



#### December 2022 Volume 37 | Number 4 CONTENTS

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## Doing Better, Together.

In proudly working with our varied community partners, Druid Hills Civic Association can ensure that our neighborhood is safe, beautiful, and thriving.

It's another reason why we invest to bring every Druid Hills home this quarterly magazine and encourage our neighbors and neighborhood partners to contribute stories.

Spreading the word is just one of the many ways your DHCA membership helps keep everyone informed, inspired and involved!

Are you a member of DHCA?







OLMSTED









#### **COMPASS**

# Wishing You a Season that's Merry and Bright.

This holiday season, I want to thank you for allowing me to be a part of your home.

Happy holidays,

Natoria Sugar



716 Sycamore Street NE Offered For \$1,295,000 Decatur | 4 BD | 3 BA



562 Oakdale Rd NE Offered For \$759,000 Decatur | 3 BD | 2 BA



783 Edgewood Avenue NE Offered For \$895,000 Inman Park | 2 BD | 2.5 BA



13 Village Walk Drive
Offered For \$749,000
Decatur | 3 BD | 2.5 BA





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## Much To Do N 2023!

#### Chair's Corner

By DHCA Chair, Van Biesel



It has been a great year for Druid Hills. From the Olmsted 200 Celebration and a record-setting Tour of Homes and Gardens, to a spectacular Fourth of July

Parade, to the much-loved tenth-annual Open Streets Festival in Emory Village, Druid Hills has been a place for folks to come together and celebrate the beauty and community of our historic neighborhood.

The mission of the Druid Hills Civic Association is to connect neighbors, foster civic engagement, and steward the neighborhood's beauty. Over the past year we have striven to do so in many ways. We introduced quarterly Community Meetings and continued to improve our monthly eNewsletter to keep neighbors informed. Our nine committees have worked diligently to stay abreast of local issues and developments, to mitigate negative impact and maximize benefit to the neighborhood, and to provide ways for residents to become engaged in civic discourse and action.

Over the coming year, the DHCA will launch new programs to forward our mission. We will work to revamp and reorganize our website to better provide useful, timely information to residents. We will launch our "Sidewalk Strides" program, designed to help residents repair and replace sidewalks in front of their homes. We will explore the development of a master transportation plan to gather residential input to help guide future transportation development throughout the neighborhood.

We hope you will join us in our efforts to accomplish these things, through your time and support. You will find in this issue of the Druid Hills News information about who we are and the ways our volunteers strive to protect and improve the historic Druid Hills neighborhood. If you haven't already done so, please consider joining or renewing your DHCA membership for 2023.

#### In Appreciation

The Druid Hills Civic Association offers its heartfelt thanks to DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader for his 16 years of outstanding service to our community. Best wishes, Jeff!



#### **CONTACT US TODAY**

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#### **Druid Hills Civic Association**

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Treasurer:

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Harriett Lane (secretary@druidhills.org)

#### **DHCA Board of Directors**

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Dekalb Land Use Committee:

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Parks and Greenspace:

Stuart Peskin, Chair (parks@druidhills.org)

Membership Committee:

Danette Van Trump, Chair (membership@druidhills.org)

Tour of Homes & Gardens: Kit Eisterhold, Chair

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Finance Committee: Mike Murphey, Chair (treasurer@druidhills.org)

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Communications Committee:

Michael Ross, Chair (communications@druidhills.org)

#### **DHCA District Chairs**

District 1 (City of Atlanta): Justin Critz, Chair (District1@druidhills.org)

District 2 (Ponce corridor in DeKalb):

District 3 (W. of Briarcliff & S. of University in DeKalb): lard, Chair (District3@druidhills.org)

District 4 (Between Briarcliff, N Decatur & Lullwater Creek):

District 5 (Between Peavine Creek N. Decatur & RR Lines): Gary Tapp, Chair (District5@druidhills.org)

District 6

(W. of Briarcliff, N. of University & S. of Peachtree Creek): OPEN (District6@druidhills.org)

District 7 ("University" Streets west of Emory University):
Sandra Thornton, Chair (District7@druidhills.org)

District 8 (Emory University, N. Decatur Rd to S. Peachtree Creek): Rich Brasher, Chair (District8@druidhills.org)

District 9

(DH Golf Course, Decatur fork of Peavine Creek & RR Lines): Steven Misner, Chair (District9@druidhills.org)

> NPU-N Liaison - Barbara Stafford NPU-F Liaison - OPEN

> > Immediate Past Chair

Kit Eisterhold (ipc@druidhills.org)

## 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:

MARCH 2023 DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 10

**JUNE 2023**DEADLINE - MAY 10

#### **EDITORS**

Editor: Jennifer J. Richardson Managing Editor: Fran Putney

#### WRITERS/CONTRIBUTORS

We gratefully acknowledge the writers and contributors for this issue.

Sarah Banick, Stephen Barwick, Van Biesel,
Angela Cassidy, Druid Hills Education Foundation, Emory University,
Fernbank Museum, Marilyn Geewax,
Erica Glasener, Hillary Kilfeather,
Sandra Kruger, Dawn McEarchern,
Fran Putney, Jennifer Richardson,
Thea Roeser, Doug Rollins, Kimberly Ryan,
Donna Shapiro, Alida Silverman, Gary Tapp,
Danette Van Trump, Anne Wallace

#### **DHCA KICKS OFF SIDEWALK STRIDES PROGRAM**

As anyone who lives in Druid Hills knows, we are lucky to have great sidewalks to enjoy in so much of our neighborhood! However, that luck is somewhat diminished in places where the sidewalks are cracked, crumbling or very uneven, making it hazardous to walk or run. In the City of Atlanta homeowners are responsible for maintaining and repairing their sidewalks. In DeKalb County, technically the County is responsible. However, getting the County to repair any particular piece of sidewalk is not likely to be a quick process, and is one

that would likely involve much frustration, even assuming you were ever successful.

Starting in January 2023, the DHCA will be implementing its Sidewalk Strides program, where



any homeowner in Druid Hills who is a member of the Druid Hills Civic Association can apply for matching funds for sidewalk repair! The DHCA will reimburse the homeowner up to \$500 towards any repair made on their sidewalk. Homeowners just need to apply for the program through the DHCA. Each applicant will hire, manage and pay the contractor of their choosing, and the DHCA will reimburse them up to the \$500 amount.

There will be a first-year limit of \$10,000 in total in matching funds, so it will

be a first come, first serve program. Hopefully this program will make our neighborhood safer, more visually appealing, and a better place to be a pedestrian. More details and contact information will be forthcoming.

## All Eyes on Future as 2023 Membership Campaign Begins

By Danette Van Trump, Incoming Membership Chair

I am honored to be taking the baton from Thea Roeser, who has served on the DHCA board in several capacities over the years, most recently as membership chair. Anyone who knows Thea will tell you she can be very persuasive in convincing people to volunteer on her committee, and I was no exception to this

My husband Phil and I first got to know Thea in the summer of 2021 at the July 4th celebration and we've been off to the races since then. I like to call her an encyclopedia of all things Druid Hills as she has so much knowledge about the community, having lived here since the 1980s. Thea has a servant leader mentality and has grown our little committee through sheer determination, always forging her own path. Going forward, Thea plans on spending more time with her husband John, as they enjoy their retirement. She will continue to be a part of the committee, and I will continue to lean on her for support as we move forward.

What a year 2022 was! After two years of tampered down events due to the pandemic, we came back together as a community stronger than ever. The DHCA hosted multiple social events this year.

We held the Holiday House Decorating contest, July 4th parade, and the Halloween parade/costume contest, working in conjunction with the Emory Village Alliance. The Tour of Homes was back this year and was a HUGE success! Thanks to all our community partners and a special thanks to Kit Eisterhold who took on the exhaustive task of bringing everything together and also to everyone who volunteered.

The DHCA mission statement is to, "Connect Neighbors, Foster Civic Engagement, and Steward the Neighborhood's Beauty." Your dues support all these efforts, along with this quarterly news magazine. The DHCA board works tirelessly to protect, nurture and address community issues.

