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100 Years of Callanwolde

By Andrew Keenan, Executive Director

The Callanwolde estate has survived some interesting events over the past 100 years: The Great Depression, World War II, changing from a private to public home, and (perhaps its greatest threat) a wrecking ball. Many newcomers to Atlanta do not realize that Callanwolde was at one point abandoned and vandalized. Thanks to the Callanwolde Foundation (comprised of many citizens from Druid Hills), DeKalb County, and the DeKalb Federation Garden Club, the 12-acre estate was saved in 1971. They and many others took on the herculean task of cleaning up the grounds, restoring the organ and the many buildings, all while creating a reputable arts education program.

For the past 48 years, the community has made great strides in returning Callanwolde to its original grandeur. Long overdue development, major landscaping improvements, and restoration of the

Retreat, Greenhouse, Gardener's Cottage, Barn, Amphitheater, and Mansion interior were excellent investments. Now we are reaping the benefits of all that hard work with thriving programs and well-attended events.

If I've learned anything in my first two years as Executive Director, it is not to ignore problems or opportunities. I think of problems as weeds to be pulled and opportunities as seeds to be sown. My first year, we pulled a lot of weeds, but over this past year we have been planting new seeds. New opportunities are now starting to sprout all over the place, including our ability to provide financial aid to disabled veterans and other people in need.

We have gotten exceedingly good at putting on concerts and art festivals. So good, in fact, that we are partnering with DeKalb County on a festival of

diverse art, music, and food during the weekend of September 19 and 20. We are calling the event the "Callanwolde 12 Acres Festival" because it will occupy the entire footprint of the Callanwolde estate.

As we celebrate our centennial, it's a good time to reflect on what we've accomplished and what Callanwolde may look like moving forward. Will our reputation grow? Will we become an internationally recognized cultural center, attracting historians and artists from all over the world? Whatever we decide to do, know that I am truly thankful for all the support from the Atlanta community, board members, staff, and many of you reading this article, who have invested in Callanwolde during the past century. I look forward to putting in the work to ensure Callanwolde inspires more people than we ever imagined possible.

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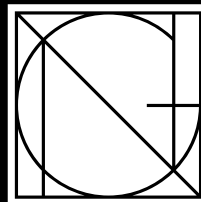
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President's Corner

By Kit Eisterhold

I had some pretty grand ambitions (some might say delusions of grandeur) about all the things I wanted to accomplish in my first year as President of the DHCA. To put it charitably: many of these things are, well, still a work in progress.

Paraphrasing President George "W" Bush (or rather Will Ferrell's impersonation of him—I often confuse the two), maybe I "misunderestimated" the job. I mean, "this Presidenting thing is HARD."

I spent some time over the holidays, and several weeks afterward, licking my wounds and musing on my shortcomings as President. Being shorter than Tom Cruise (though I believe I edge out Daniel Radcliffe and

Elijah Wood, by an inch), shortcomings come naturally to me. It is something I have become accustomed to my whole life. And I figure whoever was dumb enough to tap me for President should have been well aware of this, and prepared to suffer the consequences. At least that's how I rationalized things over the holidays.

One thing I know for certain I have done in my first year: I have spent a great deal of time listening to people's opinions about how they feel the DHCA comes up short. I have done my best to truly hear—and the most recurring criticism is: *failure to communicate*.

I believe improving that communication should be a priority for the DHCA this year.

As I write this, the DHCA is engaged with a professional consultant who is facilitating our communication with the broader Druid Hills community via surveys, focus groups, and

interviews. In the process we hope to get a clearer picture of what the neighborhood really wants and needs, and what DHCA can do to help.

This is an important first step. But beyond that, even long after the consultant has finished, we would like to know what you think. You can email me directly at President@druidhills.org with any concerns, ideas, and suggestions you might have.

I would especially like to know if you have any ideas about how we could better communicate with you. What would you like us to communicate about? The plans and the public works of the City or the County? Safety issues at the schools? Public events? Something else? And how

do you think we could communicate this better? Via direct mailings? Eblasts? Social media?

Your opinion, and your participation, matters—especially in a small community such as ours.

As for myself I still have my ambitions for the DHCA: I would still like to see the sidewalks and maids' walks fixed. I'd like to see historic streetlights. I'd like to see a Glorious Resurrection of the Druid Hills Tour of Homes in 2022 for Olmsted's 200th birth Anniversary. But more than anything, I want you to see the DHCA as a resource for improving our neighborhood and the quality of life for all who live here; and I'd like to know your opinion on how we can best achieve this.

I look forward to hearing from you!

"What we've got here is failure to communicate."

—The Captain, from "Cool Hand Luke"

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DRUID HILLS NEWS WELCOMES YOUR ARTICLES

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

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

DEADLINES

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

June 2020 issue

Articles deadline – May 1, 2020

September 2020 issue

Articles deadline – August 1, 2020

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We gratefully acknowledge the writers and contributors for this issue.

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Update On Improvements To North Decatur Road

The LED Pedestrian Sign Installation at the intersection with Springdale Road was supposed to be completed by February 14, but may be delayed by a week or so due to the heavy rains.

