

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

September 2020
Volume 35 | Number 3

CONTENTS

PRESIDENTS CORNER	3
TOUR OF HOMES REIMAGINED	6
LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP	8
DH MIDDLE SCHOOL'S	
NEW FIELDS	15

Atlanta's Hero

By Jennifer J. Richardson

I first saw John Lewis on television—in one of those grainy black and white films that used to be the norm. There he was, leading the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; then later lying on his side in a raincoat being bludgeoned by the billy club of a police officer. Another time, an impossibly young Lewis stepped up to the microphone at the 1963 March on Washington, surrounded by Civil Rights icons. He was 23 years old when he made his speech there. Another time, I saw him in a television head shot: a huge bandage covering the place where the billy club had shattered his skull.

I was not yet a teenager when all this was going on, but Lewis and Dr. King and others made an impact on me. At that time, I secretly went against everything my family believed and sent Dr. King a letter, supporting his work. His return letter to me is one I treasure. I was twelve years old, proving that the acorn can fall miles away from the tree.

I saw John Lewis sitting in back of a convertible in a Little Five Points parade. I can't recall if it was the Inman Park Festival or the Little Five Points Hallowe'en Parade. He was waving and shouting, "I needja hep." He must have been running for Atlanta City Council. Later on, of course, he represented our district for over 30 years in the United States House of Representatives.

You probably have already read about John's



Jennie Richardson with John Lewis

*This land is my land, this land is your land,
From California to the New York Island
From the redwood forest, to the Gulf stream water,
This land was made for you and me.*

- Woody Guthrie

life of service, integrity and standing up for what is right. He was a giant in Civil Rights. His role in the in-town neighborhoods was no different than how he lived the rest of his life. Jimmy Carter wanted his presidential library on Copenhill, a public park where General Sherman watched Atlanta burn during the Civil War, and later the site of an orphanage for children left behind after the war. The Georgia Department of Transportation wanted an expressway through many in-town neighborhoods,

including Lake Claire, Druid Hills, Candler Park, Poncey Highland, Inman Park and Old Fourth Ward. This expressway, called "Stone Mountain Expressway," "Stone Mountain Tollway," "Presidential Parkway" and later still "Freedom Parkway" had been planned in 1946. Its purpose was to connect two stubs of highway—at Stone Mountain and at Boulevard/Glen Iris downtown. It was planned as a four-lane commuter road so folks out there could get in town to their jobs.

When John Lewis served on Atlanta City Council, beginning in 1982, he put forth a resolution that the city would never support the four-lane highway. It passed unanimously. Later on, Council members began receiving pressure from powerful forces that wanted the highway. One was Mayor Andrew Young, who perhaps had a commitment to support the road and to support Jimmy Carter's desire to have the road serve his library. Whatever the reason, Mayor Young and several City Council members changed their tune and began supporting the road. In June, Lewis was invited to a breakfast meeting with several council members and Mayor Young, (who had run on his promise to neighborhoods that he would never support the road) who tried to convince him to support the road. Lewis felt he needed to support the citizens who elected him to Council—and refused to change his anti-road vote because he accurately believed that his constituents were dead set against the highway.

Continued on page 4

ADVERTISE IN LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS!

(770) 623-6220 | sales@kda-communications.com

All Directions Home



Whether you are looking to buy or sell,
let me help you find your place in the world.



1088 Lullwater Road, Druid Hills
6 BD 5.5 BA \$2,000,000

458 Emory Circle, Druid Hills
3 BD 2 BA \$749,000



3 Lullwater Estate, Druid Hills
2 BD 2.5 BA \$789,000

2137 Palifox Drive, Lake Claire
4 BD 3 BA \$769,000



Natalie Gregory & Co.

m 404.550.5113 | o 404.668.6621

natalie.gregory@compass.com

nataliegregory.com

f | @nataliegregoryandco

COMPASS

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.

President's Corner

By Kit Eisterhold

"Life is like a roll of toilet paper, Kit.... It goes quicker toward the end."

I first heard these words from a mentor of mine on the DHCA Board a few years back. One of the original Presidential Parkway Preservationists of the old school, he's now well into his 70s, with a full gray beard and a belly on him that I always thought makes him look a bit like Santa Claus--though I'd hesitate to say that to him directly. He was my age, or perhaps a bit younger, when he fought the Parkway all those years ago, laying the foundation for what Druid Hills is today.

I'm turning 50 this year. And while the days seemed to last forever when I was young, lately I've come to the creeping realization that I'm getting closer and closer to the core of the toilet paper roll, as time inexorably accelerates toward terminal velocity and my final destination.

Like Brooks in the film *Shawshank Redemption*, I feel like I woke up and the world went and got itself in a big damn hurry. I feel caught in an ever-accelerating series of product cycles and awash in communications and commitments. I wake up every morning to a flood of texts and emails, and the harder I tread to get my head above water, the more they come pouring in. My iPhone never leaves me, and it never stops ringing, and I can't ever seem to text fast enough to carry on a coherent conversation with anyone.

Halloween is hardly over before I'm setting up for Christmas, and I've barely got the lights down before Easter is on me. My daughter has grown up right in front of me like a time lapse video. She was two years old when we moved into the neighborhood, when we were best buddies and I used to carry her around on my shoulders everywhere we went. It still feels like yesterday to me. But she's moved on, is already acting like a teenager and would rather spend time with her

friends, or alone. And as much as I wish I could put her on my shoulders one last time, in some feeble attempt at nostalgia, it would probably give me a hernia or a slipped disc, to say nothing of the enduring embarrassment it would cause her amongst her peer group.

I can hardly count the number of times I have felt like I was on some big demented merry-go-round, turned up like a turntable (I know the metaphor will date me for any millennials reading this) from 33 to 45 or 78. I just want to step off, even if it were only for a moment, and get my bearings.

And then one day it happened. Early this spring, even if it was only for a little while, it all finally stopped. The traffic, the work, the noise, all of it. Suddenly there was all the time in the world to spend with my daughter again: riding bikes together through the Emory campus, feeding the geese down at the Lullwater Preserve, picnicking together by the lake. There was time to sit around the firepit in my backyard til well past midnight with old friends--an old buddy of mine who was leaving for a yearlong deployment to Germany and his wife--drinking wine until we completely lost track of time, like we used to in college, listening to Bob Dylan's "Spanish Boots of Leather," Johnny Flynn's "The Detectorists," and for a finale, singing along to "Day-O" by Harry Belafonte.

My computer crashed and for once, instead of furtively clicking in and out of two minute YouTube videos of car crashes and sports highlights, I found myself actually reading a book before bed for the first time in what seemed like years--an old book from my late father's library about Ships of the Line in the era of Nelson. I read 'til late in the evening with the window open so I could hear the sound of thunderstorms off in

Continued on page 4

KDA&Tlehs

CONTACT US TODAY

770-623-6220

sales@kda-communications.com

Please send ads directly to KDA & Tlehs.

The *Druid Hills News* is a publication of KDA & Tlehs. Subject matter published is the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher of this newsletter. Professional advice should be obtained before making any decision in which a professional is readily available. Advertisers assume responsibility for the content of the ads placed in this publication. Material published may not be reproduced without the written permission of KDA & Tlehs.

The contents of this newsletter are provided for the members of the *Druid Hills* neighborhood as a courtesy only. No representations are made as to information presented, the quality of the goods or services advertised, or the veracity of the statements relating to the goods and services. The printing of opinions, information or advertisements does not constitute an endorsement by the neighborhood of such opinions, information, goods or services.

