday, March 14, where guests can travel back in time to explore science and culture from the past.

Finally, to put a spring in your step and celebrate the season is *Little Critters Day* at Fernbank. From 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, guests can enjoy time with baby animals, as well as themed crafts and activities on this *Discovery Day*. *Little Critters Day* events are included with general admission.

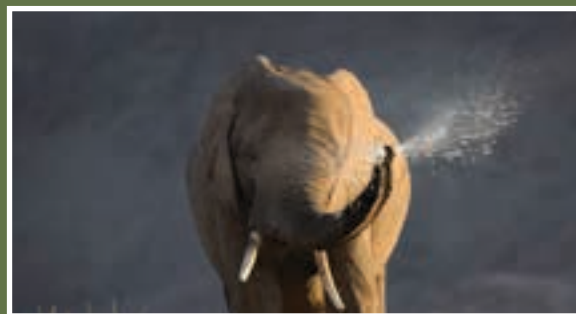
For more information on everything Fernbank has to offer, please visit www.fernbankmuseum.org.



Ultimate Dinosaurs is presented by the Science Museum of Minnesota.



Spirit Guides: Fantastical Creatures from the Workshop of Jacobo and María Ángeles is organized by Denver Botanic Gardens.



Desert Elephants is produced by Definition Studios, and distributed by K2 Studios in IMAX®/Giant Screen and other specialty theaters located in science centers, museums, and other cultural destinations and attractions worldwide. Sponsored locally by Isdell Family Foundation with additional support provided by the McClatchey Foundation.



Little Critters Day is sponsored by Novelis and Primrose Schools in Georgia.

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“Gather in the Gardens” at Frazer Center

By Dina Shadwell

Frazer Center, a longtime champion of inclusion for people with disabilities, invites our Druid Hills neighbors to our annual fundraising gala, Gather in the Gardens, on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the historic Cator Woolford Gardens.

This special evening is an opportunity for community members to come together in support of Frazer Center’s mission to foster inclusion and opportunity for people of all abilities. For over 76 years, Frazer Center has provided high-quality early education for children of all abilities—including early intervention services for those at risk of developmental delays—as well as employment and enrichment opportunities for adults with disabilities.

Guests attending Gather in the Gardens will enjoy a catered dinner, signature cocktail, beer, wine, spirits, live entertainment, a silent auction, and more fun ways to bid and win.



Gather in the Gardens guests enjoying dinner under a tent in the Cator Woolford Gardens meadow.

New This Year!

Tour the elegant 1920s Cator Woolford Estate House during a pre-event VIP cocktail hour. Guests will learn about the history of the house and its connection to Frazer Center’s mission. The reception will also be a chance to meet Frazer Center’s new CEO, DeAnna Julian, and connect with fellow supporters.

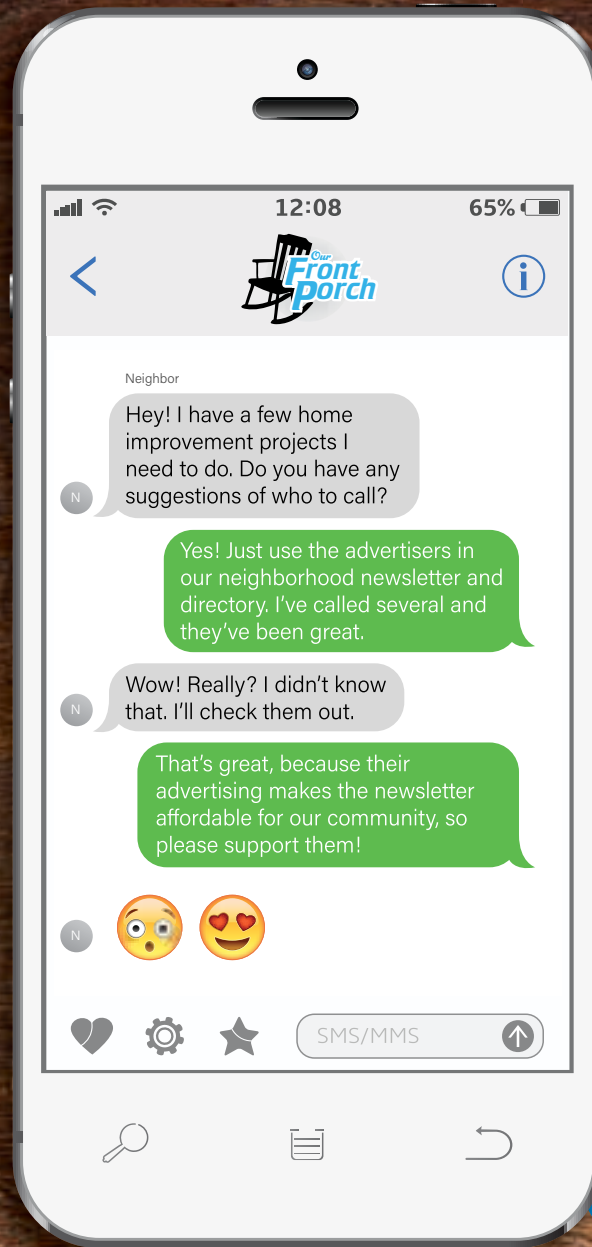
Neighbors are encouraged to join this inspiring evening in support of a more inclusive Atlanta. Tickets and more information are available at frazercenter.org/about-us/events/gather-in-the-gardens-2025.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Director of Development Ashley Jackson-Dawkins at a.jackson-dawkins@frazercenter.org.



Tour the 1920s Cator Woolford Estate House during the pre-event VIP reception.





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The following are sponsors* in other community newsletters, published by Our Front Porch. **BOLD LISTINGS** have an advertisement in this publication. (*Included sponsors have met purchase criteria.)

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This residence is based on a design by Atlanta architect Leila Ross Wilburn. The owners are celebrating the home's 100th birthday this year. The home and grounds have been lovingly restored over 27 years and offer a little something for everybody; extensive gardens, vintage furnishings from varied eras, antiques, a collection of portraits, and numerous collections of auto related items from models to hood ornaments. Of special interest is the "Garage-mahal" featuring a '58 Bonneville, '60 Imperial, and a 1961 Lincoln Continental; as well as vintage signs, gas pumps, and a pair of working jukeboxes!



95TH ANNIVERSARY

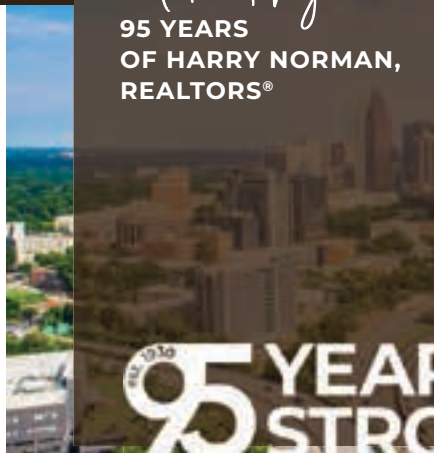
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