The much-needed replacement of infrastructure has been taking place for several weeks in our neighborhood. According to the Department of Watershed Management, the waterline work will be patched in anticipation of future SPLOST resurfacing. The four contractors currently laying the pipe are not doing curb-to-curb resurfacing, only trench patching. The streets that have been identified for future resurfacing are:

- Briardale Lane
- Cornell Road
- Emory road
- Harvard Road
- Lullwater Road
- North Decatur Road
- Oakdale Road
- Oxford Road
- Springdale Road
- The By Way

Briarcliff Road will be addressed through a GDOT resurfacing contract.

While this has caused temporary inconvenience, we all need to remember this is absolutely necessary for our services to continue as we expect them to for many years to come. When the waterline replacement work is complete, we will be informed about the repaving schedule.



INTRODUCING OLMSTED 200

2022 is the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted. The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) is leading the planning for a celebration of the Olmsted legacy across the United States and Canada. Olmsted 200 is that celebration. Organizations and groups large and small that steward Olmsted landscapes will be called to participate, whether with special events or traditional annual events with a bicentennial twist. Many of these are part of NAOP's Olmsted Network, the Druid Hills Civic Association, and the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance.

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Druid Hills Luminary: *Reporter and Environmentalist Sally Sears*

By Jennifer J. Richardson

How did Druid Hills resident Sally Sears end up reporting on local television news shows? With a mother, Marcia, who owned the local newspaper and was the first woman president of the Alabama Press Association, and a father, Ralph, who ran the local radio station and was mayor of hometown Montevallo, it just seemed like a natural progression. Sally started out working on her mother's paper in Shelby County, Alabama, as an editor, writer, proof reader, and copy editor. "It was a great way to learn about the community," recalls Sally. She received her education from Princeton University, and then got a call from someone at WAPI-TV in Birmingham, who was impressed with her work as a print journalist. "My parents thought taking a TV job was a terrible idea," she said. "They thought TV news was a flash in the pan."

Sally took the job and did the same tasks others performed at the station, "a little of everything." She gathered material for a report, and a photographer filmed the story. The report would later be edited and might appear on that evening's news broadcast. In those pre-cable days, there were only three national television channels: NBC, ABC and CBS. Many times, the signals from the local affiliate stations were not strong enough to be received in rural areas or small towns. To make matters worse, not everyone had a television set.

Sally stayed in Birmingham for two years, Memphis for three; she then took off on a solo journey around the world, including a train ride across Siberia from Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) to Beijing. She worked in Dallas, Texas, for a while and then landed at WAGA, Channel 5 in Atlanta in 1984. By that time, TV news was a much bigger business. Owners realized the commercial value of sponsoring news and expanded broadcasts.

In the 1980s, with increased revenue, TV stations hired more reporters, photographers, and producers and sent helicopters airborne to cover breaking news. Technology drove change too. Film required precious time to develop. It yielded to instant videotape, soon to be replaced by cameras with digital recorders. These changes meant "live shot" reporting from the scene, relayed by satellite via trucks frequently lumbering down Druid Hills streets.

Reporters were rewarded for being nimble and memorable in live reports. The viewing audience loved it. Signal strength was improved, with transmission towers beaming 100,000 watts of power to those sitting in their living rooms. Then came cable. Just a few channels at first, and then



News reporter Sally Sears in an advertisement from her earlier days in broadcast TV.

an explosion of hundreds of channels available on a variety of devices. It's hard to believe now but, in the early days, television went off the air at 1:00 a.m. Ted Turner changed all that when his station stayed on the air 24 hours a day and, in the mid-1970s, was beamed to a satellite.

As a news reporter, Sally has seen the best and worst of times. One of Sally's best times was hearing the live feed announcing that Atlanta would be host of the Olympic Games in 1996. The worst times were car crashes, fires, and all sorts of other catastrophes. "One thing television news did," said Sally, "was to have relentless coverage of the need for seat belts in cars and smoke alarms in homes. But to this day, there is no law in Georgia requiring adults in the back seats to wear seat belts."

People often recognize Sally, a veteran of 40 years on television in the metro area, when she's out and about. But they can't always recall where they've seen her. Most think they've seen her at a child's school or in the grocery store. As a rule, people who approach her are cordial. "I always appreciate the way people come up as if they know me," said Sally. "After all, they have invited me into their home on that little bitty box."

Times have changed in broadcast news. When she started, Sally was one woman surrounded by lots

of men. Now, women are involved in all aspects of television news. She regrets that people do not seem as involved in public meetings and hearings as they were in past. "Our leaders and civil servants hold community meetings in order to decide important issues—including whether to clean up the county creek or purchase a new fire engine," she said. "And yet, people just aren't attending these important meetings like they used to."

Sally is married to WSB TV news reporter Richard Belcher and the couple has a son, Will. Sally took time off from her television career to be a mom to her son; when he was grown, she plunged into an additional career by helping to found the South Fork Conservancy.

South Fork Conservancy is an environmental and conservation group that plans and builds trails along South Peachtree Creek, connecting trails to existing trails, improves water quality, restores native plants, and encourages neighbors to take advantage of the South Peachtree Creek watershed as a site for recreation and outdoor enjoyment. For more information, visit SouthForkConservancy.org.

Now known as both a TV reporter and an environmentalist, Sally Sears has enriched the lives of Atlantans and residents of Druid Hills.



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From the Ground to the Sky:

Asa Candler and Hartsfield-Jackson Airport

By Jennifer J. Richardson

If you've read *Historic Druid Hills*, co-authored by Sue Sullivan and me, you know that Asa Candler not only founded Coca Cola and the Druid Hills Corporation, but he left the Candler name and brand throughout the city of Atlanta. Did you know that the Atlanta airport would probably not be located where it is today without Asa Candler? Here's the story.

