



Twittens Dedication,
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THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Emory's Briarcliff Campus To Be Developed

Rendering of future "Corso Druid Hills"
Galerie Living's senior living development
- Courtesy, Galerie Living



Rendering of restored and renovated
Candler Mansion - Courtesy, Galerie Living

Plans for "Corso Druid Hills", a new senior living community, include restoration of the historic Candler Mansion

Galerie Living has entered into a lease agreement with Emory University for 32 of the 42 acres located on the Asa G. "Buddie" Candler, Jr. Briarcliff Estate. The historic mansion will be completely restored and will serve as a community center and event space. The vacant Georgia Mental Health Institute high rise, as seen in Stranger Things as "Hawkins Lab", will be demolished to make way for the new development.

Full story on page 13

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“What does DHCA do?”

Chair's Corner

By DHCA Chair, Van Biesel



“What does DHCA do?” is a question I get often.

To start, a little history... The Druid Hills Civic Association was established in 1938, and many remarkable

things have been accomplished in the past 84 years, from helping to save our linear parks and surrounding neighborhood from becoming a highway, to establishing Druid Hills as a historic district. And, while DHCA does not govern or make decisions regarding home improvements, developments, or infrastructure, we continue to educate residents about the historic guidelines and advocate for the historic preservation of the neighborhood. We accomplish this in many ways, most recently working alongside other organizations to celebrate 200 years since the birth of American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, celebrating the origins of our neighborhood from its inception.

Perhaps the best answer to the question, “What does DHCA do?”, is the simplest: we listen and communicate. DHCA communicates in several ways, through this and every issue

of Druid Hills News, through our eNewsletter, on our website at druidhills.org, and even by knocking on doors to share important information.

The DHCA continually strives, through our Board and its committees, our members, and other volunteers from the community, to:

- Keep abreast of events, developments, and laws which affect Druid Hills residents
- Communicate with residents to keep them informed
- Gather information to help us understand the needs and priorities of the community
- Advocate for the residents of Druid Hills to the best of our ability.

We at the DHCA have been working hard to do these things. Each year, we will continue to work diligently to do better. Together.

Become a member. Volunteer. We are all volunteers and we welcome your help.

www.druidhills.org



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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:

DECEMBER 2022

DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 10

MARCH 2023

DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 10

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EVA Open Streets
Bubbleman

Celebrate the 10th Annual Open Streets Emory Village

Open Streets Emory Village will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Sunday, October 23 with all the family fun you've come to expect, so get those costumes ready! Kids will enjoy Glenn Church Trunk or Treat, the annual South Fork Conservancy Duck Race, and all the carnival attractions. For adults, OSEV will host a music venue featuring local bands from the Atlanta area. Beer, wine, and soft drinks will accompany the music in a beer garden-style venue. John Willingham and Friends, from Emory Village Alliance's popular Spring Concert Series, will kick off the entertainment. Stay tuned for more details at www.emoryvillage.org.

Druid Hills Halloween Costume Parade and Contest - On Sunday October 23, the DHCA will host this fun event during EVA's Open Streets Celebration. There will be three costume categories: best Group costume, best Individual costume and best Pet costume. We'll have wonderful prizes for the winners! So get your costumes ready and come join the parade! We hope to have a band join in with the parade. Stay updated with the parade start up time at www.druidhills.org.

2022 DHCA Holiday Decorating Event

Annual December Holiday House Decorating Event - This year the Druid Hills Civic Association will judge two different categories: traditional decorations verses fun and crazy decorations. Each winning house will receive a metal Historic Druid Hills yard sign.

Come join the DHCA membership committee and help us plan community events!

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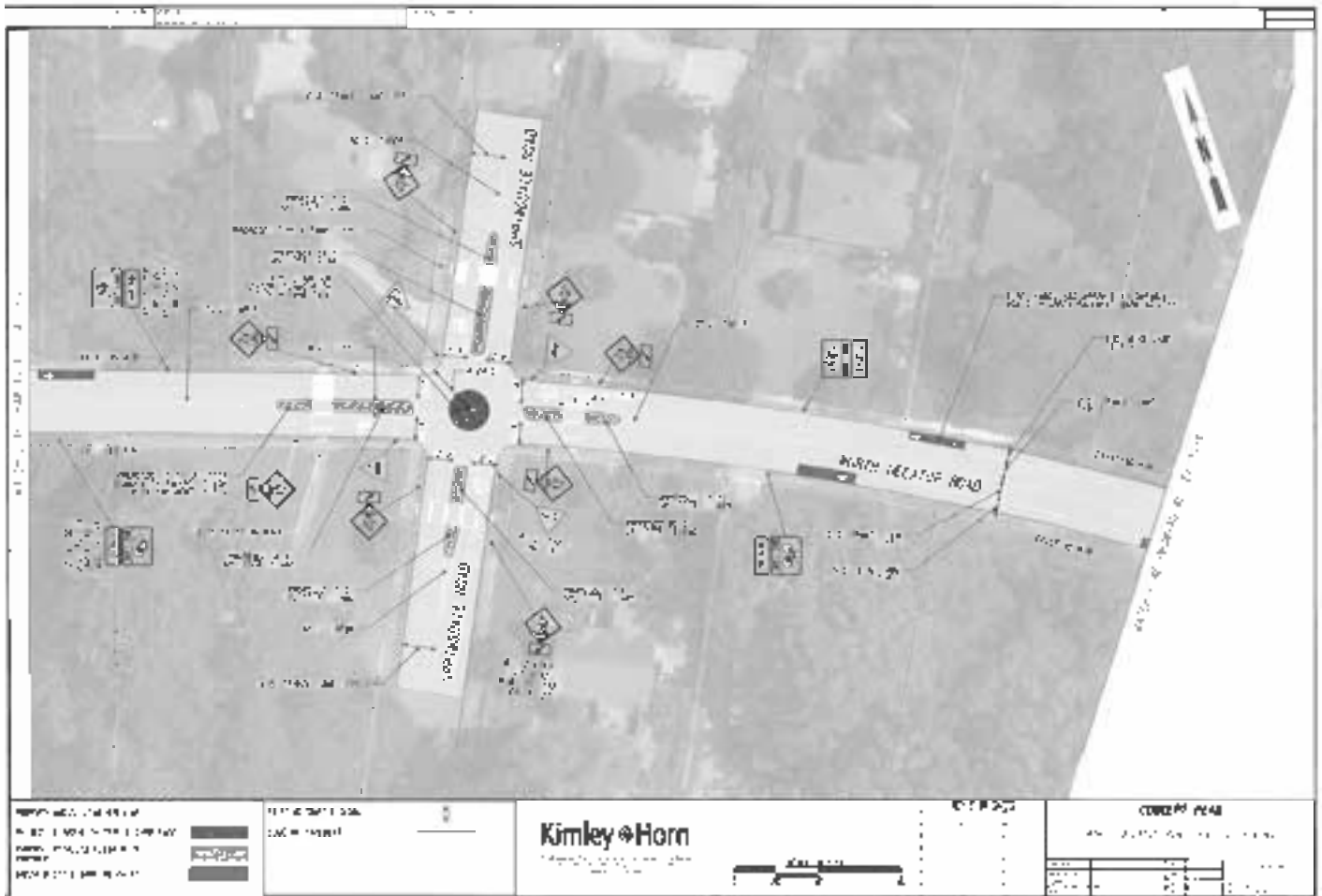
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source: Brokermetrics, YTD sales through 6/29/22 for single-family homes in Druid Hills and Midtown.