The membership committee appreciates your continued support as we look forward to 2023. Please volunteer. I promise you will get so much more out of it than you give, trust me I know from experience.

Finally, I would like to thank all the membership committee members for all their time, and dedication this year: Tina Hart, Andrea Hill, Chris Kier, Becca and Rafal Raciborski, Thea Roeser, Michael Ross, Judy Schwert, and Phil Van Trump.

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#### There's real value in your DHCA membership! Join or Renew for 2023 at druidhills.org

As day-to-day lives have gotten busier and the way we live our lives has changed, DHCA is evolving, too. We hope that you have noticed an increase in our community engagement, consistent communication, a commitment to parks & greenspace, and more neighborhood events. You've probably even noticed our new Historic Druid Hills logo on the elegant metal yard signs or on apparel that your neighbors are wearing.



The sense of pride in this neighborhood and our community has never been better!

#### More Engagement. More Investment. More Events.

#### Increased community engagement

We think one of the best things that DHCA can do for our neighbors is to make sure they're informed about what's happening in the community, they have the opportunity to share their feedback, and that our local government hears their voice. This is why DHCA:

- pays to bring the neighborhood strong, consistent communication via our monthly email newsletters and our quarterly Druid Hills News magazine, which is delivered to every home
- ✓ sends email alerts and online surveys to our community when we learn of development projects
- ✓ implemented our quarterly town hall style community meetings open to our Druid Hills neighbors

Sign up for our monthly newsletter here!



Our email readership is strong and growing for a reason... are you subscribed?

#### More events than ever before

#### WINTER

We added a special new event in 2022 - free document shredding for the community! It was a huge hit so it will definitely be back in 2023. Our monthly Druid Hills neighborhood walks don't stop just because it's winter - make sure to catch one every 2nd Saturday.

#### **SPRING**

With other Druid Hills partner organizations, the DHCA celebrated the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted with Olmsted 200. We sponsored the stunning gala at Callanwolde and the popular Shawn Mullins concert in Emory Village and pulled off the most successful Druid Hills Home & Garden Tour yet!

#### SUMMER

Our Druid Hills 4th of July parade welcomed more families than ever before. We even gave out free Celebrate Druid Hills T-shirts to DHCA members' children.

#### **FALL**

We were a sponsor for EVA's Open Streets Emory Village and organized the annual Halloween Costume Contest & Parade that many neighbors enjoyed. We are hosting our 2nd annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Wonder who the winning houses will be this year?!

As more members join and become involved in DHCA, the more events we can enjoy together!

#### More investment

#### DID YOU KNOW...

The DHCA currently budgets over \$12,000 annually for donations to our local schools and other Druid Hills organizations?

Starting in 2023, DHCA will be budgeting \$10,000 a year so that we can match up to \$500 for the cost our members' sidewalk repairs?

DHCA has budgeted \$10,000 for 2023 traffic circle and triangle beautification? Residents or local landscapers can adopt these small plots of land to design, plant and maintain - what a cool way to make Druid Hills just a little bit prettier!

#### IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES...

As DHCA membership grows, the more opportunities we will have to invest in our community.

#### Closer partnerships means better community engagement















#### DHCA budgets money to support our community partners each year.

But being a good partner goes beyond just donating money or sponsoring events. Every community activity that happens in our neighborhood is organized and pulled off by an incredible group of volunteers in one or more of these organizations.

Spreading the word about their events so our members and other neighbors know they're happening (and can plan to attend!) is something DHCA is committed to doing. Make sure you're subscribed to our monthly email newsletter and follow us on social media so YOU stay in the know.

#### Neighborhood safety is still a top priority

We recognize that our county has been focused on fixing some major infrastructure issues. Repairing sidewalks and addressing other public safety hazards have fallen to the bottom of their list of to-dos. The DHCA continues to be a strong, persistent voice representing our interests with elected officials to get these issues dealt with. Our Neighborhood Watch program helps keep our residents in the know with monthly crime reports. Have you seen our Four Year Druid Hills Crime Report? Check it out at druidhills.org/safety

#### And there's so much more.

From the extremely active DHCA Parks & Greenspace Committee that was started in 2020 to the monthly Moms' Night Out that organically grew out of our Druid Hills Parent Group Facebook group, we are seeing so much excitement and enthusiasm in the neighborhood. We hope you see it too!

#### BECOME A 2023 DHCA MEMBER TODAY



The DHCA membership cycle begins every January. Once you join or renew, your membership will be good through the end of December 2023.

We encourage you to join or renew online. Scan the code with your camera or go to druidhills.org For those that wish to join via check, please fill out the form below.

Member Name(s)	
Want to get involved with the DHCA? () Yes! () Not at this time	If you mark yes, you will be contacted soon!
Address	
Email	Phone Number
As we plan our budget, your membership is vital. Simply said, the can achieve as an organization. Thank you for your consideration!  Individual - \$35  Family - \$50  Sustaining - \$100  Dr  Olmsted Steward - \$500  Centennial Steward - \$1,000	DRUID

Make checks out to "Druid Hills Civic Association". Send payment and this form to PO Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031



Put your creative caps on, pull out all of those great outdoor decorations, and show us your bright lights & winter holiday cheer...

DHCA's second annual Druid Hills Holiday House Decorating Contest is here!

#### Nominations will be taken between December 1-14

Nominate your favorite Druid Hills house between December 1-14 by visiting DruidHills.org (or use the above QR code) A special yard sign will be installed in front of each home that receives a nomination.

#### Voting takes place between December 15-18

Use our map of home nominees, which will be published on our website after the nomination period, to tour the neighborhood and enjoy the lights! Vote for your favorite in each of these two categories: **Classically Beautiful** or "**Extra**" **Creative**.

#### Winners will be announced on December 21st

From the four homes with the most votes, our judges will pick a winning home for each of the two categories. We will install a special yard sign in front of the winning homes and send out an email announcing them. Winners will receive one of our beautiful Historic Druid Hills metal yard signs, or, if preferred, equivilent credit for other Druid Hills merchandise.

## Looking for the perfect gift for a Druid Hills friend or neighbor?

Visit druidhills.org/store or use to QR code above!

We've got you covered!

What better gifts for your Druid Hills neighbors than some fun Druid Hills gear? From our popular metal yard signs and sweatshirts to tote bags and toddler tees, check out the new items that are in stock on our online store!

Fast \$5 local delivery. druidhills.org/store



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1064 Oakdale Rd \$1.29M | Sold



765 Elkmont Dr \$1.775M | Sold



1265 N Morningside Dr \$1.445M | Sold



1106 St Charles Place \$1.195M | Sold

#### Whose Gonna Fill Their Shoes?

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Despite being a classical musician, I sometimes listen to good music of other genres. This includes country music. The late singer George Jones performed a song called "Whose Gonna Fill Their Shoes?" about who would step in after the deaths of well-established musicians such as Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Willie Nelson, and Waylon Jennings.

Who's gonna fill their shoes?

Who's gonna stand that tall?

Who's gonna play the Opry

And the Wabash cannonball?

Who's gonna give their heart and soul

To get to me and you?

Lord, I wonder who's gonna fill their shoes?

Yes, I wonder who's gonna fill their shoes?

I'm writing this because, for fifty years, beginning at my age of 21, I've been fortunate to be a part of a dynamic group of friends and colleagues who have tried to make our community better. We helped "stop the road"; supported the Olmsted Linear Park, supported historic preservation and reasonable development. Many of us served on various boards such as OLPA, DHCA and Callanwolde. Some of us held demonstrations; others used the power of their pencils and pens to write articles for neighborhood papers. We contacted our representatives in Washington, in the state and in local positions. We wrote letters of praise and protest. We supported the DeKalb Historic District and the



Jennifer Richardson (left) receiving the Olmsted Legacy Award from 2022 Gala Chair Sydney Thompson and OLPA President Weslee Knapp.