Racing was in the Candler family's blood. Whether horses, harness racing, automobiles or airplanes, the Candlers liked fast animals and vehicles. In 1909, Asa Candler assembled 287 acres between the towns of Hapeville and Manchester (now College Park) just south of Atlanta, in order to construct the Atlanta Motor Speedway Race Track. That was the official name, but most people knew it as Candler Field. Candler paid \$77,000 for the land. It was an ideal spot for a racetrack because the land was completely flat—the result of the Flint River's many tributaries being on the property.

Candler spent \$400,000 to construct a 2-mile oval track, a grandstand that seated 25,000 people, and bleachers that seated 15,000. There was also a clubhouse, a primitive hospital for injured drivers, and a tower where the person timing the races could stand. The raceway had its grand opening in November of 1909, with thousands attending the events, seven world records being broken, and baseball giant Ty Cobb timing the races. For Candler, it was both entertainment and, he hoped, profitable. Unfortunately, it was one of Candler's business schemes that did not turn to gold; the racetrack closed after only one year. Candler tried hosting airplane shows that guests could watch from the grandstands and later reintroduced car races and motorcycle races, but nothing caught on.

Seeing an opportunity, Atlanta Alderman William B. Hartsfield approached Candler to see if he would lease Candler Field to the city for a landing site. Candler agreed to a 5-year lease, if the city would pay the county taxes on the racetrack. At the end of the five years, the city could purchase the site from Candler. In 1920, a small landing field was built on one end of the oval racetrack. The first hanger was constructed in 1926, the same year that the first scheduled aircraft, which also carried the first air mail, landed at Candler Field. In 1929, the site's name was changed to Atlanta Municipal

Airport when the city purchased it from Candler for \$94,000. (For more information, visit the Candler Field Museum in Williamson, Georgia or on the web at: www.candlerfield.com.)

In 1932, a new passenger terminal was constructed that served the airport until 1948, when it was replaced by a "temporary" passenger terminal that resembled a huge metal Quonset hut. Though the temporary terminal was expanded many times, it was obvious a larger structure was needed; by 1956, Atlanta Municipal Airport was the largest air transfer hub in the world.

After ten years of planning and several years of construction, a new air terminal opened in 1961. Dubbed the "jet age" building because it was the first one built in the world for jet travel, it was futuristic in the same way that boomerang tables and lava lamps were in that era: a turquoise and black exterior; huge concrete arches extending across the front of the building; an observation deck on one end so that families could come out to the airport and watch planes take off and land; five floors of offices above the passenger terminal; and a control tower on the very top. Just under the control tower, the word "ATLANTA" was displayed in gigantic turquoise letters. By 1962, the new terminal had already surpassed its design capacity and additions were made between 1962 and 1980. In 1971, the airport was renamed the William B. Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport for the alderman and later mayor who helped acquire the property for the city and champion the idea of an airport.

The jet age terminal lasted until 1981, when a new mid-field terminal was completed. In 2003, the airport was once again re-named the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, this time to honor former mayor Maynard Jackson, who spearheaded the new airport. It is interesting to note that all three official airport names honored Atlanta mayors. Had Candler not pursued his dream of a racetrack, and Hartsfield not envisioned a landing field on Candler's property, today's airport might stand in an entirely different location.



Oval racetrack at Candler Field. Grandstands and club house are at right.



The 1961 "jet age" terminal at Atlanta airport.

A Banana Plant Grows on Oakdale Road

By Alida Silverman

Many different kinds of trees grow on Oakdale Road, as throughout Druid Hills. But a banana tree?! The one in the photo grew beautifully. It flowered over Labor Day and produced all those fruits. Alas, as gardener Bill Stiefel lamented, "There still wasn't time before a hard freeze (mid-November) for the bananas to ripen." Bill has been growing these plants for more than 25 years. Only recently has he left a couple outdoors over the winter. Milder winters have allowed them to come back in the spring. This one was so grand that he even wrote a poem!

TRUNK OF THE BANANA PLANT

When April brought the soaking rains,
I raised you from the basement's gloom,
And placed a knife along your throat,
And slit concentric sheathes in hopes
You'd bloom one day this far from home,
Like a spice to cure the winter mood.
A thin, pale shoot, answered the blade
By melding clay and sun to green—
A rolled cigar leaf arching high,
Unfurled to drops of morning dew.
The next leaf struck a cobra's pose,
Its coiled appendage seemed to taste
The air for what would come and go.
Each swifter than the leaf before,
Each like a sword carved up the sky,
And dared the summer storms to blow:
From margin to midrib, some tore
Along the veins, and opened slits
Of light stray ants detoured around.
New foliage stopped. A dark red beak
Of inflorescence raised a bract
Like a wing, beckoning the curious,
Who flew down from a watchful perch
To see green fruit in the balance:
To frost, or yellow like the moon.
She landed on the broadest leaf,
And stared into the fruit its due,
Then darted past an empty nest.
What cures what ails—is flying on.