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Working with Ansley Supports Children's





Springdale- N. Decatur Rd. mini-roundabout

Moving Safely Through Druid Hills

By Doug Rollins, DHCA Transportation Sub-committee

As we walk, run or wheel outdoors to enjoy our beautiful Fall weather, we wanted to update you on the myriad of Transportation-related topics in and around Druid Hills. Some improvements you may have already noticed - like the wonderful new roundabout crosswalks stewarded by the Emory Village Alliance - others are approaching installation dates, while others are still several years out and in early design phases. Taken individually, these initiatives may seem small; however, as a whole, I think you will see some real progress taking shape in our community. Your all-volunteer, passionate and dedicated Transportation team (part of the DHCA Public Safety Committee) remains committed to advocating on behalf of our residents across all of these areas as we approach 2023. Here's a quick overview.

Improvements Coming to North Decatur

After too many accidents (and unwavering persistence of this committee and residents), the County has budgeted and contracted to install mini-roundabouts at North Decatur and Oakdale and again at North Decatur and Springdale. I am optimistic that by the time this article goes to print, we will see tangible signs of progress at these two intersections.

While we're talking about North Decatur, we should note that we successfully advocated for a reduction in the school speed limit around Druid Hills High School, we continue to partner with DeKalb Transportation to secure a push-button cross-

walk to more safely cross North Decatur at Ridgewood Dr., and we will continue to keep you updated on road closures and construction progress with Emory Graduate Housing project and related Haygood Road lane widening.

Sidewalks

The decrepit condition of our sidewalks has been a key area of focus for your DHCA over the past 3+ years. After piloting a technology to shave uneven sidewalks on Fairview, Ridgewood and Emory Rd., running a campaign asking you to send in pictures of the worst of the worst and sending that full color list to our County CEO, we may finally have some traction. DeKalb County Engineering - with the full support of our out-going Commissioner Jeff Rader - is in the process of completing an assessment of those documented locations and we hope to see some tangible repair and replacement (note that property owners inside the City of Atlanta are responsible for your own sidewalk maintenance). We have also asked that our Twittens be considered for much-needed improvements. Stay tuned for updates!

Briarcliff Opportunity Zone

Over the past several years, the DHCA has been working with residents along Briarcliff Rd. to secure much needed improvements to pedestrian safety - particularly in the Poplar Grove area across from Fox 5 TV. As you may know, GDOT plans

Moving Savely ...continued from page 6

to replace the bridge at the bottom of Briarcliff near Sage Hill, and we are working closely with DeKalb Transportation on creative ways to install pedestrian crossings along this corridor. These crosswalks would allow residents from the Poplar Grove neighborhood to more safely access routes to Sage Hill, Emory, CDC and the Village. We will keep you posted once we have tangible updates to share.

Speed Tables

The speed of traffic along our roadways has not shown signs of letting up and we have actively partnered with many of you to help drive installation of speed tables when a majority of a street's property owners are in support. Just this year, we've seen multi-year efforts culminate in speed table installations on South Ponce, Springdale, Oakdale and Lullwater Roads and we've seen attempts from some streets in the Emory Grove community. If you have questions about speed tables, please feel free to reach us at publicsafety@druidhills.org.

Road Re-surfacing

As the speed table installations and the water line replacement projects on our streets wrap up, we look forward to having our roads returned to a safe and unbroken condition. At this point, we do not have dates for re-surfacing to start; however, we have identified several streets that are not on the list. We have previously published that list and our letter to CEO Thurmond is on our website. We ask for your help in lobbying our DeKalb officials to ensure these missing streets are added to the list. If you're interested in helping, please reach out to us at PublicSafety@druidhills.org.

MARTA Bus Rapid Transit

As many of you may know, City of Atlanta voters approved a sales tax to fund transit improvements and one of those improvements will connect Emory University to the East/West and North/South MARTA heavy rail lines. The latest proposals suggest bus rapid transit is the preferred facility and MARTA has hosted several meetings with impacted communities. The DHCA has attended those meetings, aggregated input and has adopted a formal position in support of the most directly impacted residents in Emory Grove. We will continue to advocate for our community. To learn more about MARTA plans for this corridor, please visit www.connectclifton.com.

Ponce Opportunity Corridor

We can all attest to the frightening speeds and distracted driving of motorists as they hurry into town or back home. A recent survey we published via the monthly digital newsletter asked residents to identify those areas where safety was of greatest concern and Ponce de Leon topped the list. You can be certain we have been strong advocates for improvements along this corridor and we will tackle the projects – proposed and in progress – in next quarters issue.

Finally, A Plan

With so many on-going projects and significant envisioned transportation proposals in discussion in our community, now seems to be the perfect time to more tightly focus our transportation efforts to ensure we advocate clearly and consistently with our local and state governments, Emory University and others. As such, we will be doing just that. We will start with a firm understanding of all state, city and county work that is on-going or may be planned for our community. We will ramp up a very active listening campaign to firmly capture those concerns/opportunities most important to you as you navigate our streets and sidewalks. From this work, we hope to identify our biggest priorities for the next 10 years and relentlessly pursue progress against them.

We welcome your input and support in the process @ PublicSafety@DruidHills.org

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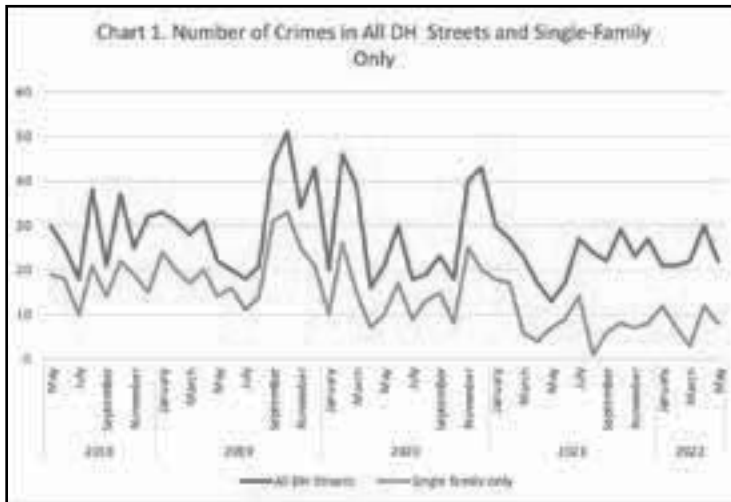
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Druid Hills: A Safe Place to Live: *Four Years of Detailed Crime Data*

By Gary Tapp

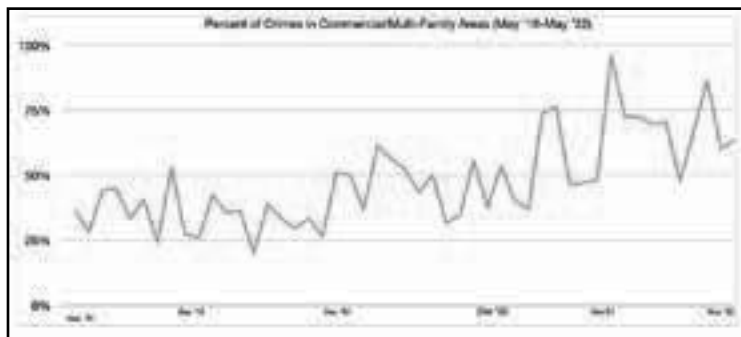
Since May 2018, the Druid Hills Civic Association's Public Safety Committee has been tracking all crimes reported in Druid Hills. The DHCA Public Safety Committee recently completed a detailed report on the four years of data (May 2018-May 2022). We hope to post this report on the DHCA website, and it is available upon request at publicsafety@druidhills.org. Highlights:

1. Crime in Druid Hills is low compared with Georgia and the United States. Crime on streets with primarily single-family homes (the bottom line in Chart 1) has been trending downward since September 2019. (The lower line is single-family streets.)