Druid Hills Civic Association

President:
Kit Eisterhold
(president@druidhills.org)

First Vice President:
Chris Liggett
(firstvp@druidhills.org)

Admin. Vice President:
Open
(adminvp@druidhills.org)

Communications Vice President:
Open
(commvp@druidhills.org)

Treasurer:
John Giegerich
(treasurer@druidhills.org)

Secretary:
Open
(secretary@druidhills.org)

DHCA Board of Directors

Rocky Atkins	Jennifer Richardson
Travis Blalock	Thea Roeser
John Giegerich	Dick Shuey
Mark Herold	Alida Silverman
Jan Jones	Sue Sullivan
Harriet Lane	William Tomlin
Chris Liggett	Leon Van Gelderen
Steven Mathias	

DHCA Standing Committees

Communications Committee:
Fran Putney
(commvp@druidhills.org)

Finance Committee:
John Giegerich
(treasurer@druidhills.org)

Governance Committee:
Harriet Lane
(governance@druidhills.org)

DeKalb Land Use & Historic Preservation Committee:
Rob Kincheloe
(landuse@druidhills.org)

Landmark District Preservation Committee:
Jan Jones
(atlantahistoric@druidhills.org)

Liaison, Atlanta NPU:
Carol Sleeth
(npu@druidhills.org)

Membership & Community Committee:
Open
(membership@druidhills.org)

Tour of Homes & Gardens Committee:
Sue Sullivan
and Bonnie Wolf
(tour@druidhills.org)

Transportation Committee:
Van Biesel
(transportation@druidhills.org)

DHCA Special Committees & Task Forces

Annexation Study Group:
Christopher Liggett & Renee Nelson

Parent Network:
Ginger Ann Hughes & Emily Webb
(parents@druidhills.org)

Public Safety Committee:
Doug Rollins
(publicsafety@druidhills.org)

DHCA Divisions

Division 1 (City of Atlanta):
Justin Critz & Sharon Day
(div1chair@druidhills.org)

Division 2 (Ponce corridor in DeKalb):
Yvette Weatherly
(div2chair@druidhills.org)

Division 3 (W. of Briarcliff & S. of University in DeKalb):
(div3chair@druidhills.org)

Division 4 (Between Briarcliff, N Decatur & Lullwater Creek):
Mike St. Louis
(div4chair@druidhills.org)

Division 5 (Between Peavine Creek N. Decatur & RR Lines):
Renee Nelson
(div5chair@druidhills.org)

6 (W. of Briarcliff, N. of University & S. of Peachtree Creek):
Darin Engle
(div6chair@druidhills.org)

Division 7 ("University" Streets west of Emory University):
Sandra Thornton
(div7chair@druidhills.org)

Division 8 (Emory University, N. Decatur Rd to S. Peachtree Creek):
Ron Foust & Van Biesel
(div8chair@druidhills.org)

Division 9 (DH Golf Course, Decatur fork of Peavine Creek & RR Lines):
Steven Misner
(div9chair@druidhills.org)

Past Presidents

Anne Wallace | Justin Critz
Cathy Vandenberg | Bruce MacGregor

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:

December 2020 issue

Articles deadline – November 10

March 2021 issue

Articles deadline – February 10

EDITORS

Editor: Jennifer J. Richardson

Managing Editor: Fran Putney

We gratefully acknowledge the writers and contributors for this issue.

WRITERS/CONTRIBUTORS

Dana Borda, Angela Cassidy, Anne Dukes,
Becky Evans, Kit Eisterhold,
Andrew Keenan, Harriett Lane,
Mary Margaret Oliver, Elena Parent, Julie
Ralston, Jennifer Richardson, Doug Rollins,
Dina Shadwell, Mala Sharma,
Alida Silverman, Sue Sullivan,
Megan Walter and Adam Francois Watkins

President's Column ...continued from page 3

the distance as I read of the Battle of the Nile and Trafalgar, and smelled the lingering faint odor of my father's cigarette smoke on the pages.

I am not trying to make light of a tragedy that has taken hundreds of thousands of lives, and disrupted hundreds of millions more, but I have to be frank: when the wheels came off and all the machinery ground to a halt last March, I actually enjoyed it -- the same way you might enjoy the power being knocked out by a storm. Sitting in the house with the candles lit can be quite pleasant, provided the power comes on before the food spoils or the house gets too hot.

Even the earth itself probably enjoyed the time off. The weather here was gorgeous, and images of clear skies and clean water came pouring in from all over the world. In my wife's home country of India the skies above Delhi were crystal clear for the first time in ages, and the air was so clear the Himalayas could be seen from as far away as Amritsar for the first time since partition probably. Dolphins swam in the now crystal clear canals of Venice, and with the cars cleared from the roads wildlife was seen coming out into the open in cities all over the world.

Of course, as I write this in August, it's already all over now. Almost as soon as it formed, my little

bubble where time was suspended popped, and the world, with all its noise and haste and demands on my time, has come rushing in on me again.

And the toilet paper roll is turning faster than ever.

I swear sometimes it seems like we're all running around like chickens with our heads cut off, working quicker and quicker, with more frequent cuts and with more frames per second in the video, rapidly throwing up projects that won't last, in a frantic effort to make some sort of impression on our world before the grim reaper turns all our works to dust.

I know life is short, time is fleeting, and you can't take it with you. These sayings may be trite but they are true. And as you get older, you begin to wonder what it is you will leave the world in your wake.

I think of the old man who taught me the toilet paper parable and hope that when he reaches the end of his roll, he'll at least go with the peace of mind that he's left in his wake something that will last.

Someday I hope to join him. I hope in the end we all will....

Atlanta's Hero ...continued from cover

Still later, Lewis received a phone call from former President Jimmy Carter who told Lewis he wanted him to vote in favor of the road. Lewis said he couldn't do that, resulting in a riff between the former president and Lewis. City Council ultimately voted for a four-lane expressway now known as the Presidential Parkway. It would satisfy Carter because it provided access to his library, and it satisfied the DOT's desire for a commuter road. But in-town activists were inflamed and began to protest and to file lawsuits. John Lewis came to many protests, including a memorable one in the Dellwood segment of the linear park. At that rally, Lewis said, "We are standing up for the best of the American tradition. This land is your land; this land is my land; this is not the land of Atlanta City Council, or Jimmy Carter, or Andrew Young or Tom Moreland (head of the GADOT). This land is your land!!!" Lewis received overwhelming applause for his speech.

Twenty-five years, thousands of dollars spent on lawsuits, and too many protests and acts of civil disobedience to count, the road was finally stopped at Ponce de Leon---and never went through the in-town neighborhoods it would have destroyed. The road was defeated using the peaceful tactics of John Lewis.

Lewis was honored in many ways: schools were named for him, Invictus Academy was named for him, and the "Hero" mural on Auburn Avenue honored him. Inman Park activist Ruth Wall and others brought Thornton Dial's sculpture, "The Bridge" to Atlanta to sit in the center of John Lewis Plaza. The sculpture depicted the life of John Lewis and is located at the corner of John Lewis Freedom Parkway and Ponce de Leon Avenue. On August 22, 2018, Freedom Parkway was re-named John Lewis Freedom Parkway in honor of the man who did so much, including saving Atlanta's in-town neighborhoods.

PreK3 - 8th Grade

*"I cannot thank you enough for FSA during this time of turmoil.
I have no doubt that my daughter will come out of this
experience with little to no detriment to her education.
It is a credit to all that you do! Your planning and
communication in this time has been invaluable."*

– Friends School Parent

The Friends School of Atlanta is a small school grounded in such enduring values as community and simplicity, guiding quick shifts in teaching modes in the time of Covid-19 while continuing to provide an education that not only prepares students to excel at higher levels of learning, but also empowers them with the conscience, conviction and compassion to change the world.

Accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year.



THE FRIENDS SCHOOL
OF ATLANTA

862 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30030
404-373-8746 • friendsschoolatlanta.org



**WE ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR
PLUMBING REQUIREMENTS**

- ✓ Home Plumbing Repair
- ✓ Leak Detection and Water Line Repair
- ✓ Commercial Plumbing and Repair

Please call our 24-hour emergency hotline number
if you have any plumbing emergencies.



(404) 694-5128

corey@atlantaplumbersguild.com

10 Executive park west, 567, Brookhaven, GA 30329



GILL

T R E E C A R E

404-937-6800

www.gilltreecare.com

**TREE PRUNING, SOIL ENHANCEMENT,
PLANTING, AND REMOVAL**

CALL FOR FREE WOOD CHIPS!

Letter from DHCA Governance Committee

*By Harriett Lane, Governance Chair,
Druid Hills Civic Association*

Dear Members of the DHCA Community:

As we enter this new millennium, we are examining where we are in our work to support and strengthen our vibrant community. We are also seeking to more closely collaborate with our neighbors of all kinds including individual neighborhoods, organizations and community members in order to cultivate new and strengthen existing partnerships and, ultimately, to continuously improve.

To this end, we undertook a formal strategic planning process earlier this year, starting with a first phase we called a *Listening Effort*. We are grateful for the engagement of our community in participating in the survey, focus groups and interviews conducted as part of phase one; these have provided key inputs we needed to understand your priorities. It is particularly exciting to consider that today's members will have played such an integral role in shaping the future of the DHCA over the next decade and beyond as we move forward into Phase II and III of strategic planning.

They enabled broader discussions and have surfaced a broad desire for DHCA to make a concerted effort to enhance communication. As we adapt to rapid changes in technology and its potential for improved communication, we must manage this growth and look for ways in which we can use this technology to make us more efficient and effective.

Phase II in strategic planning has been a slow start due to COVID-19 with communities working from home, home-schooling children, sharing cramped living spaces, caring for sick family members, or all the above. Many people are experiencing much more difficult situations than this. However, the DHCA board has worked hard to get familiar with videoconferencing and get back to work in our new environment.