William Stiefel © 2015



Courtesy of Bill Stiefel



Courtesy of Marilyn Fish

Tally Sweat Receives CAP Award

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Tally Sweat, one of the leaders behind the rehabilitation of the Olmsted Linear Park, was recently honored at the Central Atlanta Progress (CAP) annual meeting. Each year, the group gives the Dan Sweat Award for Community Service to a person who has provided leadership, volunteer time, and inspiration to the City of Atlanta. The Dan Sweat Award was named after Tally's late husband, Dan Sweat, who was president of CAP for many years. Tally was cited for her work with the Garden Club of Georgia, Callanwolde, Park Pride, and the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance—to name just a few of her many activities. This was the 20th anniversary of the Dan Sweat Award and, to honor Tally even more, the award has been re-named the Dan and Tally Sweat Award. Congratulations and best wishes to Tally! We are all proud of you.



From left: Alicia Philipp, A.J. Robinson, Tally Sweat, and Eddie Meyers.
Courtesy of Central Atlanta Progress and photographer Brock Scott



What Is Science?

By Chris Showalter

The word “science” probably brings to mind many different images. If you ask third grade students “what is science?” they will probably tell you that science is something that a person in a white lab coat does when they mix chemicals and blow stuff up! Others might think of an astronomer or even a naturalist in a rainforest. To some, science is a subject they take in school and is just a collection of isolated facts in a textbook. Of course that is not what science is at all. Science is both a body of knowledge and a process of discovery. The word science comes from old English and simply means “what is known or knowledge acquired by study.” The word was derived from the Latin word *scientia* meaning “knowledge, a knowing or expertness,” which is from the present participle of *scire* “to know.”

The knowledge we obtain from the process of science is powerful and useful, as we develop new technologies, create new vaccines to treat diseases, and deal with many other sorts of problems. The process of science never stops; we are continually refining and expanding our knowledge of the universe, leading to new questions for future investigations and new discoveries! People all over the world (and now above it) participate in the process of science and you can too. Did you know that there is a science center in your neighborhood? Fernbank Science Center is dedicated to science literacy and life-long science learning for all people. If you are new to the neighborhood or have not been to the center in a while, then it's time to come check us out. There is always something new and exciting going on. Learn more at www.fernbank.edu.



Plastic in the Ocean

By McKinley E. Hales

Glenn Environmental Committee member and Paideia student



Plastic pollution affects land and waterways throughout the world, but it is most devastating to the oceans. Microplastics make up about 85% of the plastic in our oceans. Microplastics are plastics that have been broken down by the sun and are sometimes so tiny that they can get into our fresh water supply and intoxicate it. There are currently 15-51 trillion pieces of plastic floating in our oceans, with many more on land. In the Pacific Ocean, there is a spot called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—the largest accumulation of plastic and trash in the world. For comparison, the Garbage Patch is 3 times the size of Texas.

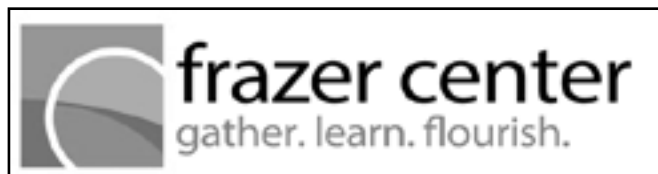
Marine life is affected the most by plastic in the ocean. Around 700 species of animals eat and get entangled in plastic, including fish, sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals. Fish die from eating plastic, and then the plastic travels up the food chain, usually reaching humans. Sea turtles also mistake floating plastic for food. They can get choked, suffer from internal injuries, or starve. Sea turtles starve because they think that their stomachs are full of fish, but really it's plastic. Seabirds are also affected because they ingest

plastic, which reduces their stomach volume, so they starve and die. Around 60% of all seabirds eat or have eaten plastic, and that number is predicted to increase to 99% by 2050. Dead seabirds are often found with plastic in their stomachs. Marine mammals ingest and get tangled up in plastic, like plastic fishing nets or beverage packing bands. Dead whales have washed up on beaches with stomachs full of plastic. Plastic debris has been found in habitats of critically endangered animals, such as Hawaiian Monk Seal pup sanctuaries.

How can you help? All waterways ultimately discharge into our oceans. Keep our waterways clean of plastic and other debris. Pick up trash when you see it. Wash clothes, especially synthetics such as fleece, in cool water to help prevent microfibers from going into the water supply. Avoid plastic packaging and plastic shopping bags as often as you can. Toxic air and water pollution are byproducts of plastic production, so reducing our consumption of plastic can truly make a significant difference!

Frazer's Forest-based Curriculum Is Sprouting

By Dina Shadwell



Frazer Center's Child Development Program has received grant money from the Ivy Head Family Foundation, as well as prize money from a recent Harvard University competition, to develop a forest-based curriculum for infants through pre-k students. A team of five Frazer teachers and administrators are in the midst of an environmental education training program that will certify them to train other educators. The program is designed to assist teachers with outdoor activities that will augment the skills children are developing in preschool and nurture students to become responsible stewards of the environment.

As part of the curriculum development, Frazer's preschool and pre-k teachers are taking their students into the Frazer Forest outdoor classroom twice a week, experimenting with their newly acquired resources, and making discoveries of their own. Eventually, every teacher will be heading into the forest, teaching lessons that complement the Creative Curriculum® themes already at play in the classrooms. The ultimate goal is for Frazer to share access to the forest along with the newly developed forest-based curriculum at no cost to other early learning centers, with priority given to those that serve primarily low-income families.