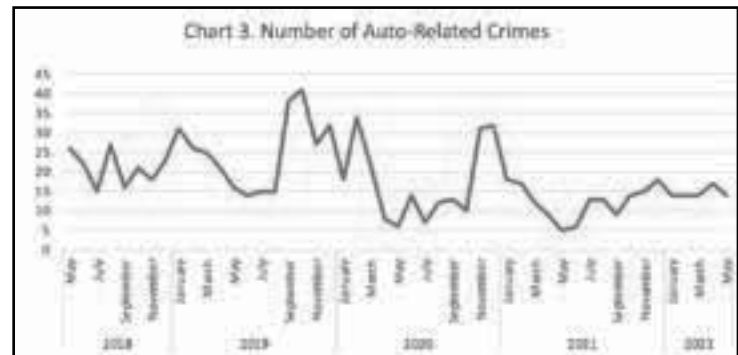
2. Meanwhile, crime in commercial areas and apartment complexes has been increasing as a percent of all crime in Druid Hills (Chart 2). Crime in Emory Village has been trending upward over the past two years

Chart 2. Percent of DH Crimes in Commercial/Multi-Family Areas



3. Violent crime is extremely rare in Druid Hills; there were no murders and only nine aggravated assaults in the neighborhood over the four years. Of the six robberies and five rapes over the period, it appears that only four of the robberies and one of the rapes was committed by a stranger to the victim. The rate of violent crime is lower than in Georgia, DeKalb County, and the City of Atlanta.

4. About 90% of all crime in Druid Hills is property crime, and the rate as a percent of the population is lower than in Georgia and the U.S. If we use the narrowest definition of the DH population (excluding the 30,000 employees and 15,000 students at Emory University) the DH rate of property crime is slightly higher than those reported by DeKalb County and Atlanta. If we include all the people who work in DH or live here for nine months a year, the DH rate of property crime is below those of DeKalb and Atlanta. Over the four years of our study, only 18 burglaries occurred on the 95 single-family streets, or about 4.5 per year.
5. Larceny, particularly theft from motor vehicles, is the largest category of crime in Druid Hills, comprising 68% of all crime in the area. These auto-related crimes have been trending somewhat lower since May 2020, near the beginning of the pandemic, than in the prior two years (Chart 3)



6. After discussions with local police agencies, our view is that with better lighting, more signage, more public awareness, and perhaps more surveillance cameras (especially in parking lots) we may be able to push the car break-in rate lower. At a minimum, if more people removed valuables, we could probably reduce the losses incurred from car break-ins.

If you would like to contribute to the safety of our neighborhood, please consider joining the DHCA public safety committee at publicsafety@druidhills.org.

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Druid Hills *Twittens* Dedicated To DeKalb County

By Anne Wallace and Hon. Jeff Rader

Druid Hills was a planned community that incorporated a public realm consisting of streets, parks, and a unique feature called *Twittens* – an English term for “a narrow lane.”

The streets are well-established as public assets, based on public maintenance and by utility easement. Our parks are a mix of private stewardship (Lullwater Conservation Garden, Druid Hills Golf Club) and County leasehold (Deepdene and Dellwood are owned by Fernbank and leased to DeKalb for maintenance).

The *Twittens*, however, have never been formally conveyed to the county, and have not been maintained by the county such that the county can claim ownership. Consequently, the county can currently neither maintain the *Twittens*, nor authorize others to do so, i.e. via permit.

This issue arose when DHCA sought to make repairs to a *Twitten* for the 2019 Tour of Homes, which was focused on streets connected by the *Twittens*. To correct the ambiguity, the DHCA petitioned District 2 to clarify the matter.

To accomplish this objective, the County Law Department charted a path to claiming “quiet title” to the *Twittens*, which involves advertising, a public hearing, and action by the Board of Commissioners to claim the feature as a public asset. The appropriate actions have now taken place and the BOC on June 13, 2022 voted unanimously to declare the *Twittens* a public asset, and to manage them as such.

Nine *Twittens* were identified and designated for this dedication. It has come to light that there may be others eligible for the same procedure. If any resident of Druid Hills has knowledge of other *Twittens*, please notify your DHCA District Chair or Jeff Rader, Board of Commissioners, DeKalb County.



Do Doorbell Cameras Really Cut Crime?

By Marilyn Geewax

In recent years, many Druid Hills residents have installed “smart” doorbells that feature surveillance cameras with two-way talk. But do such devices really help prevent crime?

The Druid Hills Patrol, which cruises our streets to deter crime, says “yes,” the tiny cameras can help make homeowners more aware of suspicious activity on their property.

That positive view is supported by several studies that have found the large-scale use of cameras in urban settings can indeed help cut crime. For example, the Urban Institute looked at the impact of public surveillance systems on several large cities and concluded that “in places where cameras were sufficiently concentrated and routinely monitored by trained staff, the impact on crime was significant.” (<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/evaluating-use-public-surveillance-cameras-crime-control-and-prevention>)

But cameras do have drawbacks. For example, most motion caught on doorbell cameras may involve things like squirrels running across porches. The cameras generate so much footage that police cannot review it all and the less-than-crystal-clear images only very rarely lead to arrests, according to an NBC News Investigation. (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/all/cute-videos-little-evidence-police-say-amazon-ring-isn-t-n1136026>)

The Druid Hills Patrol security team does note that the often-blurry videos may not stand up as evidence in court, and they certainly cannot serve as a replacement for well-trained, armed officers with arrest powers.

“If cameras were completely effective, we would shut down all police departments,” the DHP Security Team said in a statement. Cameras cannot stop crimes in progress, arrest suspects or summon backup the way the Patrol officers can. “When robbers see a live patrol coming around, they think twice,” the team said.

Another potential downside: critics fear that cameras have the



potential to expand inappropriate government surveillance.

Local police, however, say the cameras are being used only for crime crackdowns, not to invade privacy. In fact, the City of Atlanta is encouraging homeowners to register their cameras with the ConnectAtlanta program, which brings together thousands of cameras from around the metro area.

Even Druid Hills residents who live in unincorporated DeKalb County are being encouraged to participate. (<https://connectatlanta.org/camera-registration>)

“Once we have a crime – they can draw a circle around that location and say ‘Hey, we had an incident in this location – can you check this time frame on your Ring camera or home security camera to see if you have any footage?’...and so then they share that with us. That’s the only involvement – we are not spying in on their cameras at all,” Atlanta Deputy Chief Charles Hampton Jr. said at a news conference in June.

Police in Winter Park, FL, were pioneers in the effort to tie in doorbell cameras with police investigations. The city began a partnership with Ring doorbells back in 2018. In a phone interview, Winter Park Deputy Chief Pam Marcum said police there have concluded that the greater use of home surveillance cameras has been “a big plus” for police investigators.

She said the devices “can’t completely scare off thieves,” but have helped police discourage package thefts from porches. The doorbell videos are like “pieces of a puzzle” that help officers put together a big picture of what criminals are doing, she said.

She said she agrees with the Druid Hills Patrol that cameras are helpful because they “give us more ‘eyes’ on the scene.” But she emphasized that nothing can take the place of police officers who are able to put together the puzzle pieces and then make arrests.

To better protect our neighborhood, please consider joining the Druid Hills Patrol. (<https://www.druidhillspatrol.org>)

Druid Hills High School Modernization & Renovation Update

By Ken Schroeder

Druid Hills High School has been a treasured part of the Druid Hills community dating all the way back to the 1920s when the main building opened as a K-8 elementary school. What readers may not be aware of is that the current Druid Hills High School campus comprises seven buildings, built over several decades. The main historic building started construction in 1924. The original gym is from the 1930s. That older building you see facing Andrews Circle across from Emory is the 1950 elementary school that was built when the main building was converted to accommodate high school students. The cafeteria is from 1961. The gym is from 1965. The glass science building facing Haygood is from 2010. With all of these older buildings come many issues that have not been addressed over the years.