Theisen Consulting did impressive work facilitating the first vision sessions in August moving into Phase II, and with every step we grow increasingly excited about our future. Together through our continued work we will develop an Action Plan to drive achievement of the Goals and Metrics we define as most important and ultimately shape the final plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic also poses a unique challenge for many nonprofit organizations at a critical time in their annual work and governance cycles. Nonprofits are being forced to reschedule or cancel annual meetings. Virtual meetings allow all Georgia nonprofits to comply with the legal requirements to hold annual meetings while also protecting public health from further spread; therefore, the Governance Committee is planning a rescheduled 2020 Annual Meeting to be held on October 21, 2020 via videoconferencing. Please stay tuned and we will update you with the details. Please email governance@druidhills.org with questions.

Governance is committed to working with the DHCA over the next few months to drive completion, communication and implementation of the strategic planning process and resulting new Mission, Vision, Goals and Plan. We also encourage our neighbors to take ownership of the upcoming new plan by getting involved. We hope you will join us in supporting our efforts in supporting our community. Most importantly, our gratitude goes to the hundreds of members of our community who helped shape this vision. We can make a difference—together.

Tour of Homes Reimagined!

By Sue Sullivan

For 52 years the Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens has showcased the beauty and history of our neighborhood in the beautiful backdrop of springtime in Atlanta. Planning, organizing and running the tour has always been an opportunity for neighbors to come together and show off what a special place Druid Hills is to the thousands of visitors that eagerly line up to see some of our neighborhood's prettiest homes and gardens.

Unfortunately, like many good things that we come to rely on because of its consistency, over time it can lose its luster and the energy to engage us. This is what I believe happened with our tour – and the reason the decision was made to take a hiatus from a long-standing neighborhood tradition. I believe that sometimes you need to get to this place in order to reinvent.

And a change /re-envisioned Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens is in store for 2022 with a nation-wide celebration of our historic neighborhood's renowned designer Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. as the backdrop! As co-chair with Bonnie Wolf, we are implementing new ideas and methods and are committed to making the 2022 tour the biggest and most exciting tour to date.

So why are we waiting until 2022? It gives us time to plan. It gives us time to engage and recruit new thinkers, doers and fun volunteers. AND, we have the extra bonus of tapping into the national celebration, already in its early planning stages, for the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., which will bring in unprecedented numbers of visitors to our neighborhood! Appropriately, this tour will be centered around the homes and gardens near the beautiful stretches of our linear parks along and near Ponce de Leon Avenue.

If you are looking for ways to engage with your neighbors, share your talents, or just your energy, and be a part of a long-standing tradition AND a huge national celebration, please reach out to me, Sue Sullivan SueSullivan721@gmail.com or Bonnie Wolf BonnieWolf@harrynorman.com to learn about the different committees, job descriptions and time commitments. And if you have ideas for us, let us know! Our next meeting is September 24, 2020, 4:00-5:30. RSVP to Sue or Bonnie and come join us.

We promise it will be a fun and memorable experience for you and our neighborhood!

TRINITY

No 116

HOME FURNISHINGS & DESIGN



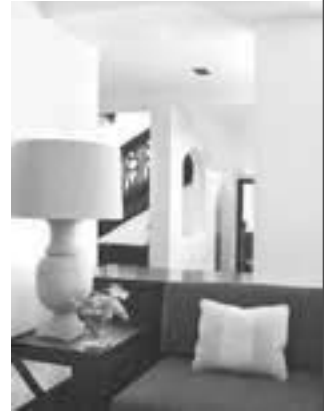
Visit us in Downtown Decatur
www.trinity-decatur.com | 404.378.0197

PROUD DESIGNERS OF THE 2020 ATLANTA SYMPHONY SHOWHOUSE



CELEBRATING 28 YEARS

During these uncertain times, HammerSmith is here for you and your family. We provide safe, essential services, architectural designs and home renovations. Start planning today for how to live better in a changed world.



ENGEL & VÖLKERS®
Intown Atlanta
real estate advisor



Kit Eisterhold 404-874-6357



HammerSmith
Live Brilliantly

HAMMERSMITH.NET

404.377.1021

**BECKY EVANS****ELENA PARENT****MARY MARGARET OLIVER**

Legislative RoundUp

Compiled by Fran Putney

Druid Hills News asked the three state legislators who represent our community to speak about the 2020 Legislative session and look ahead to 2021. Our thanks to Representatives Becky Evans (District 83) and Mary Margaret Oliver (District 82) and Senator Elena Parent (District 42) for sharing their perspectives. Some responses have been edited for space considerations.

Describe the unusual way this legislative session played out this year and the challenges it presented.

Elena Parent:

This was a Session like none other. In the State Senate, at least 6 senators contracted COVID-19, and there are others who are rumored to have been infected but were not public about it. I supported the suspension of the Legislative Session and Governor Kemp's Declaration of a State of Public Health Emergency. When the Session resumed, most Senators chose to wear masks, and there was some ability to social distance, but masks and social distancing were not required the way they were in the House of Representatives. The pandemic has punched a big hole in Georgia's budget, and there were huge cuts made to almost all aspects of state government, including almost \$1 billion from public education. The only silver lining was that the budgetary woes caused us to drop some bad legislation that had passed before the state of emergency,

like an additional tax cut mostly benefiting wealthy Georgians and a voucher bill that would have further drained the coffers of public education.

Mary Margaret Oliver:

The 2020 Session, which finally ended June 26 after an unprecedented suspension based on the COVID virus from March 12 to June 15, was the strangest and most uncertain resulting in limited productivity of my long political career. The budget is the General Assembly's only statutory required task. Fiscal year 2020 ended June 30, and we had to pass a budget for fiscal year 2021 prior to July 1 without real ability to predict revenues based on the collapse of the state and national economy. I serve on the Appropriations Committee and followed the state's revenues on a daily basis in the last weeks of June as we tried to analyze an accurate budget proposal. I voted NO on the budget that came to the House floor based on the approximate \$2 billion of cuts and the continuing refusal of the state's Republican leadership to utilize federal money to expand Medicaid or raise Georgia's tobacco tax, the third lowest in the nation. Since the Session, the 8th rural hospital, one in Cuthbert Georgia, was forced to close based on falling revenue, and as we know, the virus is expanding most significantly in rural areas. It was a stressful and difficult Session and discouraging in terms of making progress on several matters I have been hoping to address.

Becky Evans:

Just like life under the COVID 19 pandemic -- I would describe our session as crazy, uncertain, exhausting, unprecedented, surrealistic. Normally, session begins the second Monday of January, and after 40 legislative days, ends somewhere in late March or first week of April. Crossover Day, when a bill must pass at least one chamber, is usually day 28. This year, after Crossover on March 12, we adjourned thinking we would return in a few weeks, only to be called into a Special Session to declare a Public Health State of Emergency on March 16. We went into a "suspended session" lasting 14 weeks working from home, trying to get a grip on how the pandemic was affecting our communities, promoting good public health and safety, connecting unemployed people with our Department of Labor, working with state, county, school, and local leaders, and advocating for vote by mail for an election that was delayed twice! And I had a primary election challenger, so I was running a campaign without any in-person staff or volunteers, working remotely from my dining room.

I will always remember our return to the last 11 days of session, on Monday, June 15. The 180 house members were physically distanced across three rooms in the Capitol- and we were all required to wear masks. As Speaker Ralston spoke of the health and economic crises the pandemic was causing,

the unjust murder of Aumard Arbery, the stain on Georgia if we did not pass the Hate Crimes bill, the need to wear masks to protect our neighbor, we realized we could hear the chants of the Black Lives Matter peaceful protest outside reverberating through the windows. In the gallery corner, I was able to look out the window at the huge crowd below. The contrast between the closeness and intensity of being in a crowd peacefully protesting, to the distance and calm of lawmakers spread out across the Capitol chambers, but with both protesters and most lawmakers wearing face coverings - these are the surrealistic images I remember for our first morning back.

What were some of the highlights of this session in terms of key issues?