The research behind nature-based learning is expanding and confirms the many benefits for children, such as increased confidence and development of critical creative thinking. Clinical Psychologist and Harvard Professor Margaret Sheridan says, "Preschool students need a lot of tactile and kinetic experiences. It's a natural thing to want to be active, but the indoor physical environment



is restraining. Preschool children should be outdoors for an hour to an hour and a half every day. This isn't frosting. This is whole-grain wheat. It is absolutely essential."

The families who attend Frazer realize what a gem the forest is, right here in the Druid Hills community. Frazer is excited to share this gem with more children who might not otherwise have access.

If you are excited by Frazer's inclusive programming for children and adults with and without disabilities, please join us for our

annual gala fundraiser, Gather in the Gardens, on April 18, 2020, in Cator Woolford Gardens. Tickets and more information are available at frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

Announcing the Druid Hills Group

A group of neighbors have partnered with the Equal Justice Initiative and the DeKalb Remembrance Project to place a marker in the Olmsted Linear Park honoring the life of Mr. Porter Turner, with associated gatherings for learning, reflection, and reconciliation around the history of his lynching in Druid Hills. If you would like to participate in our work or receive notices of gatherings, please email d_joneszim@yahoo.com.

Next gathering Attendance at screening of "Breaking the Silence: Lillian Smith." Learn about the life of Lillian Smith, one of the first white southern authors to crusade against the evils of lynching, and join neighbors afterwards for a discussion and to learn about the life of Mr. Turner.

April 5, 2020 | 3 p.m. Auburn Avenue Research Library, 101 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30303 | Free | Sponsored by The Baton Foundation



No More Than 5 Campaign

By Don Rollins

The silent screams of admonishment. The pounding of a fist on the top of the wheel. The wild gesticulation of hands and arms. And other universally recognized signs of a frustrated driver. Just some of the many behaviors I see regularly since I started my personal “NO MORE THAN 5” campaign. That’s right; I drive no more than 5 mph over the posted speed limit throughout our neighborhood.

We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood that is anchored by a prestigious university (my alma mater), several world-class medical institutions, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This proximity has many positive benefits, including strong schools, stable property values, and a community with many common interests.

I know we’re all guilty of occasionally racing to work, school, or our child’s umpteenth activity; however, many of those racing down our streets at 15-25 mph over the limit are just passing through to one of the employment centers or perhaps getting a bite to eat in the Village. These passers-through merely see Druid Hills as a blur of greenery, some annoying speed humps and an “oops, was that a crosswalk?” before dropping off a fare or taking the last parking space in the Peavine deck.

I wanted to do more than complain to my wife, so I volunteered to chair the DHCA Public Safety Committee. If you’re not familiar, this group of hard-working volunteers does a ton!

- We manage our Neighborhood Watch Program (if you aren’t getting monthly emails of crime details in our community, please let us know).
- We work to keep our street signage upright and clean (if you see a sign down or one that’s dirty, please let us know).
- We’re pushing for improvements in our neighborhood’s eighteen “Twittens” or “maids’ walks”

as I knew them growing up (my daughters recently walked all of them to document their condition).

- We will soon be taking a hard look at the state of all our sidewalks as we believe more of us walking along our beautiful streets will help open up many opportunities.
- We’re analyzing crime data from our neighborhood to understand whether the Flock cameras are worth continued investment, and managing relationships with our local police departments to ensure our needs are not forgotten.
- And we are taking a long, hard look at speeding, starting with a campaign to quantify the size of the problem using a speed detection device to document vehicle speeds on some of our more noteworthy cut-through streets.

While your DHCA Public Safety Committee will continue to represent you on key issues, we believe everyone can assume a larger role in managing some of the issues that plague us.

As Spring approaches, I encourage each of you to do more! Join me in driving “NO MORE THAN 5.” It might momentarily frustrate the drivers behind you, who may very well express their unfounded irritation. But imagine how different our neighborhood would be if we were all Official Druid Hills Pace Cars. If we all slow our pace just a bit, everyone else will reduce their speeds, and then we can all better enjoy this great community where the trees grow tall, the homes tell tales, and residents enjoy it all from their clean, safe sidewalks.

We would love to hear from you on any of the above, or perhaps other concerns you have that impact our safety in the public sphere. Email me at publicsafety@druidhills.org.

DHCA 2020 Membership Campaign

By Thea Roeser

I’ve often pondered the wee bit of disconnect between the Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA) and some residents of our community. We’re so thankful for our dedicated members and the many hours they contribute to the DHCA, but a portion of our residents choose not to join the Association. As the newly elected DHCA Membership Chair, it will be my goal and the goal of the DHCA Membership Committee to bridge this divide and have a robust Civic Association representing all our community.

A strong DHCA enables us to work directly with our elected officials, Emory University, police, and zoning boards to protect, improve, and maintain the quality of life in our community. It’s our civic duty to protect this wonderful neighborhood for future generations.

A strong DHCA enables the DHCA to provide funding for our beautiful parks, our great schools, the annual 4th of July parade, the neighborhood-wide yard sale, Parent Network and many other organizations and community initiatives. The Druid Hills Tour of Homes brings in visitors from all over Georgia, raising funds to support our community efforts.

A strong DHCA is dedicated to getting results for our residents. A few of the numerous examples: the reinstatement of Neighborhood Watch program; funding from DeKalb County for the mini roundabouts on North Decatur; funding for the pedestrian activated Solar Flashing Pedestrian crosswalk signs at Springdale/North Decatur; and funding for the overhead crosswalk pedestrian signal at Ridgewood and North Decatur. We look forward to getting feedback from residents once these safety improvements are installed.