Atlanta Landmark District. We supported parks and green spaces. We supported law enforcement. We supported our schools. Some of us helped build trails and clean up creeks; others gave tours of our historic neighborhoods. We planned galas, and parties and celebrations. We raised money. Every activity sought to build cohesion amongst neighbors and to improve our community in myriad ways.

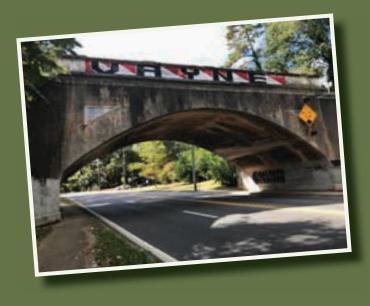
In September, I was honored to receive the Olmsted Legacy Award from the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance. I've been involved with Olmsted groups since 1983. My friend, Tally Sweat, informed me that when they start giving you "lifetime achievement awards" they think you might die before they can honor you. She should know. She has dozens

of awards. I don't know how old the civic-minded Tally is, but my guess is she's somewhere in her 8os. And like so many of us in the dynamic group I've referenced, she's old. Others are only slightly older or younger, and many activists have passed on to that great rally in the sky.

So, who's gonna fill their shoes? I recall about 15 years ago trying to organize a protest against a project that was clearly detrimental to the street. One family informed me, "We don't get involved in neighborhood issues." I wanted to ask them why they lived in the neighborhood if they didn't want to get involved—but I didn't. Who's gonna fill their shoes? Today's generations are busy with jobs, family and hobbies. Computers changed everything, including how much time most of us devote to them. Is there time left over for community service?

Who in the age groups of 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s will step up and volunteer to serve our neighborhood and make it a better place? Or will they sit back and hope someone else takes care of things? If GDOT wanted to build a four lane through Druid Hills today, who would organize to fight it? Who would take the time to serve on the civic association or NPU? Who will join the Landmark District Preservation Committee? Who will help organizations like Emory Village Alliance and OLPA move forward? Who will help raise necessary money? Who's going to take the time to write for the community paper?

The answer is: some good souls are already filling all kinds of shoes. Will you be one of them?



### What's Wrong With This Picture?

By Alida Silverman

If you said "graffiti" you have made a start. But there is more:

- signage obscuring the decorative triangles where "DRUID" and HILLS" has been painted;
- 2. cracks in the cementitious surface of the bridge;
- years of soil and (on the underside of the arch) scrapes from trucks that ignored the (too late) GDOT clearance signage in front of the bridge on both sides;
- 4. ongoing neglect by the bridge's owner CSX. (Presumably CSX does check the structural integrity since freight trains travel this track daily.)

Want to know more about the deterioration of our bridge and what can be done? Go to druidhills.org and scroll down the home page to "Neighbors Take Action" and the link to the Condition Assessment Report commissioned by the DHCA and supported by OLPA. A DHCA task force is working to make This Picture Right.









PEST CONTROL

WILDLIFE

Roaches love it hot and humid.

Some people say Palmetto bugs, some say
Water Bugs, but there's no denying that
we have a lot of roaches here in Georgia.

We have flying squirrels here in Georgia.

Southern Flying Squirrels to be exact. This time of year, critters start mating, and love to get into our attics... but no one likes uninvited guests.



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STOP BY OUR NEWLY REMODELED WOMEN'S STORE!



#### Meet the DHCA Board

Meet DHCA's 2022-'23 Board of Directors. These volunteers serve in leadership roles that enable our civic association to organize enriching programs and best address our neighborhood's needs and challenges. In addition to those listed below, we thank the service of long-time board members Thea Roeser and Sandra Thornton, who are coming off the Board in January, 2023.

#### Allan Ballard - District 3 Chair

Allan, District 3 representative, was born and raised in north Alabama. He accompanied a family move to Atlanta during the '60s and completed his education in the Georgia public schools, earning the bachelors and Master of Arts degrees in Political Science at Georgia State University. Following graduation Allan joined the Federal/State Relations Division of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, focusing on industry employment and labor turnover statistics within the eight-state federal Region IV. Allan worked for the BLS for 31 years, assuming positions of increasing responsibility. His last assignment before retirement from the Atlanta regional office was as Chief, Branch of Industry Employment Statistics. Allan moved to Druid Hills in the 1970s and, except for a brief interlude, has remained since. Allan is a member of the Episcopal Church.

#### Van Biesel - DHCA Board Chair

Van has been living in Druid Hills in the Emory Grove neighborhood for 16 years, where he and his wife, Jean, raised their four daughters. Van has been a DHCA board member for the past seve



member for the past seven years, serving as District Eight co-chair and Transportation Committee co-chair for six years. In 2016, he worked to develop the ongoing "Walk Druid Hills" program to promote active living and community building throughout Druid Hills. Van is an engineer and works from home, where he enjoys the fellowship of his wonderful neighbors and proximity to the many parks, restaurants and shops in the area. Van strongly

believes in the mission of DHCA to steward our neighborhood's beauty and foster community and civic engagement.

#### Rich Brasher - District 8 Chair

Rich is new to the Board as the District 8 Representative. A native of Marietta, Rich moved back to Atlanta after 33 years in San Diego, California. He is a land development consultant with a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas and has worked as an urban planner for three decades bridging the gap between the technical and the aesthetic. Rich and his partner, Paul, are residents of Edinburgh Terrace in Emory Grove. Rich is a self-described plant geek and loves the rare and unusual. He chose Druid Hills for his home for the walkability, history, architecture, and strong sense of community.

#### Justin Critz - District 1 Chair

Justin A. Critz grew up in
Druid Hills and has been
involved in the neighborhood for over a decade.
He resides on Fairview
Road with his wife and five
daughters. Justin is affiliated
with the Olmsted Linear Park
Alliance, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, and the
Paideia School. He is also a past-president of
the DHCA.

#### Sharon Day -Vice President, Administration

Sharon serves as DHCA
Board Vice Chair and has previously served as DHCA Secretary and District
1 Co-Chair. She has lived in in-town Atlanta
neighborhoods for 29 years, including the past
11 years in Druid Hills where she presently
resides off Ponce De Leon Ave. Sharon believes
Druid Hills is an exceptional neighborhood
comprised of architecturally significant homes
and glorious park spaces. She says, "It is an
absolute honor to be of service to the neighborhood and this long-standing organization with
a rich history of preservation and dedication to
serving the community."

#### Kit Eisterhold - Chair, Tour of Homes & Gardens Committee & Immediate Past Board Chair

Kit has served on the

DHCA Board since 2015, first as the DeKalb Land Use Committee Chair, and recently as DHCA President/Chair. He has also served in varying capacities on the Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens, including Operations & Logistics, House Recruitment, and Sponsorship, and currently serves as Tour Chair. He is also a member of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and is a regular volunteer at DHCA Neighborhood Service Days. Kit resides on the north end of the neighborhood in District 7 on Harvard Rd. with his wife, Shubhra Mashelkar, an attorney, and his daughter, Arya. He has a degree in political science from the University of Oregon, has extensive experience in landscape design, and currently works as a Realtor with Engel & Volkers Atlanta.

#### <u>Rob Kincheloe - Chair,</u> DeKalb Land Use Committee

Rob presently chairs the

DeKalb County Land
Use Committee for the
DHCA. He has lived
in Druid Hills, since
moving from Grant Park
in 2012. Having owned
multiple historic homes, he
enjoys both the architecture and the history
that surrounds historic neighborhoods. Rob is
a partner with Atlanta based META Real Estate
Partners, a national real estate investment and
development company. He enjoys, "Giving
back to my community using my professional
background in real estate." Rob is married to
his wife Angela and lives off Burlington Road.

#### Harriett Lane - Secretary

Harriett serves as DHCA
Secretary and has previously served as the
Governance Chair. She
has lived in Druid Hills
for 6 years residing on
Emory Road with her partner
David. Harriett is an avid hiker
and mountaineer currently working as a Realtor
with Coldwell Banker Intown.