Fortunately, in late May, the DeKalb County School Board approved \$50 million for the modernization and renovation of Druid Hills High School! While the true figure to address all of the issues across the campus requires more investment, the allotment will certainly allow for several key areas to be improved and modernized. We expect the old elementary school and cafeteria for example would be good candidates to prioritize replacement with new, modern buildings. The historic main building may need things like drainage and sewer replacement. We don't expect the money to stretch enough to also improve the athletic fields and other needs, but we are hopeful other funding sources may be available to address everything so our students and teachers have a safe, clean and functioning campus.

Funding for the project will come from the ESPLOST VI penny tax to support schools that voters approved last year. The District is now drawing up the Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be sent out to architectural firms, who will respond with plans and quotes over the next few months. Then the Board will need to vote on and approve the firm. Timing of any actual construction is still unknown, but most likely will not be until mid-2024 at the earliest.

There has been an outpouring of support and concern from the general community as well as alumni after seeing DHHS in the news this year. Supporters of Druid Hills High School are encouraged to follow the modernization and renovation progress through updates posted on the DHHSPOT.org website. Volunteers can join the Red Devil Task Force for work days at the school and other advocacy on behalf of our beloved school.

Ken Schroeder is a DHHS parent and chair of the Druid Hills High School Red Devil Task Force.



Student and parent volunteers sprucing up the area around the outdoor sign.



Volunteers work on the stairway of the older building during a Red Devil Work Day.



Emory Briarcliff Campus Set for New Development

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Galerie Living has entered into a lease agreement with Emory University for 32 of the 42 acres located on the Asa G. “Buddie” Candler, Jr. Briarcliff Estate. The site will be redeveloped into a senior living community. Emory is granting a 99-year lease to the developers for the land. After 99 years, it reverts to Emory.

The Briarcliff mansion was built in 1922 and eventually had 40 rooms. The grounds also included a zoo, swimming pool, farm, dairy, building where spring water was bottled, and a laundry, along with terraced gardens and greenhouses. All of this is now gone or in dilapidated condition. The house was sold to the U.S. government as a possible site for the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in 1948 when Buddie Candler moved to the penthouse of the Briarcliff Hotel. It was later used as the “Georgian Clinic,” the first residential alcohol treatment center in the state, and later as DeKalb Addiction Center. Other buildings on the campus at that time included the Georgia Mental Health Institute high rise and cottages. The cottages have since been demolished.

Galerie Living will develop Corso Druid Hills, a senior living community that will feature just under 500 residences comprised of independent living, assisted living, studios and memory care homes, along with retail, dining, and recreational facilities.

The community will feature a variety of amenities such as gardens, walking trails, a swimming pool, and community gathering places. The developer’s vision for the community is that it will be a place where families and residents will want to gather; where there are human-centered designs, and connections to everything throughout the development. Additionally, Galerie’s care-model allows for flexibility to easily transition from one setting to another within the community as care needs change.

Most of the parking for the facilities will be underground. A new curb cut will be added on University Drive, but the main entrance to the complex will be from Briarcliff. The developers do not expect Briarcliff Road to be widened. The new buildings will be approximately where the GMHI tower is now, and that structure will be demolished. Surrounding the condo buildings will be free-standing independent living homes. There will also be an area of shops near the condos.

Galerie Living is aware of the historic significance of the site and will have experts in historic preservation on their team. The historic Candler mansion will be completely renovated to become a unique amenity and events venue, open to use by Emory, Corso Druid Hills residents and by the community. There will be no residences inside the mansion.

The apartments in the buildings and the free-standing homes will be rented, not owned. The developer said monthly cost would be from approximately \$7,000 to \$12,000 depending upon which amenities the residents choose, the size of the units, and the amount of care they need. Ground-breaking for the new senior living community will be in later 2023.

For more information on this senior living community, contact Emory Master Planning, Emory News Center, or Galerie Living.



“Corso Druid Hills” Galerie Living’s senior living development



The 1960s era mental health institute building on the property will be demolished to make way for the new Corso senior living development.



PARK VIEWS

News from the DHCA Parks Committee



Reduce Lawn Movement Benefits Environment

By Donna Shapiro and Martha Foster

I wonder how many of us here in Druid Hills have heard of the “movement” to reduce the amount of lawn in our landscapes? The movement has come about for many ecological reasons: to shrink use of water; to reduce greenhouse gases; to decrease use of pesticides that kill pollinators; to keep down noise pollution from blowers and lawnmowers; and/or to expand plant habitat for wildlife, including pollinators and birds. Another usually unspoken reason is simply aesthetic.

One of our residential properties in Druid Hills is an outstanding example of what can happen when a homeowner decides to cut down on the lawn. Michael Beach, who lives on Emory Drive, began shrinking his lawn in 2013 when he replaced almost all his turfgrass with trees, shrubs, and perennials, many of them pollinator friendly. The results are impressive. Not only does he see more pollinators and birds, but his landscape is beautiful. He is happy and so are his neighbors who tell him how much they enjoy walking by his yard where there are always plants to enjoy.

Michael worked with landscape designer Lyle Collins of Southern Trillium to achieve his garden vision, including sustainable drip irrigation fed from a 1500-gallon rain-collection cistern. The project was completed in 2014 but he has continued to tweak it by adding and moving plants. Michael enjoys gardening and now that he is retired, spends more time planting and doing his own maintenance: hand-weeding, fertilizing and mulching. He does

not use insect sprays, leaving his gardens safe for pollinators. Michael says he no longer needs bird feeders because his gardens feed many species of birds. He enjoys seeing cedar waxwings, goldfinches, and hummingbirds among many others.

One important aspect of his landscape design was the creation of “garden rooms,” places to seek refuge or gather with friends and family amidst the beauty of nature. Some of these spaces were built around a fire pit, a cornhole court, and a fountain. Throughout the garden, the Beaches have included meaningful and lovely objects.

Among the native perennials in his garden are Joe Pye Weed, Blue Wild Indigo, Georgia Aster, Coneflowers, Black-eyed Susan, Solomon’s Seal, Bloodroot, Mayapple, Native Phlox, Turtlehead, Trillium, Tickseed, and Columbine. Native trees include white oak, beech, tulip poplar, silverbell, shagbark hickory and styrax. There are native shrubs like beautyberry, native oakleaf hydrangeas and native azaleas.

For those interested in exploring the idea of reducing your lawn, one easy and inexpensive way is to “join” the No Mow May movement which originated in the United Kingdom in 2019 as part of a conservation study to support pollinators. <https://nomowmay.plantlife.org.uk/> Participant homeowners agreed to not mow their lawns during May when pollinators in the UK are emerging from hibernation, providing pollen, nectar and shelter to

help pollinators survive and thrive. The results of the UK study showed a significant increase in number and diversity of pollinators. The No Mow May movement crossed the pond to the USA, and the number of participants here continues to grow. In 2022, according to Bee City USA, the interest in No Mow May was greater than ever. <https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may-lessons-learned/> Many enthusiastic participants have expanded to No Mow Summer and No Mow Lawns. (By the way, here in Atlanta, consider starting to give your mower a rest earlier in the spring (March and April) because that is when our pollinators begin to emerge. <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/lawn-no-mow-may/>)

Here are just a few resources for more information about converting your turfgrass in part or completely and/or adding native plants to your landscape:

- *Yes, You can Do Better Than the Great American Lawn* by Margaret Roach, *New York Times*, June 15, 2022
- <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/about>
- <https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/>
- <https://www.nurturenativenature.com/> by Laura Markson, *Intown Georgia Native Plant Society*
- <http://usinggeorgianativeplants.blogspot.com/> by Ellen Honeycutt, *Chair of the Georgia Native Plant Society*



PARK VIEWS

News from the DHCA Parks Committee

Free Trees Program Partners With Trees Atlanta

By Pam Woodley

Can you imagine Druid Hills without its trees, shade, and soothing green surroundings? Our neighborhood's beauty and desirability are dependent on its gorgeous canopy of trees. In fact, we have chosen a mature oak as the symbol of Druid Hills.