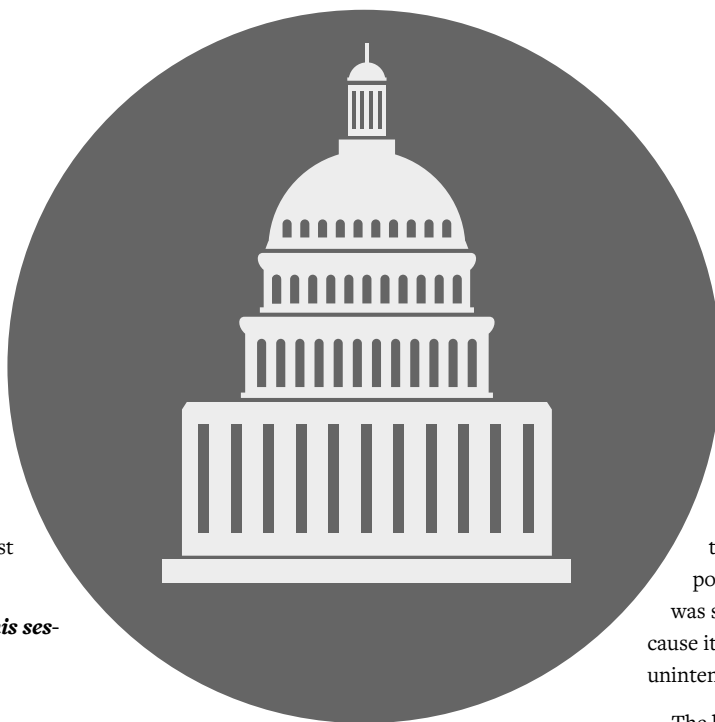
Mary Margaret Oliver:

The passage of HB 426 creating a Hate Crimes statute, and the Governor's signing of 426 in a large and happy ceremony before we adjourned was a big success. I would have preferred a stronger bill, and the "sausage making" negotiations that created a separate bill allegedly to enhance protections for first responders was problematic. But the bill as passed took Georgia off the list of only three states remaining that had refused to pass any Hate Crimes legislation.

Another highlight for was the daily participation of protesters who continued to work hard to influence lawmakers on good issues. I appreciated their presence and energy! Also, the House (not so much the Senate) adopted responsible procedures and rules to reduce the dangers of COVID during our June Session. We all wore masks and were separated in our seats and committee meetings to socially distance—it was a successful effort based on the reports that few or none of us contracted the virus after Sine Die. Legislation to enhance protections of senior citizens in assisted living facilities, which I cosponsored, offers strong and positive legislation reform. Staffing ratios were improved, reporting of regulatory violations will be more available to families seeking care, and stronger certification and training requirements for staff will protect more Georgia citizens. Good legislation.

Becky Evans:

The passage of Hate Crimes legislation for Georgia is significant and we cannot underestimate the symbolic importance for our state. However, due to the release of the videotaped murder of Ahmaud Arbery, the protests over racial injustice, and incred-



ible widespread urging from the public (THANK YOU to all of you for your emails, phone calls, and peaceful protests!), and corporate interests, the majority party knew they HAD to pass this bill. The price we paid was the Hate Crimes vote in the House was contingent on HB 838 passing, which it did by a close margin (92, with 91 being a constitutional majority), giving first responders more protections. So at the time, the mood in the House was more subdued and bittersweet than celebratory. But ironically, HB 838 was created in such haste, and not well vetted, and may have unintended consequences of providing less severe sentencing if someone kills a police officer.

DeKalb Ethics Bill, HB 1243, with Senate substitute, passed the House, 159-0, and with 13 signatures! This is a good compromise bill that fixes the appointment process of the ethics board, keeps the Ethics Office strong and independent, and removes gifts from the procurement process. We ask you to pass this in referendum in November. Congratulations also to DeKalb Delegation Chair Karla Drenner for her leadership and shepherding the bill throughout the process! And thank you to our citizen advocates, especially DeKalb Citizens Advocacy Council, for encouraging us and keeping us accountable.

Elena Parent:

The happiest moment was when we passed the Hate Crimes bill. Georgia was one of only 4 states without a hate crimes statute, due to the first attempt from 20 years ago being ruled unconstitutional.

ally vague by the courts. The bill passed the House over a year ago and then languished in the Senate, and I do not believe that it would have passed without the tragic death of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick. This debate also dragged in "hate crimes" against the police. While I admit that at times rhetoric can get overheated, I feel that comparing "discrimination" against the police to actual, state-sponsored historical discrimination against minority racial, ethnic and religious groups is unfounded. The Republican majority passed HB 838, which is legislation purporting to protect the first responders from "bias motivated intimidation," due to their base's opinion that the police are being discriminated against. There was some hope that Gov. Kemp might veto it because it was poorly written and may have significant unintended consequences, but no such luck.

The budget was the other huge issue. Even before Covid-19, we were facing a budgetary shortfall. There is no end in sight currently, and without further support from the federal government, this will be a very difficult period for Georgians to get through. Key programs from mental health to education to the court system are implementing cuts.

What do you believe will be the key issues of 2021?

Becky Evans:

First - it depends on the outcome of the November election!!!! Democrats are fighting to flip the Georgia House - we need to gain 16 seats for a constitutional majority. In 2018, we flipped 14 seats, but lost 3, for a net gain of 11. For 2020 our goal is to flip 20, knowing we may lose a few. Gaining control of the House is a very big challenge, but absolutely a worthy goal, as after the 2020 Census, the House draws congressional and state district maps, which determine representation for the next decade!

The budget will be the key issue of 2021. The COVID pandemic will continue to affect our state revenues. We cut \$2.5 billion between our 2019 and 2020 budget this year, with no state furloughs, but devastating 10% cuts to all departments, including \$950 million for K-12 education. If Congress does not pass another CARES Act with funding for states, we will have to face furloughs in state government and more. I stand with the Democratic Caucus that we absolutely need to increase state revenues. First and foremost, we need to fully expand Medicaid. 39 states have passed expansion, including two states this summer of 2020 under a Republican Governor -

Continued on page 10

Legislative Round Up ...continued from page 9

Missouri and Oklahoma - and 12 states have not. We are sending hundreds of millions of our tax dollars to other states for their good health and for our poor health. We missed opportunities this year to raise revenues in other common sense ways that I will push for in 2021: Raise the tobacco tax, eliminate the double deduction and trim corporate tax credits.

For my legislative agenda, I recently attended (virtually) the National Council of Environmental Legislature conference, and I am planning to introduce some clean energy and environmental legislation in 2021.

Elena Parent:

Budget. I imagine that we will still be in a difficult position with our state budget. I will continue to staunchly oppose these harmful cuts -- especially if, as recent history shows, the Republican majority does not pass serious initiatives to bring more revenues into state coffers.

Citizen's arrest. The Ahmaud Arbery case also highlighted the problematic citizen's arrest statute, as well as stand-your-ground laws. Of the two, changes to Citizen's Arrest seems the most likely.

I'll be working on putting into place an independent redistricting commission as we move into redistricting all of our districts -- including Congress -- in 2021, and otherwise making the process as fair and transparent as possible. I will continue my efforts to allow local governments to make decisions about monuments (currently SB 51). I'll be pushing for full funding of our public schools and to close the existing loophole that allows domestic abusers to possess firearms.

Mary Margaret Oliver:

The state budget and the financial cuts for services that I fear will again be required. How and when

will our economy recover? When will we pay for education and expand Medicaid to take advantage of federal funds? Budget projections will continue to be very difficult to predict.

I will again be working on criminal justice reform legislation: 1) To expand Juvenile Court jurisdiction to include 17 year-olds so that Georgia will exit the list of only three states to prosecute all 17 year-olds, who are legally minors, as adults for all criminal offenses. About 6,500 17 year-olds are arrested each year, about 2/3 are for misdemeanors, and all are treated as adults, given mug shots, placed in adult jails, and prosecuted as adults. 2) Pass repeal of citizens arrest statutes, and I was a cosponsor of HB 1203 which is a repeal statute that is receiving positive work. Since Sine Die we have had two hearings on 1203.

HB 756, which I am co-sponsor, requires that all ponds receiving coal ash be lined, and as a Board member of the Altamaha Riverkeeper and our work relating to Plant Scherer in Juliette Georgia, I will bring this issue back in 2021. A class action lawsuit was recently filed in Fulton Superior Court by Juliette citizens against Georgia Power alleging damage to their well water based on leakage from Plant Scherr's 786-acre unlined coal ash pond.

Final thoughts.

Becky Evans:

I am proud of DeKalb County, City of Decatur, Beacon Hill Black Alliance, Judge Seliger, and the hundreds, if not thousands of social justice advocates whose efforts led to the removal of the Confederate Obelisk in downtown Decatur on June 18. Our nation's history of racism is intolerable. I am also grateful that a marker to honor the four known victims of lynching in DeKalb was installed in front of the DeKalb County Courthouse on May 14. I am

a member of the Druid Hills group of the DeKalb Remembrance Project, to honor the life of Porter Turner Jr, who was killed in a racial terror lynching in Druid Hills in 1945. A marker has been approved by the City of Atlanta and Olmsted Linear Park Alliance to go in the linear park across from St. John's Lutheran's church. We hope to have a ceremony installing the marker this fall. We are also planning other opportunities for learning about our hard history and working for racial reconciliation and justice in Druid Hills.