#### <u>Dawn McEarchern - Chair,</u> <u>Atlanta Landmark District Com</u> mittee

Dawn returned to Atlanta

in 2020 after 22 years in San Francisco and Sonoma County, California. She was thrilled to find a place for herself in Lucy Candler's historic Rainbow Terrace. Dawn did undergraduate training at the University of Georgia in preparation for the masters program in historic preservation. However, the impetuousness of youth saw her take off for California instead. She is pleased to find herself back in preservation work, courtesy of the wonderful community of engaged neighbors at The Lullwater Estate. She can be seen daily taking very slow walks on the Linear Park paths with her sergeant-at-arms, Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, a 7-pound black chihuahua.

#### <u>Steven Misner – District 9</u> Chair

Steven lives on Hea-

ton Park Dr. in Chelsea

Heights. He is a long-standing District 9
representative and also
a member of the DeKalb
Land Use Committee. He's
been actively involved in the Druid Hills Civic
Association for over 35 years and is a past
president of the association. He continues to
be actively involved out of his concern to both
preserve and protect the neighborhood and to
help it to continue to thrive!

#### <u>Phil Moise - Chair,</u> Governance Committee

Phil and Caroline Moise have lived in Druid Hills since 1984 on the corner of Oakdale Road and The Byway and were drawn to Druid Hills by the natural beauty and



historic homes. They chose local education, and their four children (a daughter and triplet sons) attended either Druid Hills High School or Paideia. Their most visible activity has been as longtime organizers of the annual 4th of July Parade. Phil joined the Board in 2015 and has served off and on as a director, officer and committee chair. In addition to his DHCA activities, Phil has served on the boards of or advisor to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony, Freedom Park Conservancy and other community organizations.

#### <u>Michael Murphey - Treasurer</u> & Chair, Finance Committee

Mike Murphey has been Treasurer of DHCA since March 2022. Mike retired from Porter White, a Birmingham, Alabama based Investment Bank in 2021. Prior to Porter White, Mike worked for Regions Bank in Birmingham, and SunTrust and First Union Bank here in Atlanta. Mike and Laura moved to Druid Hills in late 2021 and currently live on South Ponce De Leon Ave. with their two basset hounds. They have three sons and two brand new granddaughters. The Murphey's love the vibrancy, diversity and beautiful parks of Druid Hills and surrounding environs, and Mike is very excited to contribute to the community through his DHCA involvement.

#### Carly Nassar - District 2 Chair

Carly is a realtor, Atlanta
native and dedicated
expert in the Atlanta real
estate market. She is a
proud entrepreneur and
founding team member of
the Atlanta Compass office.
Since the onset of her real estate
career, she has been recognized by the Atlanta
Board of Realtors as a Top Producer ranking

in the top 5% of real estate agents. Prior to real estate, Carly dedicated her early career to urban planning with Central Atlanta Progress. Reporting to a board of directors consisting of downtown Atlanta's most engaged and influential business leaders, Carly developed master plans for the community as well as incubating and implementing large-scale capital improvement/economic development projects. Carly attended the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State and earned her Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning and Economic Development. Carly lives on Ridgecrest Road with her husband Tim and their children Melanie and Haytham. Outside of work, Carly enjoys introducing her children to her favorite activities such as mountain biking, gardening and travel.

#### <u>Stuart Peskin - Chair,</u> <u>Parks & Greenspace Committee</u>

Stuart moved to Druid Hills in 2021 after working in the investment management industry in Atlanta, Boston and Tokyo. He joined the DHCA board as chair of the Parks and Greenspace Committee which advocates for the conservation, expansion, and proper stewardship of the watershed, parks, and greenspace throughout Druid Hills. His civic activities also include serving on the Investment Committee for the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, on the Pro Bono Committee for the Financial Planning Association of Georgia and as Treasurer of The Clifton Condominium Association. Stuart, his wife and two cats reside in The Clifton Condominium on N. Decatur Road. Stuart invites any DHCA members interested in serving on the Parks and Greenspace Committee to contact him directly.

#### <u>Doug Rollins - Chair,</u> Public Safety Committee

Doug joined the DHCA
Board about 3 years ago,
now serving as the Public Safety Committee
Chair which includes
our efforts to deter
crime as well as transportation-related issues that face
our community. He has lived in Druid Hills for

#### DHCA Board ... continued from page 13

the better part of 35 years and now resides in a home that he and his wife renovated on Clifton Road. He is a former Coca-Cola executive and PTA President at Fernbank Elementary School (where his younger daughter attends). He looks forward to continued service of our neighborhood with a focus on building a sense of community and neighborhood pride.

#### <u>Michael Ross - Chair,</u> Communications Committee

Michael serves as the Communications Committee Chair. He has lived in the neighborhood for eight years and resides on Ponce de Leon Avenue with his husband



Paul and their ridiculously sweet Rottweiler, Lulu. His professional experience includes book publishing, non-profit art galleries and is currently a certified grant writer. Michael is an avid gardener, a rare/unusual plant collector, nature lover and hiker. "After living in New York for 20 years, (now 12 years in Atlanta) living in our beautiful, forested neighborhood is a true delight!" Michael says he became involved in DHCA to become more active and engaged in the neighborhood to help unite residents while strengthening our community. Michael also serves as Vice-Chair on the Freedom Park Conservancy Board.

#### <u>Mike St. Louis - District 4</u> Chair

Mike has served as

Division 4 District Chair for about 10 years, filling a position that had been vacant for several years. He says he also got drafted into co-chairing the Transportation Committee for several years, since speeding vehicles are the primary public safety issue of our community, and he serves as the Neighborhood Watch Chair for his stretch of Oakdale Rd. Says Mike: "I was willing to serve on the DHCA board because I was interested to get to know more neighbors, and to promote getting to know each other and to build neighborhood solidarity." Mike works in Global Health at CDC, is a beekeeper, and has a large organic garden and fruit orchard in the backyard.

#### Gary Tapp - District 5 Chair

Gary received a Ph.D.
from Emory in 1975 and
has lived in Druid Hills
with his wife Robey, a
teacher and artist, since
1971. Their daughter Susannah works for the Justice
Department in Washington DC.
Gary worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of
Atlanta and became a Managing Director at
SunTrust Robinson-Humphrey. Gary retired in
2013, and since then has published six books
(two novels, two family histories, and two

volumes of poetry) and three CDs. He lives on Emory Circle and serves as the District 5 Chair as well as on the DHCA Public Safety Committee

#### <u>Danette Van Trump - Chair,</u> <u>Membership Committee</u>

Danette Van Trump is an

Atlanta native who lived in Decatur for over 10 years before joining the Druid Hills community in the summer of 2020. Danette grew up in Conyers and attended Georgia State University. After a 30-year career in logistics that culminated with her as the Senior Vice President of Transplace, she retired at the beginning of 2020. Danette has two kids, Taylor (28) and James (23). Her husband, Phil Van Trump, is the Chief Science and Technology officer at Danimer Scientific, a biotech company specializing in bioplastics. Danette is involved throughout the community, volunteering time with DeKalb County CASA as a Guardian ad Litem, and the Druid Hills Civic Association, where she will be taking over as membership chair in 2023. In her free time, Danette enjoys playing golf, traveling with Phil, and spending time with her cats and dog. On Saturdays in the fall, you can find her at Sanford Stadium rooting for the Georgia Bulldogs.





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#### MARTA Narrows Clifton Project to 3 Options

By Gary Tapp

After an extensive campaign to elicit public opinion on expanding MARTA service from the Lindbergh Station through the Clifton Corridor and on to either the Decatur or Avondale Stations, MARTA held public meetings on Nov. 15 and 17 to announce that it had narrowed the choices from ten options to three. DHCA had representatives at both meetings.