Sadly, every year we lose too many of these majestic living things through old age, storms, and construction. Bare spots – where the hot sun beats down – are emerging on some streets.

The annual Druid Hills – Trees Atlanta partnership is coming to the rescue once again! Due to support from Trees Atlanta, the City of Atlanta, and DeKalb County, every neighborhood homeowner can get up to three 6-to-10-foot hardwood trees planted in their front yard for free. If we can get orders for at least



35 trees, Trees Atlanta will bring their volunteers to plant, mulch, and water our trees on a Saturday in December. Trees can go in your front yard, the median between sidewalk and street (if the space is greater than three feet wide), or in public spaces. You may choose the type of tree you want, and Trees Atlanta is available to consult. All varieties have been chosen to be compatible with our Southern, urban environment.

There are so many reasons to consider planting a tree (or two or three!) in your front yard -including cooling shade, cleaner air, runoff reduction, and "curb appeal." Canopy trees provide habitat and food for our urban fauna, and studies show trees are beneficial for human wellness and mental health.

We need your recommendations for public spaces (schools, parks, churches) that could use a tree. When you are ready to order, the form is here: <https://www.treesatlanta.org/yardtree/>

Please order by October 31. Contact Erica Glasener with questions at Ericalg@mindspring.com.

Please note: All details of the program are not included above. Any unique issues posed by your situation will be addressed with you by Trees Atlanta.

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Peavine Creek Trail entrance at Emory Road



Blue Heron in Peavine Creek

Peavine Creek Welcomes You

By Mary Leight and Sally Sears

Are you new to Druid Hills, or do you just need a reminder about how easy it is to connect to the natural world in this part of the city? If so, consider a trail walk along nearby Peavine Creek. The trail is part of the South Fork Conservancy's (SFC's) trail system and offers a short, pleasant walk along the creek. SFC's trailhead sign is across from 1454 Emory Road. Head down the steps to the Peavine Creek path. Turn left, and you'll see the creek on your right. You are now on the Emory campus; across the creek you'll see Emory's baseball fields and spot its recycling center near the university's lower soccer fields.

Continue down the trail and listen to the gentle murmur of the creek on the

move. Look for a blue heron that often perches on the rocks fishing for dinner. Soon you'll come to a rain garden that slows down runoff from a weir located above the creek. Bring a sandwich and sit on a nearby bench as you munch your lunch. Enjoy the new growth of a half-dozen fern species on the tributary's banks.

The trail is about a half-mile long and ends at the trailhead on Old Briar-cliff Road. You also could start your leisurely adventure from this point and walk to the Emory Road trailhead. Whichever direction you choose to travel, it's a peaceful way to enjoy an hour or so on this little gem of a creek.

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

The South Fork Conservancy invites you to Creek Rising on **Thursday, October 20, 2022**, at beautiful Zonolite Park in Atlanta. The annual benefit and celebration includes a picnic supper, signature cocktails, a raft of raffle prizes, the largest rubber duck race in the city, an auction of nature-inspired quilts, and more. The event runs from 4:30-7:00 pm. Tickets are \$75/person in advance (\$100 at the door). For more information, visit www.southforkconservancy.org.

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How it All Began: The Landmark District Preservation Committee

By Alida Silverman

The Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee (LDPC) was born when neighbors living in the City portion of Druid Hills banded together in the late 1980s to form the “Division One Pilot Committee” to address City issues. At the time, the local Landmark District consisted only of Ponce de Leon Avenue and Fairview Road. Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs) took up a good deal of time at DHCA meetings especially those for Ponce. There was a strong feeling that we needed to be proactive and pay careful attention to the City’s Urban Design Commission, charged with granting (or denying) COAs. Someone from each block (except Briarcliff) and most condominium complexes made up the Pilot Committee.

The LDPC was set up both to educate ourselves and neighbors about our district ordinance as well as to attend hearings of the UDC and to make a Comment on COA applications. While the purpose of the LDPC remains the same and the Committee continues to have on-site reviews of proposals, the larger scene has changed considerably: our Landmark District expanded to include the “side streets,” there are now 14 designated City of Atlanta neighborhood historic and landmark districts (only 3 – Druid Hills, Cabbagetown and MLK, Jr. -- when we started) so the agendas are long and the hearing room is bigger!

An early task was to learn how our district and the ordinance that protects it came into being. We interviewed individuals who had been involved in developing the ordinance in the late 1970s: Jim Rollins, an attorney, DHCA member, and resident of Fairview Road; Bill Kennedy, the City of Atlanta’s zoning administrator; and Randall Roark, member of the Urban Design Commission and a Georgia Tech professor. The City’s zoning ordinance included a provision for HCC (Historic and Cultural Conservation) Districts. Our Druid Hills ordinance was passed by the City Council in December 1982 along with those for Cabbagetown and Martin Luther King, Jr. Districts.

The official name of our Committee came with passage by the City Council of the Comprehensive Atlanta Historic Preservation Act in 1989. This Act expanded the earlier provision for HCC Districts providing for both Landmark and Historic Districts and laying out the criteria to be met for designation. Landmark Districts needed to meet more criteria. Druid Hills (and Cabbagetown and MLK, Jr.) simply had a District name change. Everyone agreed that our new Committee name was a mouthful but it has stuck – with “LDPC” a welcome shortcut.

Over the more than 30 years LDPC has been in existence, we have had many members and chairs and on-site visits and comments to the UDC (whether in person, via e-mail or ZOOM). Some of our members have first been COA applicants who were interested and wanted to jump in. We have learned a lot, of course, and continue to learn. We continue to hope that every resident of Druid Hills in the City is at least a member in spirit of the LDPC. We love our neighborhood!

Landmark District FAQs

By Barbara Stafford

What does it mean to have a home in a historic district?

This is the first in a series from the Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee to help the residents of this very special neighborhood feel comfortable with preserving and improving their homes and landscapes. Look for future articles regarding specific features of your home, such as windows and doors, roofing and gutters, and even trees and landscaping. If you have any questions or ideas about a topic, please contact the Preservation Committee at atlantahistoric@druidhills.org.



Logo design by Alex Stroud,
artist & industrial designer

I want to make modifications to my home in the Druid Hills Landmark District. Where do I begin?

- Contact the Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee (DHLDP-PC)**
 The DHLDP-PC is your advocate for a successful project in our beautiful, historic neighborhood. We are volunteers who live in and love Druid Hills and who can help guide you through the process of achieving your project. Most work involving the exterior of your home and landscape requires an approved Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Urban Design Commission. Such approval exists to preserve the integrity of the district; proposed projects are reviewed against the building code that is the historic district ordinance. The LDPC (we can shorten it a little!) will help you with questions about what the UDC is looking for.
- Prepare Design**
 Create a conceptual design to establish important elements such as design suitability, massing and scale, and materials to be used. Different degrees of work will require different types of documentation for your project — a site survey of your existing property, architectural plans detailing work to be done, photographs. Simpler projects require simpler documents. The LDPC can help with all of that.
- Submit Your Application to the Urban Design Commission (UDC)**
 The UDC meets twice each month and makes decisions on applications for modifications to properties in Atlanta’s historic districts. UDC commissioners are appointed to their posts and do not “work” for the City. Application processing is handled by the City Planning Department’s Historic Preservation Studio. A planner from that office will be assigned to your project. They will communicate with you and complete all the initial review tasks; their review will result in a Staff Report that recommends approval, denial, or conditions to be changed to gain approval. The UDC commissioners will take that report into consideration but will also do their own review, and there will be discussion with you at your appointed UDC meeting, where they will vote on their decision. Once the finalized plans for a project are approved by the UDC, the Certificate of Appropriateness is granted.
- Next Step:**
 Submit plans to the city for permitting. Your assigned planner will continue to help you with the next step of going to the permitting department.