A strong DHCA needs to encompass the voices of all our amazing residents. We’re fortunate to live in a community that encompasses a wide array of ages, races and ethnicities, religions, educational backgrounds, political parties, professions and passions. We need to tap into this energy and knowledge to better our community.

A strong DHCA gives vetted solutions and answers to issues and questions. For instance, the DHCA Neighborhood Watch Coordinator devotes a good deal of time to issuing a monthly crime report that is verified by police, not hearsay by residents.

A strong DHCA membership supports its hardworking Board with a “high five” for truly making a difference. New committee members with different approaches to solving issues are key to an effective Association.

If you haven’t joined yet, please go to our website at druidhills.org and sign up for membership. You can also request a paper registration form.

Thank you all, for all you do for our great community!

School News

Fernbank Elementary School

By Joan Ray, Principal

Fernbank Elementary recently received commendation from DeKalb County Schools for our double-digit single score improvement on the CCRPI for 2019. CCRPI, the College and Career Ready Performance Index, is Georgia's tool for annually measuring how well schools, districts, and the state are helping students achieve their goals. Our score for 2019 is 86.1!

We were excited to celebrate African American History month in February by performing an original musical program titled "One Tribe" created by one of our third grade teachers, Samyra Setrana. Students and teachers from all grades (preK-5th) participated by acting, singing, and dancing in the production. It was truly a whole-school effort.

Our annual auction benefitting the Fernbank Foundation was held March 6, at The Trolley Barn in Inman Park. We have been raising money this year to purchase shade structures to improve our playground area, which should be installed later this spring or summer.

Ben Franklin Academy

By Angela Cassidy

Ben Franklin Academy (BFA), known for its Work/Study Program and Mastery Education, is thrilled to have two student athletes this year who are fulfilling their passions and excelling in their schoolwork.

Maxwell Greenbaum, a senior at BFA and a saber fencer at Nellya Fencers Club, has competed at a national and international level. Through years of hard work and the guidance of his coach, Arkady

Burdan, Maxwell has earned both First Team High School All American and All Academic honors for the past three years. Next fall, Maxwell will attend Duke University as part of Duke's fencing team.



Maxwell Greenbaum



Robert Gordon

Robert Gordon, a rising Senior at BFA, has been identified as one of the best rising baseball seniors in the country. He will be participating in the Prospect Development Pipeline League (PDP League), a MLB + USA Baseball joint initiative that will bring together the best high school prospects in the country for several weeks this summer at Santa Clara University, a private Jesuit university in Santa Clara, California. Robert has been named to the Underclass All-American Games Top Prospect List. He is an excellent student and has a verbal commitment to Vanderbilt University after graduation.

For more information on BFA, go to benfranklinacademy.org.

Paideia

By Anne Dukes

Paideia Students Honored for Volunteer Service Seniors: Mary He and Sophia Yang are Atlanta Intown 20 Under 20 honorees for 2020. The two were nominated for their work with students on the debate team at Sequoia Middle School and with imPACT, a high school volunteer club. Both Mary and Sophia have also participated in Paideia's AltBreak program, in which students do community service on school breaks.

Paideia Students Selected for All-State Orchestra: Jordan Leslie '20 and David Chung '22 were selected to participate in the Georgia All State Orchestra in Athens, GA. Jordan will play second chair cello in the 11/12 Full Orchestra. David will play violin in the 9/10 Full Orchestra.

Paideia Students Win Scholastic Art and Writing Awards: Thirty-seven Paideia high school students were awarded regional gold and silver keys and honorable mention by the 2020 Scholastic Arts and Writing program. Students received 17 gold key and 22 silver key awards for art and photography and 25 honorable mentions. Students received 10 awards for writing including two gold keys, four silver keys, and four honorable mentions.

The Paideia High School Science Olympiad team won first place among single A schools at the Brookwood invitational. The team will compete next in the Region Tournament in March. The Paideia Mock Trial team won the regional competition at DeKalb County Courthouse to advance to Georgia District Championship. The high school robotics team advanced to the quarter finals in a tournament at Kennesaw State University in January. The team also won the Design Award, which qualified them for the state tournament in February.

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Fentress Boone Waits (1944-2019):

A Remembrance

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Fentress Waits might have appeared to the casual observer as a classic southern woman and Druid Hills matron. She was beautifully dressed, soft spoken, gentle, and elegant. Her home was furnished with treasures from a life of traveling. But for those who knew her best, Fentress was a force with which to be reckoned and one tough outspoken lady, breaking the mold.

Educated as a teacher, Fentress also served as editor of numerous publications, including those of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA), Georgia Tech, the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, and the American Cancer Society. She was a volunteer for OLPA, Breakthru House, Juvenile Court of DeKalb County, Mary and Martha's Place, Global Village Project, and International Community School. She served as a board member for Glenn Memorial Church, the Druid Hills Civic Association, and OLPA. The Park houses a bench dedicated in her honor by her family.

Fentress was especially interested in and supportive of women and girls in the U.S. and throughout the world—particularly in developing countries. She worked tirelessly to get the Equal Rights Amendment passed in Georgia (which has not happened yet) and supported the League of Women Voters, and Georgia WIN list. When the OLPA gala was in its infancy, Fentress bid on and won a photo opportunity with then-mayor Shirley Franklin. She wanted to take her granddaughter for the photo shoot with the mayor, "To make sure she knows that women can be political leaders."