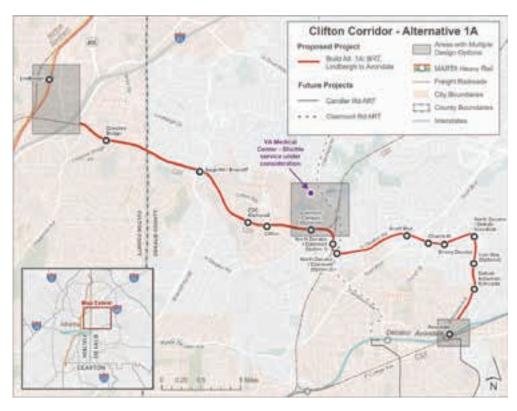
MARTA will evaluate public comments on the three alternatives and will present one of the options to the MARTA Board for approval sometime in early 2023. Once the Board has approved a plan, the next step would be an environmental impact study, which would take 12-18 months. At the same time, MARTA would apply for federal funds that would be needed to push the expansion beyond the city of Atlanta to Avondale and/or Decatur.

#### The three "finalists" are:

Alternative 1-A— Bus rapid transit (BRT), which would be electric buses (not with overhead wires) running every ten minutes over dedicated lanes connecting Lindbergh to the Avondale station. BRT only stops at specific stations and, for the most part, does not encounter traffic, so it is much faster than regular buses. This option includes a dedicated lane running alongside the CSX rail line from Lindbergh Station to Clairmont. It would probably include elevated crossings at Clairmont Avenue and Scott Boulevard at N. Decatur Road. MARTA surveys showed that 72% of respondents said they would ride the new line.

To reduce the need for acquiring property along N. Decatur between Clairmont and Scott Blvd, this option could also include a reversible dedicated lane along N. Decatur Road. Both options 1-A and 1-B include a scheduled shuttle bus from Clairmont to the VA Hospital (see map). Details for how this route would connect to MARTA at the Lindbergh station and return to street level around Clairmont have not been finalized.

Alternative 1-B— This is essentially the same as Alternative 1-A, except it would include an Arterial Rapid Transit (ART) line running about every 15 minutes from Clairmont into downtown Decatur (dotted line on the map), which means it would mix with regular traffic. ART is theoretically superior to regular bus service because it includes fewer stops, shorter wait times, signal



priority for the buses (signals turn green when the ART approaches), and enhanced station amenities (seating, ticketing, digital arrival times, etc.)

Alternative 2— Light rail transit (LRT) between the Lindbergh and Avondale stations. This option would use the CSX right of way from Lindbergh to Clairmont and then include a possible reversible LRT lane along N. Decatur Road between Clairmont Avenue and Scott Boulevard to minimize the footprint. It could also include an ART line into Decatur.

Estimated construction times (after the environmental impact study is completed) are 5-7 years for the BRT and 8-10 years for the LRT. An ART segment could be completed in 3-5 years. The BRT option is estimated to cost \$670-860 million, while the LRT option is projected at \$2.1-\$3.1 billion.

Two key pieces remain unresolved. An agreement with CSX for the use of its right of way has yet to be signed, although MARTA says talks are going well and they are optimistic that an agreement will be reached that would keep the CSX freight lines running and let MARTA use half of the right of way for its project. And federal funding

would need to be obtained for the part of the project east of Clairmont. In recent months MARTA appears to have been leaning toward more use of the BRT approach, which is cheaper, more flexible, and faster to build than LRT, but at this point they say both BRT and LRT options remain on the table. MARTA project manager Bryan Hobbs said that if the LRT option is selected, completion could be in the 2032-2036 range.

In August, after conducting its own surveys of the immediate Druid Hills neighborhoods, the DHCA Board passed a motion supporting the BRT-1 option (which would apply to either Alternative 1-A or 1-B above). MARTA is still asking for comments, and you can review project materials and submit comments at Clifton@itsmarta.com or connectclifton.com.

For more details, see the link to the Nov. 15 MARTA powerpoint provided by Decaturish: https://decaturish.com/wp-content/up-loads/2022/11/CLIF\_PRES\_2022-11-15\_PublicUp-date\_FINAL.pdf





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#### Widening of Haygood Drive

#### Haygood Drive Widening Update

Contributed by Emory University

Emory is widening Haygood Drive from the exit loop at Druid Hills High School to the intersection at North Decatur Road. The road is a primary route for Emory and CDC commuters, as well as Druid Hills High School traffic – and can be a daily bottleneck as traffic leaves the Clifton Road corridor and merges into North Decatur Road.

Emory is funding a widening to add a second lane for the road, which will allow two lanes of traffic to queue at the intersection, instead of one. The extra lane will also allow most of the high school buses to exit on to Haygood Drive at the same time.

Adjacent to the Haygood Drive widening at Haygood and North Decatur Road, phase one of Emory's new graduate and professional student housing project started construction in September. The first phase will include approximately 500 beds in studio, one and two-bedroom units and will be completed in 2024.



Graduate student housing foundations

As part of the graduate student housing project and in collaboration with the Druid Hills Civic Association, Emory is funding new ADA sidewalk ramps at three Druid Hills neighborhood intersections along North Decatur Road.



#### **SPARK News**

Contributed by Kimberly Ryan

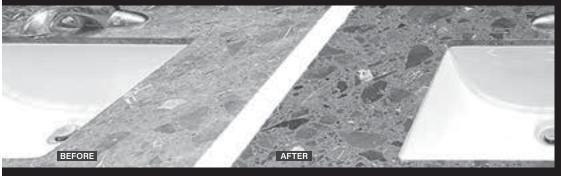
Springdale Park students participated in the annual Fun Run on Friday, October 28, 2022. The students had a great time running and earning money for the school. The students raised over \$55,000 for school materials! The funds will be used to add to the STEAM Lab (more robotics!) and to add culturally relevant books to the media center.

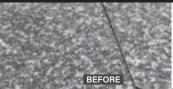
Springdale Park also had a transition in administration. Dr. Jennifer Toney, who had served as assistant principal at SPARK for 6 years, was named the new principal of Springdale Park! Mr. Terry Harness was named the principal of the new Midtown elementary school (the former Inman Middle School) which will open for the 2023-24 school year. We wish both of these amazing administrators the best of luck in their new positions!

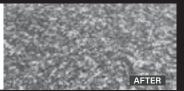


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#### **Exploring the Landmark District Ordinance**

By Dawn McEarchern

The City of Atlanta's municipal code includes ordinances to identify its historic resources and define how they are to be preserved. The Land Development Code's "Part 16 - Zoning" includes Chapter 20 for Historic and Cultural Conservation Districts. The code recognizes five categories of historic resources to be protected: landmark building/site, historic building/site, landmark district, historic district, and conservation district. The designation "Landmark District" reflects application of the most rigorous criteria. And Chapter 20B belongs to Druid Hills. Below is the opening "Statement of Intent".

#### CHAPTER 20B, DRUID HILLS LANDMARK DISTRICT

Sec. 16-20B.001. Statement of intent.

The intent of establishing the regulations for the Druid Hills Landmark District is as follows:

- (1) To recognize the masterpiece of design that is the 1893 plan for Druid Hills created for Joel Hurt's "ideal residential suburb" by Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture, a plan subsequently formalized by his sons, the Olmsted Brothers, and completed by the Druid Hills Corporation.
- (2) To preserve the environmental character and physical appearance of the area, including parkways, houses and buildings created during the 1895 to 1941 period of development; existing general landscaping features; and existing spatial relationships between the buildings and streets and to ensure that any new development is compatible with the present architectural and spatial attributes that prevail.
- (3) To preserve the residential character of the area except when nonresidential uses may be required to preserve houses and buildings built during the historically significant period of development and to ensure that redevelopment reflects and reinforces the exceptional features established in the original planning.
- (4) To ensure that new construction observes the general setback and height restrictions of the original development and is in harmony with the historic character of the district.
- (5) To ascribe special recognition to the manner in which the several churches contribute so substantially to the beauty of the district.

Those five points say a lot about how preservation is implemented in our neighborhood, how proposals for work are critiqued, how Certificates of Appropriateness are approved, modified or denied. The code goes on, of course, to address specific practical details, like maximum roof heights, maximum lot coverage, exactly how many feet of setback are required for front, side and rear yards, what materials are appropriate, etc. But the spirit of the goal is addressed in this initial statement.