Mary Margaret Oliver:

I am privileged to serve HD 82, and thank you for your vote and support. I have been a member of the Druid Hills Civic Association for decades—thank you DHCA volunteers! I send legislative email newsletters regularly, and you can sign up for my newsletters and read past additions on my web site www.marymargaretoliver.org. I also invite you to follow my Facebook page: Mary Margaret Oliver House District 82. In my newsletter I ask how you would vote on specific issues that are before the House, and your participation is very helpful. And please email me anytime at mmo@mmolaw.com or call me at my Decatur law office, 440 377 0485. I grew up on Oakdale Road and live on Burlington Road now, am a lifetime resident of our beautiful neighborhood. The November 3, 2020 election, as with all elections, will change our state's political participants and direction. Please join us at the Capitol - I need your help!

Elena Parent:

It is such an honor to serve my own neighbors in the State Senate! Please email me at elena@elenaparent.com if you wish to sign up to receive my newsletter, The Parent Press. I also think that the AJC's Political Insider blog is a good read for Georgia political junkies.



Scott's
Pressure Wash

Professional pressure washing—all surfaces
Decks, Stained and Sealed

678-469-1599

scottspressurewash.net • scottspressurewash@gmail.com



KDA & Tlehs
communication made *easy*

Get noticed. Advertise. Contact us today!

770-623-6220 • sales@kda-communications.com

5875 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Ste. 160 | Norcross, GA 30092



Frederick Law Olmsted Mask

OLMSTED 200: *Looking Toward 2022* By Alida Silverman

Olmsted 200 is the celebration of the Olmsted legacy across the United States and Canada.

As introduced in the March *Druid Hills News* issue, it is set for the bicentennial of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth in 2022. Central Park Conservancy is planning a Big Birthday Party event in Central Park where it all began on the actual day, April 26th. Here in Druid Hills, we will have the Tour Gala at Callanwolde that evening leading up to a Grand Tour of Homes & Gardens.

The mask image accompanying this article shows Frederick Law Olmsted as he looked when he came to see the 1400 plus acres that Joel Hurt had assembled for his "ideal residential suburb" just to the northeast of Inman Park, Atlanta's first suburb. In 1890 Olmsted was nearing the end of his career and working in Asheville, North Carolina, on Mr. Vanderbilt's Biltmore estate.

By 1893, Joel Hurt had a concept plan for what became our neighborhood (with some subsequent subdivisions inspired by the original).

The Druid Hills Civic Association and the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance have begun planning for 2022. Olmsted landscape steward organizations across the country are - or will be - doing the same. Event volunteers have already assembled about a dozen groups within Druid Hills to participate as they see fit. Stay tuned! Look for a way to get involved!



Callanwolde anniversary mug

Callanwolde Survives to Serve

By Andrew Keenan, Callanwolde Executive Director

Many of my friends in the neighborhood have asked me, "How's Callanwolde doing?" - which is a nice way of inquiring about whether we are going to survive this crisis. So far, Callanwolde is doing okay, thanks in large part to prior year successes that set the stage for a strong start this year. We are trying everything we can think of to raise money, including offering what we call "Solo Studio Time" and virtual classes.

Moving forward, I have one simple goal: "Survive to Serve"; in other words, outlive the pandemic so we can continue to provide the high level of arts instruction and historic inspiration that has made Callanwolde an integral part of our neighborhood for the past 40+ years.

If you think Callanwolde is valuable to our community and would like to ensure our survival, there are a number of ways you can participate:

Jazz on the Lawn

Concerts will be held this year, with many added precautionary measures. Our outdoor Amphitheater normally holds 550 guests, but this season we will limit ticket sales to 230. On the lawn, each party will have their own "pod" to sit in, distanced six feet from other parties. VIP tables will also be six feet apart. Masks will be required of guests when not in their pods or at tables. The five-concert series starts August 14 and runs through October 9.

Masked Soiree

When guests are required to wear masks, why

not make them elegant and artistic? This October 17th fundraising event will take advantage of our beautiful outdoor Amphitheater, and ticket sales will be limited to 100 guests to assure at least six feet between tables. The amazing vocalist Karla Harris will be performing. We are predicting a spectacular evening of dining, fine wine, music, auction competition and friendship—all under our beautiful, Atlanta starlit sky. Please contact me if you wish to receive an invitation to this special event (akeenan@callanwolde.org).

100th Anniversary History Tour

This may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience what the 27,000 sq. ft. mansion looked like when the Candler's lived at Callanwolde. Thanks to Emory University we hope to display most of the Candler furniture they acquired back in 1959, after they took possession of Callanwolde. This will be the first (and possibly only) time these furnishings will be on public display. A limited number of small guided tours will be held November 27 through December 6, 2020.

Give

Donations, at any level, are always welcome. If you wish to give online, you may go to our website: Callanwolde.org. Checks can be sent to 980 Briarcliff Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306.

Please know the entire Callanwolde staff and Board of Directors will leave no stone unturned to assure our wonderful organization does survive. Thanks for your support, past and future.



Druid Hills Railroad Bridge Update

By Alida Silverman

Over the last few years, we have been reporting about the nearly 110-year old CSX bridge over Ponce that marks the entrance to and exit from our neighborhood (“Help Transform Unsightly CSX Bridge over Ponce” in the November 2017 *Druid Hills News* and “Gateway Bridge or Eyesore?” in the March 2018 issue).

Here is a good news update: The Ponce CSX bridge has just had a Condition Assessment Report. Help is on the way!

DHCA and OLPA, along with a trio of enthusiasts, came together to pay for this necessary first step of restoration and rehabilitation. Charles Lawrence, architectural conservator/materials specialist with Lord Aeck Sargent, did the assessment with the aid of a structural engineer.

Called our “Eastern gateway” by Gale Walldorff, the Druid Hills railroad bridge over Ponce was built in 1911. It is a reinforced-concrete, closed spandrel arch bridge (and so much more: read the Physical Description section of the Report on the DHCA website to get the full picture). This type of bridge design evokes the old stone bridges, entirely appropriate for an Olmsted-designed subdivision. Our bridge is among the oldest of its kind in the Georgia Historical Bridge inventory and one of only a few with decorative detail. The triangles that say “Druid Hills” make the bridge eminently special.

Recommendations for treatment focus on careful cleaning and repair. Division 2 Chair Yvette Weatherly, who has been an active participant in this project, has been communicating with our GDOT district engineer about alternative placement of the GDOT signage. Doug Rollins spearheaded the search for the right entity to do a condition assessment report and has met with our DeKalb district commissioner Jeff Rader who considers the bridge project suitable for SPLOST funding. Perhaps after years of looking at that bridge and thinking that something must be done, the stars are at last lining up for a fine outcome.

Emory Welcomes President Gregory L. Fenves

Contributed by Emory University

On August 1, Emory University welcomed its 21st president, Gregory L. Fenves, to campus and to his new position. Fenves comes to Emory from the University of Texas (UT) at Austin where he had been president since 2015. During a 12-year tenure at UT, Fenves served first as dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering, ranked among the top 10 engineering schools in the US, then as provost, and ultimately as president.

Fenves assumes the presidency from Claire Sterk, who announced her retirement as president in November.

Under his leadership, the university recruited world-class faculty while retaining an impressive network of current faculty, broadened cross-disciplinary research, and significantly increased extramural research funding.

A core priority for Fenves was diversity and inclusion among the UT Austin community, beginning with the successful defense of the use of race and ethnicity as a factor in admission decisions in the 2016 US Supreme Court ruling *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*. That landmark decision upheld the educational benefits of diversity in higher education.

Fenves played a central role in UT Austin’s being the first top-tier university in almost 50 years to build an academic medical center from the ground up with the founding of the Dell Medical



School, which has become a key partner for communities throughout Austin.

Fenves earned a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and a master’s degree and PhD from the University of California (UC), Berkeley, all in civil engineering.

In 2008 he was named dean of UT Austin’s Cockrell School of Engineering. He was named provost in 2013 and president in 2015.

For his groundbreaking research in earthquake engineering and academic leadership, Fenves was elected in 2014 to the National Academy of Engineering, the highest recognition for an engineer in the United States.

Fenves is married to Carmel Martinez Fenves. They have two adult daughters, a son-in-law, and one granddaughter, all of whom live in Austin.

President and Mrs. Fenves live on campus in Lullwater House, the University’s presidential home since 1963, located in Lullwater Preserve.

Public Safety Committee Update of FLOCK Cameras

By Doug Rollins

As a follow up to the Public Safety article published in the last newsletter, the DHCA Public Safety Committee wanted to provide a critical reminder regarding the FLOCK camera systems that were installed as part of City of Atlanta grant in 2018.

That FLOCK license will expire in October and those 11 cameras will be removed from Fairview, Oakdale, Lullwater and Springdale. Residents on those streets will need to pick up the contracting and payment process directly with FLOCK if they wish to maintain coverage.

The current rate is \$2,000 per camera/year or \$4,000 to cover both ends of a street segment. The organizers of private FLOCK contracts on Cornell and Oxford tell us that the annual cost per resident varies from \$88-\$120 per year depending on the number of homes.