Still curious?

The city has a tremendous amount of information on its website. Here’s a place to start:

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning/historic-preservation>

Feel free to contact the Preservation Committee at any time. We are here to help!



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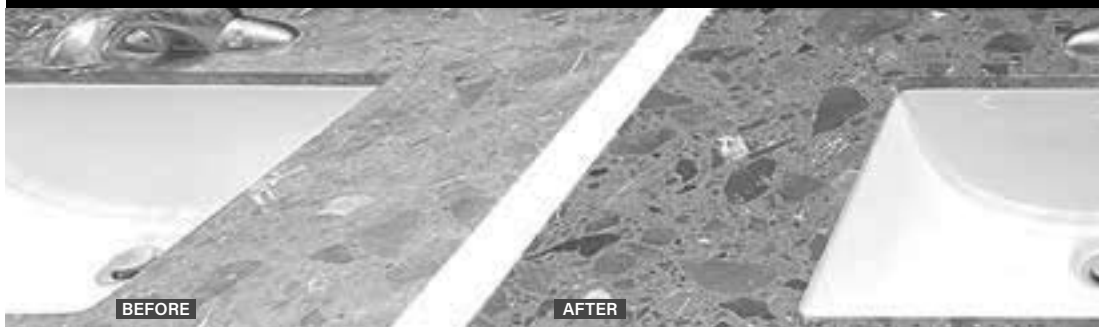
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Olmsted's Ideal of "Communicativeness"

By Alida Silverman

Our Druid Hills Olmsted 200 celebration in late April has passed, but the year of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth bicentennial continues. For this issue's Olmsted 200 column I am offering the last part of the speech delivered in May at the Convocation of UGA's School of Environmental Design by Lucy Lawliss, a landscape architect and alumna of the School whose career was with the National Park Service including a stint at the Southeast regional office in downtown Atlanta in the Cultural Landscapes division. In this part of her speech she takes up Communicativeness, a hallmark of civilization for Olmsted. Communicativeness is at play in his residential communities like our own Druid Hills. Each of these has a public space for the entire community - in our case, a linear park along Ponce de Leon. In addition, later small subdivisions that flowed from the Olmsted Plan for Druid Hills and form part of our neighborhood reflected that feature: Rutledge Park (University Park-Emory Highlands-Emory Estates); and Princeton Way and Westminster/Edinburgh Terrace inner parks (Emory Grove).

"If any of you have known me for a while or heard me speak here in the past, you know that I have a special place in my professional work and heart for Frederick Law Olmsted, the founder of my chosen profession and the original degree granted by this 90+ year program—landscape architecture. And I know that a wonderful exhibit hangs in the Circle Gallery in honor of his bicentennial about his life and career and the many positive impacts he had at an equally challenging time in history as ours.

"He experienced the horror of war—the American Civil War—he saw first-hand the challenges of immigration—the desperate famine Irish of the 1840s arriving by the thousands to our Eastern cities—he looked at population-wide diseases with no known cures—tuberculosis and typhoid, to name two—which took the lives of family members and friends in his many personal and



professional communities—and what was his response? Public Parks! It is his most important legacy and while he and the professionals who worked for him went on to design many landscape models, we still study for many of our contemporary spaces—urban and suburban communities, campuses,

public and commercial grounds—he will always be remembered for the transforming power of his Public Parks.

"So, to finish I want to leave you with one more "C" word that Olmsted coined – "Communicativeness." It is a special word and one that I would like you to think about in the days and years to come because I think it is a word for our times, too.

"Laura Wood Roper – Olmsted's first and best biographer—wrote that Olmsted's far-sighted moves to humanize the physical environment of cities, and to secure precious scenic regions for the use and enjoyment of all the people constituted a heroic undertaking and that the peculiar ideal that motivated his work was not catchy – I think WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT "COMMUNICATIVENESS" is not a catchy word - but that it appeals to lofty ideals.

"For Olmsted, according to Roper, COMMUNICATIVENESS involved recognizing and acting consistently on the recognition, that we all have an essential community of interest with other human beings, regardless of regional, class, economic, color, religious, or whatever differences. COMMUNICATIVENESS had no room for narrow selfish interests, whether of individuals or groups or classes. To quote Roper – "As an ideal, it was Christian, democratic, and utopian, something between a will-o'-wisp and the last, best hope of earth."

"So, reinvigorate Communicativeness or coin a new word that captures the same ideals for the 21st century – this is now your day, your world and you are our NEXT best hope!

THANK YOU"



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Nan Loftis



Direct Support Professional June Wilson and an adult participant working in Frazer's courtyard garden.

Frazer Celebrates DSP Recognition Week

By Dina Shadwell

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week is September 11–17, 2022, and that means Frazer Center is celebrating these essential workers who provide vital support to the adults with developmental disabilities who rely on Frazer's Adult Services.

The Direct Support Professionals at Frazer bring care and commitment to their work. Even during the uncertainty of the pandemic, they showed up every day to provide the steadfast support and engagement that help Frazer's adult participants flourish.

Being a Direct Support Professional can be a rewarding career. Ask a Frazer DSP and they will tell you they love their job because of the relationships they build with the adult participants. They enjoy helping each participant to live a self-directed life, and they find fulfillment from seeing participants reach their goals. DSPs become adept at communicating with each individual, whether verbally or nonverbally. They are advocates for the people they work with and empower these individuals to advocate for themselves. DSPs help create community networks and opportunities for cultural, educational, and social engagement. They do all this while also providing extensive documentation required by state and federal agencies.

One of those agencies is Qlarant which recently audited Frazer to ensure the Adult Services program is meeting quality standards and Medicaid requirements while providing respectful, ethical, and meaningful support for individ-

uals. After a week-long review of records, and meetings with staff and program participants, Qlarant reviewers awarded a score of 95 percent and raved about the quality of Frazer's "extraordinary" Adult Services program, especially considering the operational disruptions of the pandemic. This is thanks in large part to the DSPs who are on the front lines of service, some of whom have been with Frazer for ten, twenty, or thirty-plus years.

But staff retention in the disabilities arena is an ongoing challenge nationwide, and Frazer is not immune. To help remedy the hiring crisis that hit during the pandemic, Frazer raised its minimum starting wage to \$15/hour. And now, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Sara Giles Moore Foundation, Frazer's Adult Services program has hired even more staff and is working to expand services to include wider community access for more participants during evening and weekend hours.

Direct Support Professionals impact and enrich the lives of people with disabilities. That's partly because of their compassion, ingenuity, flexibility, patience, creativity, curiosity, and huge heart. They are absolutely essential to our community, and Frazer will be celebrating them during DSP Recognition Week with gifts, games, food trucks and more.

If you would like to help Frazer Center honor these essential workers, you can make a gift specifically designated for DSP Recognition Week at frazercenter.org/give. Thank you!

Red Spider Lilies: *A Harbinger of Fall*

By Hilary Hart

Summer is the season I know least, mostly because I am sheltering inside, away from the heat and mosquitoes. I shut down planting, if I am smart, and switch to tending to what is already in the ground. If the rain cuts out, like it did during the flash drought of 2019, I drag hoses around to keep even established plants alive. That year the sun was a cruel and jealous orb whose light and heat excluded clouds and any hope of rain. That year the soil baked and cracked. Driving around town nearly every plant I saw was in a dramatic state of wilt, or altogether dead. This year was not bad, especially considering the high heat and drought other parts of the country and the world are experiencing. Nevertheless, recently I was grateful to see the light make the subtle turn towards a gentler, more aslant version of itself, which tells me fall is near.