Item (1) is the "reason why we're all here." We are justifiably honoring the guiding talent of Frederick Law Olmsted's hand, his vision and his execution.



Asa Candler Home - St. John Melkite Church



Judge Candler home at 1200 Ponce de Leon

Our ordinance recognizes the value of the whole design, not just individual buildings or parks.

The importance of the WHOLE environment of the district is fleshed out in Item (2). We seek to preserve the landscape and how the structures are sited in it. We aim to maintain the feeling the Olmsted design established between buildings and landscape features. The code is geared towards welcoming changes, repairs, and additions that reinforce that feeling and preventing proposals that will harm or alter it.

The conversion of original homes to other uses is mostly restricted to the Ponce corridor, where schools, offices, churches, and multi-family developments exist. Item (3) emphasizes the desire to preserve residences as much as possible, while also assuring that any redevelopment must be guided by the original district's aesthetic. An interesting recent example went the other way – the "1200 Ponce" development took a church property and rehabilitated it into residences. While that church building is not original to the district, it had become part of it before the Landmark designation. The site was originally



the first home built in Druid Hills, around 1909, for Judge John S. Candler, brother of Asa Griggs Candler. In the 1950s the renowned architectural firm of Ivey & Crook removed it and constructed the Druid Hills Meth-

odist Church. When it came time for redevelopment, the Minerva team respected our Chapter 20B instructions and responded to the LDPC's input to craft the adaptive reuse project in such a way that all new construction and landscaping complement the historic surroundings.

Item (4) is short in wording, comparatively, but LONG in effect. New construction, whether whole homes built to replace non-contributing ones (houses built after 1941 until the creation of the district in the '80s), or additions to historic homes, is ruled by setbacks and height limits that were established by surveying the original historic structures and their lots. Those two sets of measurements go a long way towards creating the feel of Druid Hills. Being in harmony with the district's historic character ensures that new construction does not introduce elements that take away from the visual experi-

er, ence of the district. Achieving that harmony can be an esoteric pursuit. The code's guidance, together with the knowledge and experience of the preservation planners, urban design commissioners and LDPC members, endeavor to get us there.

Finally, in Item (5), acknowledging the place of the grand homes that became churches embraces the whole fabric that was Druid Hills when the landmark district was recognized.

One of these is the stunning 1916 Beaux-Arts Classicism home of Asa G. Candler, Sr, which, after serving a stint under the American Legion, became the Saint John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church. The church has done an outstanding job of continuing to preserve the property. The Urban Design Commission bestowed an Award of Excellence in 2014.

I hope the Statement of Intent has enhanced your understanding of the landmark district. In upcoming articles we will dig deeper into the code. If you have any questions, always feel free to email atlantahistoric@druidhills.org. We are here to help!





### Help Druid Hills Enjoy Safe, Peaceful Holidays

By Marilyn Geewax

During the holiday season, our focus is on fun, family and friends. But it's important to also stay aware of safety precautions. Here in Druid Hills, crime is relatively low. But it is far from zero. We have to protect ourselves from "porch pirates" who steal packages, thieves who break into vehicles and burglars who might try to break into our homes and garages.

Fortunately, we have the services of the Druid Hills Patrol. The armed officers not only cruise our streets but check on our homes when we head out of town. The patrol's Security Team is offering these safety tips for the holiday season:

- Don't put large holiday gifts in a place where they can be visible through the windows of your home.
- Be sure to lock doors and windows when you leave the house, even if you're just running out for a short while.
- When leaving for an extended time, ask a trusted neighbor or family member to pick up any packages, newspapers or mail that might be visible. As a member of the Druid Hills Patrol, you can request a "vacation check" by our officers.
- Set both indoor and outdoor lights on automatic timers. Don't leave your home dark.
- Use doorbells that feature surveillance cameras to discourage porch pirates.
- Leave on a radio or television to help make the house sound and look occupied.
- When shopping, go during



daylight hours. If you must shop after dark, take a friend or family member and park in a well-lighted area. Dress casually and leave your expensive jewelry at home.

- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car where they can tempt criminals. If you must leave something of value in the car, lock it in the trunk.
- Don't leave an unattended vehicle running to warm it up; thieves can jump in quickly and steal it.

The Security Team also wants to remind neighbors to be extra careful about fire. Experts say residential fires increase during the holiday season, with blazes typically being caused by cooking, candle burning, heating and electrical malfunctions. For helpful fire-safety tips, check out the Red Cross information at https://rdcrss.org/2S8rd3i.

Finally, please remember to pay your annual dues for the Patrol. They are due now. If you aren't a member, please consider joining; visit www.druidhillspatrol.org for more information. The more members, the more hours the officers can cruise the streets of Druid Hills and help prevent crime.

Have safe and happy holidays!



Ben Franklin Academy students celebrate the school's 35th anniversary.

### Ben Franklin Academy celebrates 35th Anniversary

Contributed by Angela Cassidy

Ben Franklin Academy recently held a special evening celebration for its donors and supporters at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University. A special toast was offered to co-founder and current Head of School, Dr. Martha Burdette and one of remembrance of co-founder Dr. Wood Smethurst.

The BFA Players presented a performance of 1943 New York City's famous Louise Fletcher's iconic radio play Sorry Wrong Number held in BFA's Black Box theatre. This suspenseful production was adapted for the stage and the ensemble delved into the history and its chilling effect on war-time American listeners in order to add the visual details necessary to have an equal effect on today's audience. Students designed and built a full-size replica of a 1940s phone booth, along with a series of era-specific telephones and a 1940s working telephone switchboard. The play provided all the shock and shiver the audience might seek!

Ben Franklin Academy is proud of Senior fencers, Ella Greenbaum and Susan Wiggers. Greenbaum has signed with Notre Dame University to join their fencing team and Wiggers has signed with Ohio State University to join their fencing team. BFA wishes them all the best!

#### Callanwolde

#### By Stephen Barwick

This year marks Callanwolde's 50th anniversary as a fine arts center. Throughout the past five decades, being a part of Druid Hills has given Callanwolde the opportunity to welcome people from all over metro Atlanta to this historic neighborhood to connect and experience the arts on a truly inspiring campus.

Arts and the connection they create for the community are now more important than ever. According to a study by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, "access to local arts and culture boosts connection to community, both in feeling and in action." The study also details that "people who say their neighborhood has easy access to arts and cultural amenities are more satisfied with their city as a place to live, and invest more time and resources in their communities."

Understanding this unique ability arts programming has to connect individuals and community, in 2021 Callanwolde's Board of Directors updated the organization's mission to focus on bringing premier accessible arts education to the underserved in Atlanta. Specific groups that Callanwolde's community engagement programs serve include seniors, U.S. military veterans, Title I school students, and the general public through financial aid support. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Callanwolde raises funds to keep all class prices affordable and offer arts programs to underserved groups at no cost to the participants.

Callanwolde's art classes help bring seniors out of isolation. Candy Casarella, a senior who has taken classes at Callanwolde for decades shares that "Callanwolde is the cheapest therapy there is." Classes provide seniors a sense of community, access to vital social interaction, physical activity, and outlets for creative expression. The morning pottery program is especially popular among seniors with many students ranging in age from 65- to 84-years-old. Callanwolde is growing the number of classes that are provided for all seniors over the coming years.

Callanwolde's community engagement

programs are creating a safe space for veterans to connect and heal through art. Through current partnerships with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs free art classes are offered to veterans who are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and those who have experienced homelessness. "Callanwolde art classes brought me back to life," writes veteran and Callanwolde student, Verna Martin. She suffers from PTSD and depression and describes how Callanwolde art classes have "helped me mentally and physically."