Please reach out to pubsafety@druidhills.org if you have questions about the efficacy of FLOCK or the other prevention strategies used in Druid Hills including Neighborhood Watch and the Druid Hills Patrol.

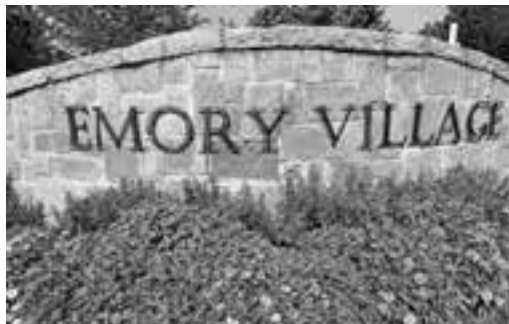
COVID-19 Affects Emory Village

By Megan Walter (high school intern)

Since March 13, the coronavirus pandemic has imposed a historic metamorphosis on Emory Village. Once well-worn sidewalks pave the way to temporarily closed restaurants and stores, and vacant parking lots leave only the bravest cars to bake under Georgia's summer sun. Occasionally, villagers simply walk up to the doors of their favorite restaurants, toting children and over-walked dogs, and remember what once was—all of the Mother's Day brunches at Rise-n-Dine, the before-school excursions to CVS to pick up that gift card for that friend's birthday you forgot, and the weekends spent lounging in Ali's Cookies.

Todd Hill, chair of the Emory Village Alliance (EVA), comments on EVA's stance on the pandemic-plagued village. In one of EVA's more recent successes, Hill reflected on local graduates' drive-through celebration when EVA posted a banner celebrating the spring graduates, and Emory Villagers cheered on the parade of graduates as they drove through Emory Village.

Since then, EVA continues its observation of village life. "Within the Village," Hill says, "the palpa-



ble impact of COVID-19 is the economic devastation of the businesses." EVA, however, remains loyal to the struggling enterprises— "We are patronizing the businesses ourselves," Hill says, "and are encouraging the broader community to do the same."

Hill reports that "EVA shifted to online monthly meetings, which are working reasonably well." Virtually, EVA "is continuously working to improve the Village on behalf of all of its users," Hill said, "by work days, lighting the roundabout trees, keeping the plaza fountain clean and operational, main-

taining the streetscape plantings, working with the county to install a pedestrian crosswalk signal, and our upcoming streetlight banner campaign.

Despite the ongoing health crisis, Hill reported that the Alliance still plans to host the annual Open Streets event. "The 8th Annual Open Streets Emory Village will be a hybrid series of activities held both virtually and in the Village," Hill says, adding that EVA is considering starting a fundraising effort that would be associated with the Open Streets Emory Village event which may benefit businesses.

And, while EVA may be planning a host of village-life improvements, it's definitely not giving up on Emory Village. "As we continue to live the new normal," Hill says, "we will seek ways to help businesses and keep the Village a vibrant community center—including more social media outreach, focused highlights on specific businesses, and acknowledgement of the healthcare providers in our community."

Emory Village Alliance is on Instagram: Feel free to post your photos to @emoryvillage or @myemoryvillage.

South Fork Conservancy Honors Jeff Rader

By Julie Ralston

DeKalb County District 2 Commissioner and Druid Hills resident Jeff Rader recently received South Fork Conservancy's 2020 Trailblazer Award in recognition of his efforts to preserve and promote trails and parks along the South Fork of Peachtree Creek.

The Trailblazer Award honors someone who has championed the rich, natural habitat and recreation opportunities surrounding the South Fork, which runs through DeKalb County and the City of Atlanta. Commissioner Rader has been a long-time advocate for the South Fork, including providing pivotal support and leadership in creating Zonolite Park, a former industrial brownfield that is now a jewel of the SFC park and trail system.

"Commissioner Rader has been a force for good in working with South Fork Conservancy. From the cleanup and transformation of Zonolite Park, to assistance in the restoration of the South Fork segment running through Mason Mill Park, he has supported our efforts really at every turn," said SFC Executive Director Kimberly Estep.



Jeff Rader receives Trailblazer Award from SFC Vice Chair Julie Ralston

Accepting the award, Rader said, "The South Fork is the heart and soul of my commission district, and one of the places that I have taken pleasure in during this period of social distancing and staying closer to home. I salute the powerful vision of South Fork Conservancy to make this creek part of the public realm for all of people who live here," he said.

To date, South Fork Conservancy has completed five miles of trails, including catalyzing

the development of three parks, along Peachtree Creek's South Fork. On Friday, August 21 the SFC celebrated a major organizational and community milestone in installing a 175-foot Confluence pedestrian bridge connection to trails along the South and North forks of Peachtree Creek. The bridge was lifted into place by one of the largest cranes in north America.

This \$2 million landmark project will provide access to acres of new greenspace in an urban community ranked as a "High Need" area for park access by the Trust for Public Land.

This state-of-the-art bridge lies northwest of I-85 between Piedmont Road and Lindbergh Drive. In addition to connecting nearby neighborhoods to trails and parkland, it will also provide linkages to two regional trails -- PATH400 and eventually the Atlanta BeltLine.

For more information about South Fork Conservancy, please visit www.southforkconservancy.org.

School News

Fernbank Elementary School

By Dana Borda

Over the summer, Fernbank Elementary managed to hold a very successful virtual promotion celebration for our 5th graders, who have moved on to middle school. Parents, grandparents, and friends were able to attend online and watch this great group of kids be recognized. We also said good-bye to some retiring staff members and welcomed some new teachers who are joining our Fernbank family.

In July, the DeKalb County School District Board of Education voted to start the school year on August 17 with virtual learning, due to rising levels of COVID-19. We dearly miss seeing our students' faces and meeting new friends in person, but we know this will not be forever! While this has certainly been a different way to start the school year, our parents, students, and teachers are adjusting to meeting new teachers and classmates online and learning how to make the technology work. Our teachers spent many summer days learning new online teaching skills and virtual classroom management techniques to make virtual learning as easy and effective as possible. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the building as soon as health and safety permit. As always, we thank the Druid Hills community for supporting Fernbank during this challenging time in our history!

SPARK

Compiled from SPARK E-News

School started for SPARK students on Monday, August 24. In advance of the start of school, teachers and administrators discussed instructional expectations in a virtual setting and sent out a technology survey to all SPARK families to ensure that they have the necessary equipment for a successful start to the school year. Virtual town halls via Zoom were conducted with parents during the week of August 10 to convey important information and allow parents to ask questions.



Druid Hills High School

Submitted by Mala Sharma

Back to school looks a little different than it has in the past. The halls may be quiet, but the virtual classrooms are full of excitement for the new school year. The Red Devils welcomed in the freshmen class of 2024 with a virtual orientation and town hall. Students and teachers are beginning the school year in a distance learning / virtual setting for at least four weeks and will assess on a rolling basis. Druid Hills High School and DeKalb County School District made considerable changes to the virtual plans and expectations for teachers and students for virtual learning this fall. Faculty and staff wait to welcome the students back to the halls and face-to-face learning until it is safe to do so. Students signed up for a variety of activities, clubs and sports on Virtual Red Devil Day on August 13. It's important for both students and parents to find ways to connect with the school, so consider volunteering or joining a committee to help DHHS PTO. We look forward to communicating with you in a few months. Things may look very different by then.

Paidea School

Submitted by Anne Dukes

Five Paidea eighth graders were among six national winners in the Nicholas A. Virgilio Haiku and Senryu Competition for grades 7-12. The winners were chosen from over 3,000 entries.

Senior Robin James was named the Georgia winner of the National Federation of State High School Associations Heart of the Arts Award. The award was created in 2013 to recognize individuals who exemplify the positive ideals of performing arts and who have overcome adversity or gone above and beyond their peers.

Junior Vinson Martin was named an Atlanta regional winner of the Positive Athlete Award, given by a national organization founded by former NFL player Hines Ward to recognize high school athletes for their athletic ability as well as their positive and supportive attitude for their teammates and sports. Vinson plays soccer and basketball.

Ben Franklin Academy

Submitted by Angela Cassidy

The Ben Franklin Academy reopened on August 6 carefully following guidelines provided by the CDC and other public health agencies to address and promote the safety, health, and welfare of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ben Franklin Academy has specialized in Mastery Education and individualized education for 33 years and has always offered small classes of 4-6 students per teacher. During this time, our student to teacher ratio will be even lower to facilitate social distancing. Moreover, we have divided our students into two cohorts, with each cohort of students based in just one building as BFA follows the "Bubble Scenario" for the well-being of faculty and students.