Another sign of this impending change was the appearance of the first red spider lilies. A southern heirloom plant, the red spider lily emerges as a cluster of bloom stalks naked of any foliage and topped by brilliant red flowers. Their extraordinarily long stamen swoop out and up and give the blossoms their spidery appearance and hence one of their many common names. They are also called surprise lilies and resurrection lilies, and, in Florida, hurricane lilies because of their coincidence with hurricane season.

In Japan, the red spider lily is called Higanbana — although, like here, it has many appellations. There too it is associated with the Autumnal equinox. Higan means other shore, which can refer to enlightenment, if you are a Buddhist, or the land of the dead. Higan is a national holiday in Japan and a Buddhist occasion to reflect on changing one's own practices. The flower's appearance inaugurates a time to pray in temples for the souls of ancestors and to tend their gravesites, and both locations were traditionally planted with Higanbana, especially very old Buddhist temples and graveyards. Higanbana were also commonly planted in the bunds (or dykes) surrounding rice paddies because it was thought that the poisonous bulbs and roots of the plants would keep mice and other vermin away from the rice. Were I a world traveler, I would join the viewing parties that visit old rice paddies when the red spider lilies are in bloom and the rice is near harvest, a vision of chartreuse rimmed in vermillion.



Red Spider Lilies emerge in late summer

How did this plant, a native of China, Nepal and Korea, become an heirloom pass-along plant in the American South? The most likely answer takes us back to Japan, where red spider lilies were probably introduced at that same time as the cultivation of rice. According to many accounts, the first red spider lily in North America appeared in New Bern, NC, in the garden of Lavinia Cole Roberts, whose brother-in-law, Capt. William Roberts sailed with Commodore Matthew Perry when the U.S. Navy forced Japan to open its ports to trade in 1854. Capt. Roberts brought home some rather dry bulbs of red spider lily and gave them to his niece-by-marriage, Lavinia. The bulbs looked dead to her but she planted them anyhow; however, they reportedly did not bloom until sometime during the Civil War.

It is difficult to know whether this account is accurate. Elizabeth Lawrence recounted a version of this story in *A Southern Garden*. And to her credit,

Lavinia Cole Roberts was a serious gardener; the SGHS lists 83 of the roses she grew. If, in fact, shriveled bulbs did make the trip from Japan to North Carolina, they had a good chance of surviving in her skillful hands. Whether this story is history or legend, New Bern, NC, is quite happy to be associated with the red spider lily. A kinetic sculpture of the flower was installed behind the city's convention center in 2011. At the Cedar Grove Cemetery, the New Bern Historical Society and Earl of Craven Questers planted red spider lilies around the Roberts family monument.

If you would like to plant red spider lilies in your garden, you can buy them from bulb catalogues. Old House Gardens purports to have the original Southern heirloom — a triploid (meaning it has an extra set of chromosomes) that is sterile but more vigorous and less particular about soil conditions than the modern diploid version, which is fertile, blooms earlier and is less hardy. They are attractive, bring color to late summer, and for those so inclined, their rich botanical history and role in religious ritual provide much food for thought as summer slips into autumn.

Questions? hilary@floraphilegardendesign.com



Experience what it's like to live and work in space during the Journey to Space exhibit



Some of the trees featured at Fernbank's Winter Wonderland exhibit

Fernbank Museum Celebrates 30 Years

This fall, Fernbank Museum of Natural History will celebrate its 30th anniversary in October! We're making strides in forward movement, the idea of *Infinite Possibilities* in mind as we continue to grow in the coming years; in fact, we're so committed to heading into our 30th year with forward momentum that we've themed our annual *Timeless* gala with the same moniker.

August brought a new Giant Screen Film, *Secrets Of the Sea*, which will be available daily throughout the fall season. September programming unites us with Atlanta culture as a partnership with *Tiny Doors ATL* blooms through our very own Tiny Door installation, which will take place during *Fernbank After Dark: Senses* on Friday, September 9. We're thrilled to feature our piece of the community art installation as a permanent part of Fernbank's featured exhibits.

In addition to celebrating the 30th Anniversary and our *Timeless* gala, this fall brings a new special exhibit, *Journey to Space*, which will open on Saturday, October 8, our annual Woodland Spirits exhibit at the end of September, a family-fun Dinosaur Trick or Treat discovery day on October 29 and more! Then, we have something extra special (and top secret) coming in November and, additionally, plans for our Winter Wonderland exhibit to return for a holiday-themed exhibit to round out the year.

For more information, guests may visit www.fernbankmuseum.org

REMEMBERING BARNEY

By Jennifer Richardson



Long-time resident of Druid Hills on Fairview Road and later South Ponce de Leon, Barney Spratt died on June 28, 2022. Barney was born (1948) and raised in Hickory, North Carolina and attended North Carolina State University. Trained as a mechanical engineer, Barney formed his own consulting company and had clients throughout the world. For the last 25 years, Barney lived in a small and decrepit carriage house behind the main house owned by Edward Tamas. As Tamas's health declined, Barney often provided care and ran errands for Mr. Tamas.

For those living near the intersection of Clifton and South Ponce de Leon, Barney was a neighbor and friend. Barney was comfortable with how and where he lived, often stating he couldn't imagine being anywhere else. He made regular walks around the neighborhood and would greet friends and stay and talk when he saw them in their yards. When days or weeks passed and neighbors didn't see Barney, we figured he was working on some complicated project or simply needed his solitude.

Barney added color and diversity to our neighborhood because he was an eccentric—and was the first to admit that. He mostly preferred his own company, although other times he was outgoing and quite social—but only on his terms. Barney's cottage looked like a hoarder's paradise—with computers everywhere, stacks of papers, boxes, equipment, furniture, paintings, tools and books, and things you couldn't identify on every available spot. But he always knew where everything was, and he knew if you moved anything.

When Barney was out visiting and talking, he added cheerfulness and happiness to all he met. His salient characteristics were his brilliant mind (he could talk to anyone about anything) and his unfailing and consistent kindness. He never said a mean word about anyone, including himself, and only alluded to some mysterious circumstance inflicted upon him by society that had wounded him and caused him to live the way he did. Barney often retreated to his insulated and safe spot for most of the time, and the rest of the time he was just another neighbor out seeking company. He had a coterie of people on the block that looked in on him and looked after him—especially as his health declined—and he knew that he could call on one of us when he needed something—even though asking for help was very hard for him.

Barney definitely walked to the beat of a drummer only he could hear. But in doing so, he was an example of how to do things and be things that were not “mainstream.” He showed us how to live in an alternative way and educated others on how to be accepting of someone so “different” from usual. He taught us how to live a full and rich life despite spending so much time alone and how to be “in” society without being “of” society. Barney was our neighbor and friend, and he will be missed.

With special gratitude to Julia Wilson and her extended family who took such good care of Barney during his last illness.

School News

At the time of submission deadline, most schools were just welcoming students back and getting the new year underway. We welcome news from all our neighborhood schools.

Fernbank Elementary

Contributed by Dana Borda

The Fernbank Elementary 2022 school year has started very well. We met with Jack McFarland and as a result we now have a great relationship with our Druid Hills Patrol, who we welcome to school whenever they want to visit. Over the summer, the school was cleaned stem to stern – power washed outside and cleaned to shiny bright inside -- with the help of our fabulous Foundation. Now that school is back in session, we are excited for our youngsters to continue catching up and excelling in their academics. We held Curriculum Nights in August and our annual Back to School Picnic – it is wonderful to be getting back to some of our old traditions!