Callanwolde is also helping students at Title I schools in DeKalb County achieve their full potential. In addition to providing field trip opportunities to Title I and Title III schools, Callanwolde partners with Kelley Lake Elementary to bring free weekly dance classes to students onsite at the school. Dance classes help teach students to focus, creativity, and discipline. Peggy Davis, Principal of Kelley Lake Elementary School explains, "Kelley Lake's partnership with Callanwolde has provided our students with an invaluable opportunity to engage in different types of art education experiences that they wouldn't have access to otherwise."

This fall Callanwolde introduced a new program, Art Scholars, presented by Ameris Bank. This program meets a specific community need that many families at Title I schools experience. On teacher workdays, students aren't in school and parents need to find childcare for the day. Callanwolde is providing a day full of enriching arts activities for students led by professional instructors, at no cost to the families.

Callanwolde looks forward to continuing to provide arts experiences that make Druid Hills a special place to live and will encourage the community to continue to invest their time and resources here. Visit www.callanwolde.org to learn more about upcoming classes, special events, live performances and ways to support through financial contributions and volunteer opportunities.



Carrie Figgins, U.S. Military Veteran, participates in painting and drawing class as a part of Callanwolde's community engagement partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Callanwolde's Executive Director, Andrew Keenan, provides a tour for students from Kelley Lake Elementary.



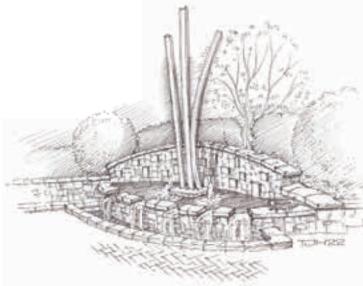
Candy Casarella has been taking classes at Callanwolde for decades.

#### 10th Open Streets Emory Village a Huge Success

By Sarah Banick

Ghouls, ghosts, and goblins (and dinosaurs, pirates, and chickens) roamed the streets of Emory Village on a beautiful sunny afternoon, October 24, for the 10th annual Open Streets Emory Village. North Decatur Road was closed to vehicle traffic between the two roundabouts, from Oxford Road to Lullwater Road, giving everyone a chance to play games, browse booths, and eat good food and listen to local music.

The day kicked off with a rededication of the plaza, fountain, and sculpture in the middle of the roundabout. In attendance were Charles Calhoun, the scuptor, and his family; as well as Mary Kelly, wife of the late Ted Kelly, who originally donated the fountain. Both the Calhoun family and Mrs. Kelly made donations to the ongoing upkeep of the fountain.



Signed copies of this pen-and-ink drawing of the Emory Village fountain sculpture by Todd Hill are available for a tax-free donation at emoryvillage.org.

Emory Village Alliance President Todd Hill presented them both with a penand-ink sketch that he drew of the fountain and sculpture. A signed copy of the sketch can be purchased as a tax-deductible donation on the EVA website at emoryvillage.org.

Hill also thanked outgoing DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader for his many years of service to the community. Rader participated in the DHCA-sponsored parade and helped judge the costume contest, something he's done for the last decade.

This year's Artists' Market expanded to 15 booths, where guests could find

curated art and meet the authors of three books. As usual, kids were drawn to the Bubble Man with his colorful artwork and DeKalb County's SWAT car. Glenn Church's Trunk or Treat was the favorite place for young kids to hang out and collect Halloween candy. Glenn also sponsored a vaccine clinic and the Blessing of the Animals. South Fork Conservancy's annual Duck Race on Peavine Creek was another favorite, drawing attention to the improved watershed on the creek.

The expanded music line-up proved a hit, with local high school psychedelic rock band Collective Undecided drawing fans of two generations. Other performers included Gus' Spaghetti Junction, John Willingham, and the Gathering. Even after the streets re-

opened, people milled around dancing and enjoying beer, wine, and cocktails. New to Open Streets this year was Exotic Rescue Avian Companions. Parrots Buddy and Ziggy and a few of their avian friends won the crowd over with their dancing and strutting while educating patrons about parrots as pets.

Emory Village Alliance is grateful for this year's presenting sponsors: Tribridge, Hammersmith, Save Provisions, and Druid Hills Civic Association. All funds raised during the event benefit Emory Village Alliance. Additional sponsors include the Stoddard Firm, Peggy Hibbert/Atlanta Sotheby's International, Engel & Volker, Post Meridian Spirits, and Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church. It is their support that makes Open Streets possible for the community.



Costume Contest



The EVA 10th Annual Open Streets was a great community event.



South Fork founding board member Sally Sears tosses the ducks for another great race.

#### WildWoods: AGLOW Illuminates Fernbank Forest

As Fernbank enters its 30th year, it's also introducing several new events, exhibits and experiences. While reflecting on the nearly 12 million guests Fernbank has hosted the last three decades, the Museum is also optimistic to look to the future.

Fernbank President and CEO Jennifer Grant Warner says, "We remain committed to providing memorable experiences that will spark curiosity about the world around us and our role in it."

On the forefront of adding new experiences to Fernbank Museum stands WildWoods: AGLOW, which is an outdoor, nighttime experience that is open from Nov. 17 to March 5, 2023. Guests are invited to journey into Wild-Woods and experience the magnificent, sometimes hidden, worlds of nature through an immersive blend of the real environment and glowing displays. This experience will feature captivating illumination, immersive projections and original music that not only creates an innovative way of storytelling but immerses viewers into a wonderland of biodiversity. WildWoods: AGLOW is created in partnership with Thinkwell.

WildWoods: AGLOW is open on select evenings with a separate ticket purchase. It is for all ages, except when

it's open on the same night as Fernbank After Dark, our monthly 21-and-over event.

Fernbank is also proud to bring back its culturally inclusive holiday exhibit, Winter Wonderland, for its 13th year. Opening Nov. 19-Jan. 6, 2023, Winter Wonderland showcases the tree decorations and display cases of more than 25 cultural partners in order to recognize celebrations and traditions from all over the world. This exhibit is located on the Entry and Upper Levels of the Museum.

To round out the year, Fernbank Museum is moving into the second month of hosting the special exhibit "Journey to Space," which will close on Jan. 1, 2023. Guests are invited to blast off into space through this hands-on exhibit and learn about what it takes to eat, sleep and work outside of the Earth's atmosphere. Activities include experimenting with a drop tower, a robotic arm, water rockets and more. Journey to Space is presented by the Science Museum of Minnesota and the California Science Center with support from NASA.

For more information on exhibits and events and what to expect in 2023, please visit FernbankMuseum.org.



WildWoods: AGLOW is a new, nighttime experience telling an innovative story of nature.



Winter Wonderland features more than 25 different cultural partners' decorations.

#### **OLMSTED 200 Wraps Up**

By Alida Silverman

The 2022 bicentennial celebration of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted is drawing to a close. Druid Hills, FLO's 'last suburb' designed for Joel Hurt as that enlightened developer's "ideal residential suburb" lives on. Families have lived here for more than a hundred years. Many homes are centenarians or coming up on that mark in this decade. The glamorous era evoked in the Birthday Gala at Callanwolde in April gave way to a darker period when Ponce de Leon began to fail, the linear park fell into neglect – "those are just empty fields, aren't they?" – and properties off Ponce were red-lined. But just look at us now!

A vigilant civic association acted to protect the integrity of this special 'suburb' through listing on the National Register of Historic Places, designa-



tion of a regulated (zoning) district in the City part of the neighborhood, and then passage of a district ordinance (with Guidelines) in the larger unincorporated County part. Somewhere in the middle it joined the coalition of nearby neighborhoods formed to meet a threat that would have meant the beginning of the end of Druid Hills. We must stay the course.

This year Druid Hills has celebrated Olmsted 200 with enthusiasm. As has Riverside (Illinois) our "sister" residential community that is FLO's "first suburb." I look forward

to our continued participation in the National Association for Olmsted Parks' Olmsted Network as we move toward Olmsted 250. We are part of the national Olmsted legacy.



#### Add Native Plants to Create a Haven for Pollinators and People

By Erica Glasener, Horticulturist

Fall is a great time to add plants to your garden including shrubs, trees and perennials. Wait until we have had a long soaking rain before you plant. If you have a garden plan, you're ahead of the game but even if you don't, adding the right specimen tree will provide not only shade and beauty, it will increase the number of pollinators that visit or if you're lucky, take up residence in your garden.