Ben Franklin Academy is offering two options for learning this year. In Option 1, a student will resume on-campus classes. A hybrid learning approach will combine in-person and distance learning. While still physically on campus, students will Zoom in for classes that are not taught in their building and attend in-person classes that are held in their building. Option 2 offers a remote learning experience. In accordance with public health guidelines, until further notice, no in-person clubs, sports, and/or activities, though virtual Cross Country and few virtual activities will be offered in fall.



Druid Hills Middle School Gets New Athletic Fields

By Adam Francois Watkins

While students and teachers switched to virtual learning in the spring, construction crews were busy making improvements at Druid Hills Middle School (DHMS). Work started on brand-new athletic fields, including a synthetic turf soccer/football field, all-weather competition track surface, widened cross-country course, new fencing and new lighting. Once it is safe to resume in-person learning, the students will be happy to be together again and take advantage of these state-of-the-art resources.

It is not just facility improvements that have been catching the community's notice. Under the leadership of Principal Jacqueline Taylor, DHMS has experienced a renaissance in recent years, with Fernbank Elementary School now contributing more students than any other feeder school. In the last two years, the DHMS Math Team finished first place and second place, respectively, in the regional MathCounts competition. DHMS students have also received state and national recognition this year in writing and dance choreography.

The middle school uses the same acclaimed International Baccalaureate (IB) program that our neighborhood students began at Fernbank. This IB approach encourages skills vital to today's students and workplaces, including collaboration, academic risk-taking, and intellectual curiosity, all in the setting of our wonderfully diverse community.

Learn more about the exciting developments at Druid Hills Middle School by visiting the PTSA webpage at DruidHillsMiddle.com, where you can also sign up for our weekly Dragon News delivered right to your inbox.

Historic Preservation and Druid Hills: COAs

This is the second article of an ongoing feature (see June 2020 issue) and also focuses on the City of Atlanta local Druid Hills Landmark District. Remember: "national designation identifies and local designation protects."

All of us Druid Hills neighbors are familiar with the red (City) and yellow (County) signs giving notice that a property is up for a hearing of a COA – Certificate of Appropriateness application.

Exterior changes to homes and properties require a COA: large, small and in-between changes. Why? To protect the 'look' of Druid Hills. To make sure that changes are appropriate and in keeping with the elements that give Druid Hills its identity.

The City of Atlanta has 5 different types of COAs depending on the changes:

- **Type I** – This COA is unique to Landmark Districts. (Druid Hills is one of 4 City neighborhood landmark districts.) It is solely for in-kind repair or in-kind replacement of roofs, windows, exterior doors, and certain kinds of paving e.g. driveways and walkways. It is handled administratively - no hearing before the Urban Design Commission (UDC). Fee: \$10.
- **Type II** – For changes to facades of structures and to landscape visible from right of way; goes to the UDC for a hearing and decision. Fee: \$100.
- **Type IIA** – The newest one, this COA is for fences, walls, retaining walls, and new paving not visible from the right of way. It is handled administratively and the result of a planning department initiative to simplify the COA process for all neighborhood districts in cases where the UDC staff could use a checklist of criteria. Fee: \$10.
- **Type III** – For additions to structures and for new structures whether a house or accessory structure. It goes to the UDC for a hearing and decision. Fee: \$100 (additions); \$200 (new structures).



- **Type IV** – This COA is for demolition of an historic structure. There are 2 kinds based on the argument for demolition: unreasonable economic return and threat to public health and safety. Both require extensive paperwork (outlined in Chapter 20 of the City zoning ordinance). In the case of the economic return argument, an expert panel is also convened and made up of one individual named by the applicant, one by the UDC, and one by these 2 appointees. Fee: \$200 for unreasonable economic return; \$100 for health/safety.

The Historic Preservation section of the DHCA website offers detailed information about COAs and the COA process of the City via links to the Landmark District ordinance and the UDC. DHCA has both a City and a County committee set up to help neighbors and to stand up for the City Landmark District regulations and the County Guidelines. Two governmental jurisdictions, two approaches to protection, two different commissions -- but one goal.

The following is a list of the LDPC's current member: Sally Cohen, Justin Critz, Jan Jones, Betsy Marvin, Tom Newsome, Jennie Richardson, Carol Sleeth, Alida Silverman and Joanna Stroud.



Freedom Park Trail

Freedom Park Conservancy Selects Firm for Master Plan

Contributed by Freedom Park Conservancy

The Freedom Park Conservancy announces the selection of the Houston-based studio of SWA Group for development of a master plan of Freedom Park. It has been almost 30 years since the original master plan forged this park from the remnants of a freeway right-of-way, along with The Carter Center and The King Center, into a vision of a cohesive open space for Atlanta. Now is the time to continue the vision and expand the potential of Freedom Park for the 21st century.

“As we imagine the next generation of Freedom Park, we sought a consulting firm that offered both broad experience and an exciting vision commensurate with the richness of this singular place,” says David Hamilton, Master Plan Coordinator. “SWA Group was clearly that firm.” The award-winning landscape architecture consultancy is known for the design of bespoke parks and open spaces all over the world -- from New York to California to China. Tapping into a site’s particular history and possibility is a hallmark of SWA’s design. Their design for Houston’s Buffalo Bayou Park transformed what had been an abandoned waterway into an iconic urban park that integrates art and recreation, links the city’s neighborhoods and all the while doubles as part of the city’s flood protection. Today, the park is a defining aspect of Houston’s identity.

About Atlanta and Freedom Park, SWA principal and designer Natalia Beard expressed her excitement in working on such a culturally important

site in the center of a city characterized by rolling topography and a lush arboreal cover. “Atlanta’s Freedom Park is more about a ‘state of mind’ than a spatial concept, like the Beltline,” said Beard.

The site’s historical underpinnings tie to important events and people from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement and whose physical form resulted from coalesced strips of land once intended for a freeway. “Public reclamation is central to this place. How can the park better connect the surrounding neighborhoods? How can this ‘art park’ find contemporary expression? How can design offer different perceptions of the land and the history that has shaped it? How to tap into residents’ hopes and dreams for this place? We are excited to engage with the Conservancy and the City of Atlanta, and the full range of stakeholders, to answer these questions in the master plan.”

The master plan process for Freedom Park will launch on September 17 with a focus on broad reaching public participation and consensus building. Input from the community will be foundational to how the master plan evolves. Both Freedom Park Conservancy and SWA look forward to a full range of tools and opportunities for citizen engagement and input towards realizing this important plan for the future of Freedom Park.

Frazer Center Reopens

By Dina Shadwell

After being closed for eleven weeks during March, April and May, Frazer Center is back in operation, albeit not at full capacity. As you might imagine, the journey has been something of an obstacle course. But we are facing those obstacles and working on finding our way so we can continue to provide our life-changing inclusion programs to the adults, children, and families we serve.

At the beginning of June, we welcomed back a limited number of children whose parents are first-responders. In mid-June, we added a few more families, and in July, all Children's Program classrooms were back in use. We are fortunate to have several epidemiology experts and medical professionals among our parents at Frazer, many of whom were willing to serve as an advisory committee as Frazer leadership faced decisions about new protocols and reopening. Additionally, we are meticulously following guidance from the CDC and the Department for Early Childhood and Learning (DECAL).

Communication with parents has been critical in our decision-making, and we are so grateful for the support they have shown us. One parent whose daughter has autism remarked, "Frazer should be a model for other schools. I've always thought that but now it goes a step beyond as you are skillfully, communicatively, and transparently navigating these uncharted territories utilizing what are probably the most knowledgeable medical advisors an organization could have. Since [my daughter] has been back at Frazer she is THRIVING."

Our Adult Services Program began its phased reopening in July with the return of over 20 of our 80 participants. The phased approach is allowing for staff and participants alike to become accustomed to the new health and safety protocols. More participants will return in August and September.

Since much of our programming is community-based, Adult Program Director Bill Payne and his staff are re-examining options for providing services, including virtual learning. A grant from Holly Lane Foundation allowed for the purchase of several new Chromebooks, and many participants are learning to navigate their way through Zoom and other applications that will keep them connected to their communities.

In Cator Woolford Gardens, almost all of the events that were slated for the spring have been rescheduled. We now offer elopement packages



Ms. Gigi and her preschoolers taking advantage of Frazer's outdoor classroom

for "mini-" or "micro-weddings" and have had some lovely events with plenty of space for guests to feel comfortable.

Every day may bring new challenges, and the future may be tenuous, but one thing remains certain—Frazer could not get through these trying times without the support of our community. We are grateful to our participants, families, staff, neighbors, and donors who remain committed to Frazer's mission of fostering inclusive communities.

If you would like to donate to Frazer's Flourish Fund which provides financial assistance to families who have been economically impacted by the pandemic and associated budget cuts by the State of Georgia, please visit frazercenter.org/give. For more information about event rentals, please email cwginfo@frazercenter.org or visit catorwoolfordgardens.org.