Both Fentress and her husband of 54 years, Jim, were early supporters of improving race relations in the U.S.—especially in churches. They took risks, spoke out, and publically voiced their convictions. When Jim was doing his own work as a pastor for the United Methodist Church, Fentress stood right beside him. But according to Jim, Fentress did much more than that: "I was stimulated and challenged by Fentress," said Jim. As a result, when Emory President Jim Laney appointed Jim Waits as Dean of the



Candler School of Theology, he advocated for the rights of women and minorities and appointed the first women to tenure-track positions, as well as helped Cannon chapel come to fruition on the Emory Campus with creative worship, dance, and concerts. Fentress was certainly behind a lot of Jim's accomplishments for worship, minorities, and women. Theirs was a partnership that achieved far more together than either one could have done alone.

It was fitting that Fentress' funeral, filled with classical music, poetry, and scripture, was held at Cannon. The chapel was filled with the many people Fentress' life had touched through the years. What a gift she was to so many! When her achievements are inventoried, it's hard to comprehend how she did all she did while struggling with 28 years of treatment for breast cancer—and without a single complaint.

Fentress was a friend, neighbor, and inspiration to many in Druid Hills. She made a difference in many different venues, and we are all the better for her devotion and work. Soon, a river of yellow daffodils (her favorite flower) will sweep across the Olmsted Linear Park. They were planted in her honor and, when we see them, we will all be reminded of this beautiful woman who was both kind and tough.

Fentress is survived by Jim, their two children and spouses, and three grandchildren. The Druid Hills News extends deepest sympathy to her family.

Lullwater Garden Club News Featuring the Mausoleum Mavens

By Jennifer J. Richardson

The Lullwater Garden Club held its festive Christmas holiday dinner at the home of Chuck and Kathie Palmer on Lullwater Road. A former Candler home, the Neil Reid house was enlarged and renovated by the Palmers. Each room was a showcase for Christmas decorations. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were enjoyed by about 60 guests, followed by a delicious dinner prepared by the 2019 food committee. An array of gorgeous desserts finished off a fine holiday celebration.

Another holiday activity, Historic Oakland Cemetery's Mausoleum Decoration, engaged several members of the Lullwater Garden Club. As a fundraiser for the cemetery, garden clubs and floral artists from the area are invited to decorate a mausoleum for a special Christmas tour. The mausoleums (mostly rock or granite), eternal resting places for some of Atlanta's leaders, are decorated in a Victorian style befitting their age.

The Lullwater Garden Club was assigned the Richards Mausoleum. Robert H. Richards was born in London in 1830, and came to the United States with his family when he was 13. As an adult, Richards invested in railroad stock and opened Atlanta's first bookstore, along with bookstores in LaGrange, GA, and Knoxville, TN. Richards and his partners later co-founded the Atlanta National Bank. He and his wife, the former Josephine Rankin of LaGrange, built a 3-story Victorian home on Peachtree Street featuring reddish-orange brick with towers, stained glass, and gargoyles.

Unfortunately, Mr. Richards died at the age of 55 from a sudden heart attack. His mausoleum was designed by the H.Q. French Company of New York and is considered one of the most stunning pieces of architecture in Oakland Cemetery. It resembles a small rock chapel, with elaborate stained glass windows, a tower, and gargoyles of lions' heads, bat wings, and eagle talons intended to frighten away evil spirits. The Lullwater Ladies decorated the tomb in high style, and were undeterred by the "grotesques" (gargoyles) and any evil spirits in the vicinity.



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In 2015, Americans landfilled about 50 million tons of compostable waste.”

The Care & Feeding of Your Garden



Submitted by Michelle Manganiello

January and February are cold and frosty months. What better way to ignore this harsh weather than to start preparing your garden? With keeping up and maintaining any garden, it is important to keep up the practice of composting. Composting is a healthy and sustainable practice in life and in gardens. As you collect organic matter, you are saving money by not having to buy chemical fertilizer. Composting also reduces the amount of trash you accumulate, as you recycle materials that would have regularly been thrown out.

Composting is not just something you do during the summertime and springtime when your gardens are reaching their full fruition, but it is a year-round practice. You are always collecting organic waste, whether it's eggshells, used coffee grounds, carrot peels, apple cores, watermelon rinds, or a vegetable that has gone rotten — really anything can go, as long as it is not meat or dairy. It is

beneficial that these materials sit for a period of time, soaking in each other's nutrients, while you occasionally mix them. In the winter, this organic matter is still in the process of being broken down, so by spring, it is the perfect time to put your composted soil in your vegetable or flower garden.

Whether you are a beginning or an experienced composter, composting should never feel overwhelming. If you live in an apartment, composting is something that can be done on a small-scale as well. If you don't have a backyard, you can get a small bin that specializes in keeping composting materials. If you do have a backyard, you have the advantage of having a bigger bin for your compost pile. It is usually beneficial to establish your pile under a shady tree, near a water source. Big or small pile, don't forget to stir your materials weekly in order to avoid the attraction of any pests, rodents, or squirrels.