Paideia School

Contributed by Caroline Driebe

Paideia students returned on August 17 ready for the new school year. Please note the following events that we welcome attendance from our greater neighborhood community:

On Saturday, October 29, the Slither 5K returns after a three -year absence. The race will take place from 8 - 9:30 am. Our course will start/finish at the school and will follow along the streets south of the school. All affected streets will be temporarily blocked to allow runners to safely pass then quickly reopened to allow for traffic. APD officers will assist directing traffic around the participants. Please join us for a fun morning of running/walking through our beautiful neighborhood. We encourage our neighbors to register for the race at <https://raceroster.com/events/2022/63055/slither-paideia-5k>

*Paideia hosts
Terrance Hayes*



On Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Theater, we will be hosting our fall Pepperdine Speaker, Terrance Hayes. The poet, author, MacArthur Genius Grant recipient, and National Book Award winner will meet with the high school students during the school day and do a public reading in the evening. Books will be available to purchase, courtesy of Charis Books & More, and refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP at www.paideiaschool.org.

Ben Franklin Academy

Contributed by Angela Cassidy

Ben Franklin Academy is looking forward to an exciting school year with the celebration of its 35th year of providing individualized college prep Mastery Education to high school students.

The following students qualified for the AP Scholar Program based on their recently released AP scores.

AP Scholar (Students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams) - Elsie Adams ; AP Scholar with Honor (Students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams): Ayesha Hayat and Gibby Heiser; AP Scholar with Distinction (Students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams): Kaitlyn Crutcher; Ella Greenbaum; Pranay Pingali

The Jane and Dameron Black, III Service Award was recently presented to Jessica and Jeff DeHart, parents of two BFA graduates. The DeHart's are members of BFA's Board of Overseers. They have been wonderful advocates for the school for many years.

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Lost Gardens of Ponce de Leon: *Glenwoods*

By Jennifer J. Richardson

In part one, gardens at Jacqueland, the home of Cator Woolford, Pinebloom, the home of Preston Arkwright, and the Davison-Harris home on South Ponce were covered. This second history delves into one of the larger gardens along Ponce de Leon: that of J.G. ("Buck") and Clara Dodson.

Clara and Buck Dodson's home and garden were on ten acres of land between Lucy Candler Heinz's estate (Rainbow Terrace) and the Druid Hills Golf Club. The Tudor Revival home, "Glenwoods" and several out-buildings sat on one acre, and the other nine acres were gardens.

Buck Dodson (1876-1939) was born and raised in South Georgia where he worked as a pharmacist. Upon moving to Atlanta, he added the "Dr." before his name, though it has not been determined if he had earned that title. Buck Dodson owned the Ironized Yeast Company, and its two main products were proprietary patent medicines called Dodson's Livertone and Ironized Yeast. Both products were advertised nationwide and made Dodson a rich man. He was also considered a "financier" and invested in a lot of downtown Atlanta real estate. Clara May Dodson (1883-1967), also from South Georgia, married Buck in Dougherty County, Georgia in 1902, and the couple later moved to Atlanta. Their palatial home, "Glenwoods" was built in 1918 and the gardens may have been developed at that same time. The architect of the home was Walter T. Downing, and the interior was later re-designed by Philip Shutze.

Mrs. Dodson was a member of both the Peony Garden Club and the Lullwater Garden Club. She was active with the Garden Club of Georgia, and frequently entered local flower shows as an arranger and also contributed horticultural specimens. Both Dodsons were very active at their church (Second Baptist and later Druid Hills Baptist). Mrs. Dodson often entertained the Baptist Women's Missionary Union, and the Circle 11 of the church in her home, as well as visitors, relatives, society leaders, and at garden club functions. The Dodsons loved to travel, and the society columns of the day were filled with where they went and at which hotel they stayed.

In an April 1935 article about gardens in the Atlanta Constitution, the following was written: "Mrs. J.G. Dodson's Garden on Ponce de Leon is one of the beauty spots of Atlanta. It affords the study of almost all plants and shrubs. The formal boxwood bordered rose garden is only one of the gems of this garden."

Though the landscape architect of the nine-acre garden has not yet been discovered, it is known that the garden had a stream, waterfall and pond. A rock bridge traversed the stream. There was a stone chapel, paths that meandered through cutting and wildflower gardens, flowering shrub areas, and native tree areas. As mentioned above, a rose garden containing many varieties of roses was surrounded by boxwoods, and there was also a boxwood maze.

In 1939, Buck and Clara Dodson traveled to San Francisco with their friends and neighbors, Henry and Lucy Candler Heinz. Their plan was to board a ship for a vacation in Hawai'i. Mr. Dodson suffered a massive heart attack at his hotel and died at the age of 63. Clara Dodson continued to live in the home with a staff of gardeners and house workers. She died in 1967, having lived in "Glenwoods" for 28 years after her husband's death. The couple had no children. In 1968, the home was sold to a group of investors. The home remained on its one-acre plot, but the gardens were destroyed in favor of the Dorchester Apartments (now Lullwater Parc Condominiums.)



This aerial view shows the Henry and Lucy Candler Heinz estate on the left and the Buck and Clara Dodson estate, "Glenwoods" on the right. "Glenwoods" mansion is shown in the foreground with ponds and fountains behind the main house and to the right of a carriage house/servants' quarters. Further back are the boxwood and rose gardens and boxwood maze shown in decorative patterns. The rest of the rear yard was perineal and native plant beds, a stream and waterfall with bridge, and a stone chapel. This nine acre area is now the site of the Lullwater Parc Condominiums, built in 1968.

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Home-Grown Tomatoes

By Rachel Kerven



Tomatoes are an important staple in any vegetable garden. Many people agree that no garden is complete without growing your own tomatoes. According to Guy Clarke, “There’s only two things that money can’t buy, and that’s true love and home-grown tomatoes.” He is correct when he sings this line, since tomato plants are not only beautiful when grown correctly, but the fruit is absolutely juicy and delicious when grown correctly. Many types of tomatoes grow well in Georgia’s climate, so there are very few limitations when choosing your plant.

The first step in growing tomatoes is knowing whether you want to start with a seed or if you want to use a transplant that can go directly into your garden. If you are starting from a seed, it is best that your tomato plant begins its life indoors, where you can more easily maintain temperature and light conditions. Your new tomato plant will begin its life in a pot with a light soil mix facing a south window with full lighting. The tomato plant can then be put into your garden Mid-March to early May to avoid any winter freezes. From

your plant you should be able to obtain your harvest in late July or early August so long as the plant has begun to form fruit by May.

According to research done by the University of Georgia Agricultural department, tomatoes grow best in a soil with a pH level between 6.2 and 6.8. Which means, the soil needs to be slightly acidic to grow tomatoes. The best way to achieve the acidity levels needed to grow perfect tomatoes is to use organic wastes such as compost, manure, or rotted saw dust. You will also need to make sure your soil is not too moist, since tomato plants thrive best in a well-drained soil.

To begin putting the tomato plants in your outdoor garden you must inspect each plant thoroughly to make sure they are healthy. Set your tomato plants into the ground spaced approximately 24 inches apart from each other, so that their roots have room to grow. The plants roots should be completely submerged in the soil, by burying the plants up until their first set of leaves. The last steps in the planting process are making sure the soil is firm around the roots so that there are

no air pockets and then add the fertilizer. Once the planting is complete all you need to do is water the plants once or twice a week depending on the amount of rainfall.

By following the steps above you should be able to produce a good crop of tomatoes. However, there are always things to be on the lookout for. Bugs are a huge threat to your plants, so it is best to use a non-toxic organic insecticide on them to reduce the amount of damage the little pests can cause. Another thing to be on the lookout for are deer and other herbivores who would take a bite out of your plants. Overall, a mesh fence seems to be a decent deterrent for the animals. Enjoy growing your tomatoes.



Article written by Rachel Kerven. I am Rachel Kerven and I’m a graduate from Georgia Gwinnett College, where I received my B.A. degree in English Writing & Rhetoric. I am currently pursuing an Associates degree in Veterinary Technology at Gwinnett Technical College. Please contact rachel.a.kerven@gmail.com for all other inquiries.



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