Sponsors eager for your business!

The following are sponsors* in other community newsletters published by KDA & Tehs Publishing. **BOLD LISTINGS** have an advertisement in this publication. (* Included sponsors have met purchase criteria.)

DH18N

A/C & Heating

Anytime Heating & Cooling, Inc.	678-606-9020
Dayco Systems	770-919-9509
Neesse-Jones Heating and Cooling	678-856-4785
Precision Heating & Air	770-445-0870
Shumate Air Conditioning & Heating	678-584-0880
Superior Indoor Comfort	770-664-9098
Zen Air	678-883-7868

Accountants

Signature Accounting Services, LLC.	770-975-1609
-------------------------------------	--------------

Assisted Living

Manor Lake BridgeMill	678-990-5055
Overlook at Cedarcrest Assisted Living	770-715-4460
Tapestry House Assisted Living	770-649-0808
The Arbor at Bridgemill	770-545-6736
The Mansions at Sandy Springs	678-684-6990
The Oaks at Suwanee Creek	470-235-5300

Auto Repair

Kams Auto Service Center	770-529-0330
--------------------------	--------------

Bakeries

Alpine Bakery & Trattoria	404-410-1400
---------------------------	--------------

Cleaning Services

House Cleaning Specialist, Inc.	770-975-4995
Prestige Maids	770-807-9949

Concrete Leveling

Advance Concrete Leveling	678-235-9322
---------------------------	--------------

Concrete Replacement

McKemey Concrete & Hardscapes	678-914-2576
-------------------------------	--------------

Consignment

Finders Keepers	404-296-0285
-----------------	--------------

Dentist

32 Dental	770-423-1132
Acworth Dental	770-974-4146
BridgeMill Dentistry (Scott Merritt, DMD)	770-704-1812
Cherokee Children's Dentistry	770-479-1717
Cumming Dental Associates	404-408-9811
Distinctive Dentistry	770-445-6606
Esthetic Dental Solutions	678-352-1333
Family Dentistry at Seven Hills	678-574-4837
Northpoint Dental	678-274-6987
Swords & Phelps Dentistry	770-479-3713

Design & Build Services

HammerSmith, Inc.	404-377-1021
-------------------	--------------

Electrical Service

Arc Angel Electric Corp	770-889-9243
ServiceWise Electric, LLC	404-704-4903
Shumate Electrical Services	678-584-0880

Event Planning

Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau	678-297-2811
---	--------------

Eye Care

Pearle Vision - Woodstock	770-790-0000
---------------------------	--------------

Fitness Centers

Senergy Fitness	470-282-5225
-----------------	--------------

Flooring

BCAL Floors, LLC	770-652-6948
Hardwood Flooring Services	770-713-3894

Garage Doors

Platinum Overhead Door	678-329-3100
------------------------	--------------

Golf Courses

Club Corp Golf Clubs	770-389-2000
----------------------	--------------

Golf Equipment & Supplies

Golf Cars of Canton	678-880-1156
---------------------	--------------

Granite

UCI Kitchen & Bath	770-441-1681
--------------------	--------------

Grocery

Rooster's Market	706-301-8176
------------------	--------------

Gutters

Painting Plus - Gutters	404-382-9988
-------------------------	--------------

Handyman

Shumate Handyman Services	678-584-0880
---------------------------	--------------

Hardware Stores

Ace Hardware of Toco Hills	404-325-8000
----------------------------	--------------

Home Builder

Horizon at Laurel Canyon	770-254-5357
--------------------------	--------------

Home Exterior Makeover

Exovations-Home Exterior Makeover	770-205-2995
-----------------------------------	--------------

Home Furnishings

ARIANA Home Furnishings & Design	678-807-7422
Cotton Mill Exchange	770-992-9294

Home Improvements

Exovations	770-205-2995
GHIR Construction	404-922-7379

Insurance

State Farm-Matt Cresap	770-982-0064
The Upton Agency	770-361-6570
Thomas Insurance Agency, Inc.	678-880-9985

Junk Removal

Halo Junk Removal	904-219-6342
-------------------	--------------

Landscape Lighting

Georgia LightScapes	404-369-0199
Landscape Lighting Systems, Inc.	678-331-3060

Landscaping

Stone Edge Landscapes	678-421-4763
-----------------------	--------------

Medical Clinic

Village Podiatry Center-Dr.Mike Laur	678-403-7000
--------------------------------------	--------------

Nursery

Autumn Hill Nursery	770-442-3901
---------------------	--------------

Painting

Chris Brown Painting & Home Repair	770-323-3148
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
Jasper Painting Company	770-893-3257
Mendez Painting Specialist LLC	770-772-9677
Painting Plus	404-382-9988
Verge Painting and Siding	678-331-1102

Physicians

Morrow Family Medicine	770-781-8004
------------------------	--------------

Plumbing

Bryan Plumbing Services	770-826-5277
Northside Plumbing	770-272-2558
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

Pre-Schools & Kindergarten

Omega Learning Center-Acworth	770-792-7431
-------------------------------	--------------

Pressure Washing

Myst Power Washing	770-546-6028
--------------------	--------------

Propane Service

Gas Incorporated	770-720-1378
------------------	--------------

Real Estate

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-Natalie Gregory Team	404-373-0076
Cory & Co. Realty	404-564-5595
Harry Norman Realtors-Pam Hughes	404-626-3604
Keller Williams Realty-Cynthia Baer	678-358-3369
Remax Around Atlanta-Falkin	770-330-2374
Russ Robinson Atlanta Communities	770-335-7677
Sever Group Properties/State Farm-Grant	678-849-6884

Remodeling

GCI Basements	404-569-8794
Serv'all Plumbing-Remodeling	770-917-1852
Southeast Construction Concepts	706-301-5609

Restaurants

Luna Maya	770-720-4999
-----------	--------------

Retaining Walls

Ben Hopkins LLC	770-827-5627
-----------------	--------------

Retirement Community

Soleil Laurel Canyon	678-880-3071
----------------------	--------------

Roofing

Aspen Contracting	877-784-7663
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
Exovations-Roofing	770-205-2955
Generation Contracting DBA Generation	770-733-3517

Schools-Private

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

Siding

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

Tree Service

The Davey Tree Expert Company	770-451-7911
-------------------------------	--------------

Water Heaters

Serv'all Plumbing-Water Heaters	770-917-1852
---------------------------------	--------------

Window Cleaning

Squeegee Clean	770-924-9173
----------------	--------------

Window Replacement

Exovations-Window Replacements	770-205-2995
--------------------------------	--------------

Wrought Iron Railing

Mind's Eye Fabrication	770-363-4561
------------------------	--------------



Your Neighbors Trust *Peggy Hibbert* When Selling Their Homes

A 30-Year Druid Hills Resident,
an Atlanta Native and a
Druid Hills Real Estate Expert.

Peggy Hibbert

#1 Individual Agent
DeKalb Association of REALTORS®
2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018
c. 404.444.0192 o. 404.874.0300
peggy@atlantafinehomes.com

23

Average Days
on the Market

98.9%

Average List Price
to Sales Price Ratio

Contact your *Neighborhood Expert with Global Connections*
to find out how much your property is worth.

Atlanta Fine
Homes

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

1555 PEACHTREE ROAD, SUITE 100, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

Atlanta Fine Homes, LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each franchise is independently owned and operated.
Stats for 2019 include FMLS sales listed by Peggy Hibbert and unlisted sales representing the seller.

FOR SALE!

**501 ALDEN DRIVE
DECATUR, GA 30030**

GREAT TOWNHOME WITH
CITY OF DECATUR SCHOOLS!



**4 BEDROOM - 3.5 BATHS WITH OPEN FLOW - LISTED FOR \$529,900
LOTS OF FLEX SPACE - GREAT WALKABILITY**



★★★★★ Service

Call Bonnie Wolf if you want to list and sell your home!

C: 404-216-9296 O: 404-897-5558

Bonnie.Wolf@HarryNorman.com

HN
HARRY
NORMAN
REALTORS

1755 LOGANS KNOLL | ATLANTA, GA 30329

6 Beds | 5 Baths | Listed for \$1,200,000 | 3 Levels of living open floor plan near Emory & CDC



★★★★★ Service, Gold Phoenix
Experience isn't Expensive, it's Priceless

PAM HUGHES REALTOR®

C: 404-626-3604 O: 404-897-5558 Pam.Hughes@HarryNorman.com

HN
HARRY
NORMAN
REALTORS

Harry Norman, REALTORS® The Intown Office | 1518 Monroe Drive NE, Suite E | Atlanta, GA 30324 | 404-897-5558 | HarryNorman.com
Information is believed to be accurate, but is not warranted. Offers subject to errors, changes, omissions, prior sales, and withdrawals without notice.