In addition to composting, there are other ways to prepare your garden for a successful spring season. First, take the opportunity to replenish garden tools, sharpen blades and make sure to have enough soil and fertilizer materials on hand. Do a little spring cleaning in the area. This means removing anything that is not bare soil. Dead organic matter can go into the compost pile and fresh mulch should be raked away. Most importantly, weeds must be nowhere in sight, for fear they may come back and try to compete with your garden plants. After taking care of weeds, it's important to till and turnover the soil, as the soil gets compacted hard during the winter. After waking your soil from its winter slumber, generously apply your rich compost. Then, start planting your seeds. In January and February, you can start sowing the seeds of plants which need a longer growing season, such as geraniums (pelargoniums), begonias, antirrhinums, peppers and aubergines. Lastly, apply your mulch. Mulch is an effective method to keep weeds from being established and to protect your newly planted seeds.

Regarding community efforts for spring planting and composting, every county in Georgia should have an Agricultural Extension Service, where you can ask if they have any composting and garden programs for residents

and kids alike. What's more, International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) is one of the largest and most

comprehensive educational initiatives for composting, which is celebrated in the first week of May in the United States and many other countries. During the upcoming spring season, specifically May 3-9, 2020, there will be fun activities and contests to encourage awareness and more efforts for composting. The theme for 2020 in the United States is "Soil Loves Compost," because, essentially, compost feeds the soil.

In 2015, Americans landfilled about 50 million tons of compostable waste. Since then, various states have come up with efforts to reduce this statistic to create a more sustainable growth system in our country. The city of San Francisco has shown itself to be very environmentally friendly by reducing the amount of trash it sends to landfills by 80 percent and composts 255,500 tons of organic material each year. The state of Vermont passed a Universal Recycling Law in 2012 in order to rid all of its recyclables, leaf and yard debris, food scraps and other organics of landfills by the year 2020. Perhaps Georgia can reach the same type of sustainable practices one day, and you can jumpstart this right now with composting and spring planting, in order to keep our soil happy and our planet healthy.



Article written by Michelle Manganiello. Michelle is a junior at the University of Georgia where she currently pursues two degrees in English and Romance Languages. She looks forward to working in communications or book publishing after graduating. Please contact manganiellomichelle@gmail.com for all other inquiries.



Take the opportunity to replenish garden tools, sharpen blades."



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| Bryan Plumbing Services | 770-826-5277 |
| Northside Plumbing | 770-272-2558 |
| Quick-Pro Plumbing | 678-478-1534 |
| Serv'all Plumbing & Rooter Service | 770-917-1852 |
| Shumate Plumbing Services | 678-584-0880 |
| T.K. & Sons Plumbing | 770-529-0799 |
| The Plumbers Guild | 404-694-5128 |
| Water Source Plumbing Service, Inc. | 678-423-8640 |

Pre-Schools & Kindergarten

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| Omega Learning Center-Acworth | 770-792-7431 |
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Propane Service

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| Gas Incorporated | 770-720-1378 |
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Real Estate

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|---|--------------|
| Atlanta Communities-Carl Hawthorne | 404-403-1789 |
| Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates | 770-529-7780 |
| Berkshire Hathaway Home Services-Blumer | 678-493-9354 |
| Better Homes & Gardens RE-LaVista Hills | 404-932-5771 |
| Coldwell Banker-Sherry Warner | 404-784-8848 |
| Compass Realty-Gipson and Co. | 404-405-5363 |
| Compass Realty-Natalie Gregory Team | 404-373-0076 |
| Compass Realty-Patter Byrne | 404-604-3800 |
| Cory & Co. Realty | 404-564-5595 |
| Harry Norman Realtors-Pam Hughes | 404-626-3604 |
| Harry Norman-Morton | 678-461-8700 |
| JW Collection Brokers LLC | 770-809-6013 |
| Keller Williams Realty-Cynthia Baer | 678-358-3369 |
| Park Realty-John Morgan | 770-655-9423 |
| Remax Around Atlanta-Falkin | 770-330-2374 |
| Russ Robinson Atlanta Communities | 770-335-7677 |

Remodeling

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|---|--------------|
| GCI Basements | 404-569-8794 |
| Southeast Construction Concepts/Rooster's | 706-301-5609 |

Restaurants

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| Luna Maya | 770-720-4999 |
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Retirement Community

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| Celebration Village-The Reserve | 678-646-6777 |
| Soleil Laurel Canyon | 678-880-3071 |

Roofing

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| Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting | 770-346-0203 |
| Exovations-Roofing | 770-205-2955 |
| Generation Roofing | 770-733-3517 |
| Southeastern Roofing Company | 470-228-0766 |

Schools-Private

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|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| McGinnis Woods Country Day School | 770-664-7764 |
| The Friends School of Atlanta | 404-373-8746 |

Siding

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| Exovations-Siding | 770-205-2995 |
| Painting Plus - Siding | 404-474-3464 |

Tree Service

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| Green Fern Tree Service | 770-881-1712 |
| LTRC-Landscape Tree Removal Company | 404-288-5872 |
| The Davey Tree Expert Company | 770-451-7911 |

Window Replacement

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|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Exovations-Window Replacements | 770-205-2995 |
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Wrought Iron Railing

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|------------------------|--------------|
| Mind's Eye Fabrication | 770-363-4561 |
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For more information, contact: Alvanita Hope-Negron, Director of Enrollment, at anegron@friendsschoolatlanta.org.



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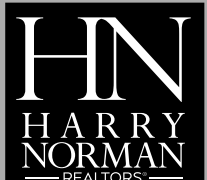
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