When selecting plants for your landscape think about what individual plants offer, both aesthetically and practically. Combine trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and bulbs for the best effect. By using native plants your garden will provide critical food and habitats for birds, bees and other critters. When you replace plants in your landscape consider replacing them with native selections suited to tolerate particular conditions in your garden. With this approach your landscape will be not only beautiful but sustainable. Do a little research. Look around your community and take note of plants that thrive in situations that are similar to your own. A walk through the neighborhood of Druid Hills is a great way to discover wonderful trees like the tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera, the tallest native in the southeast or the tupleo, Nyssa sylvatica, one of the first trees to exhibit fall color with brilliant orange and red leaves. There are also myriad native oaks to enjoy and hickories too.

Avoid or remove invasive exotic plants including English ivy, kudzu and Autumn olive, Eleagnus umbellata. All of these are rampant growers that crowd out other species that need light to grow.

Below is a list of native plants for both sun and shade. By incorporating some of these plants into your landscape, you will be well on your way to creating an oasis for people, plants and animals that will reward you throughout the year.

#### Sun - part shade

Amsonia hubrichtii -Arkansas Bluestar- this
perennial has pale blue flowers and green willow-like foliage that turns golden in autumn.



Bald cypress fringe tree in November



Bee balm



Lilium canadense with the butterfly

• Callicarpa americana-Beautyberry – this shrub produces masses of lavender fruits in early fall, a standout in the garden.

- Chioanthus virginicus-Fringe Tree-fleecy white flowers in spring, it is sometimes called grancy greybeard.
- Cornus florida this native dogwood wants part shade and a moist well drained soil.
   Look for some of the selections like 'Cherokee Chief' that have been selected for their vigor.
- Panicum virgatum-Switch Grass
- Quercus species-many native oaks including white oak, scarlet oak and red oak
- Symphyotrichum georgianum Georgia Aster, a fall blooming perennial.
- Vaccinium ashei '- Rabbiteye Blueberry -Climax' and other rabbiteye varieties including 'Delite,' 'Austin,' and 'Tiftblue.' Plant 3 different varieties and you will get more fruit produced over a long period of time. These shrubs often display red and orange leaves in the fall, adding to their appeal.

#### Shade

- Agarista populifolia- Florida Leucothoe a fountain of graceful evergreen foliage, combine it with native azaleas or use it for screening.
- Amelanchier canadensis- Shadblow or Serviceberry, a large shrub or small tree with tasty fruits in early fall that birds and other critters quickly discover.
- Calycanthus floridus-Sweet Shrub- The scent of the flowers remind some of a cross between a strawberry and a banana. Combine it with evergreen shrubs and native azaleas and rhododendrons.
- Illicium parviflorum-Small Anise tree this
  evergreen has olive green foliage and is
  great for screening or hedges. For a contrast, plant it with Oakleaf hydrangeas.



- Lobelia cardinalis-Cardinal Flower-Spikes of brilliant red flowers make this perennial a standout in the August garden.
- Osmunda regalis-Royal fern this elegant fern can reach up to 3' tall or more.
- *Phlox divaricata-phlox* A spring bloomer perfect with ferns and hostas.
- Tiarella cordifolia-Foam flower A woodland perennial with white flowers in spring.
- Viburnum acerifolium-Maple Leaf Viburnum
- Xanthorhiza simplicissima-Yellowroot Combine this with an evergreen groundcover like the Christmas fern.

## Plants that tolerate damp soils or periodic flooding

- Ilex verticillata-Winterberry –This deciduous shrub produces masses of red or orange fruits in winter. Purchase one male to go with the female which produces the colorful fruit.
- Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'-Virginia
  Sweetspire grows in sun or part shade. The
  green leaves turn garnet in autumn. Great for
  a bank, informal shrub border or in combination with perennials.
- Magnolia virginiana-Sweetbay Magnolia is a large shrub or small tree with lemon scented flowers. Mostly evergreen, the silver undersides of the leaves shimmer in the breeze.
- Taxodium distichum-Bald Cypress is a large deciduous conifer that thrives in wet or dry soils. The fern-like foliage turns from green to russet in the autumn. Once it sheds its leaves, the orange-red bark stands out, especially in the winter landscape.

These are just some of the options to consider for native plants to add to your garden. Remember, it's all about the right plant for the right place. Group plants with similar needs and consider what they will look like throughout the year when siting them in your garden.

#### Neighborhood Parks Update

#### **BURBANCK PARK**

Burbanck is one of our neighborhood parks with a well-organized and effective Friends group. The Friends of Burbanck is led by Perry Mitchell, Mark Goldman, Rusty Ward, Matt Myers, and Mason Savage. They had a successful workday on October 30. Many new shrubs were planted on the hill between Clifton Road and the old stone culvert for Peavine Creek that runs under Clifton. These shrubs have a dual purpose - to deter children who may be tempted to get close to the culvert, and beautification of that corner. The volunteers also spread 40 bales of pine straw and cleared invasives. The DHCA and Emory split the cost of the plantings and Emory donated the pine straw. For the future, the team is considering options for a couple of very cool projects - a way to cross Peavine Creek from one side to the other, and a path along the creek to connect the park to Emory Village, and perhaps to Zonolite Park and beyond. These efforts are being coordinated with the Southfork Conservancy, Emory, DHCA, property owners, and the County.

#### **HEATON PARK**

Heaton Park, a DeKalb County pocket park located at the intersection of Heaton Park Drive and Vickers Drive has been adopted by the neighborhood as a community project over the last several years. Neighborhood volunteers participate in a semiannual workday in which the park is cleaned up and maintained. We have focused on accessibility and community awareness of this beautiful, wooded area. On the last workday, November 12, we weeded and cleared the numerous paths in the park and enjoyed each other's company.

#### RUTLEDGE PARK

With park improvements on the horizon,

we are looking to reinvigorate the Friends of Rutledge Park group. If you are interested in receiving updates, workdays or planning for future improvements please email rutledgeparkfriends@gmail.com



Chelsea Heights Park

#### ADAMS PARK

The Chelsea Heights Park Association held their annual picnic and fundraiser on Sunday, October 2. It was a delightful evening with neighbors meeting neighbors in the beauty of this greenspace. The suggested donation was only \$20 to cover taxes and targeted park improvements. These funds have already been put to good use to fund a mini park refresh with professional aeration and re-seeding of the grass as well as a donation of new chips for the entry path. You may notice signs requesting folks to give the park a brief rest until the grass seed germinates. With a little TLC and good luck (i.e. rain....) O.L. Adams Park will have a lovely green field of grass for neighbors to enjoy. Anyone who would like to contribute to this park effort can send their check made out to Jackie Mickle and mailed to 339 Hertford Circle, Decatur, GA 30030. We do not have a corporate account but do have a separate two-party checking account for transparency and security. Thank you!





Halloween cats in triangle

## Adopted! Clifton/East Clifton Traffic Triangle

In a Druid Hills News edition one year ago, we recognized neighbors who are maintaining and beautifying our traffic triangles, those tiny plots of land marking intersections at various points in the neighborhood. As Kit Eisterhold, DHCA past-president, said: "Traffic triangles may seem like a small thing, but they are highly visible, and a little love thrown their way can go a long way in keeping the neighborhood beautiful." We on the Parks and Greenspace Committee agree with Kit!

We are pleased to announce that Carrie Stoddard, resident of East Clifton Road, has stepped up to adopt the triangle where her street intersects Clifton Road. Carrie said: "It was looking overgrown and messy, and is on an important and beautiful entryway to the neighborhood, so I thought it needed some help!" So far, she has trimmed it up, installed solar lights on the perimeter, and added some spooky cats for Halloween! She would like to do some plantings, refresh the stepping stones, and add pea gravel or mulch. One challenge will be that there is no water source.

If you live in the area and would like to help Carrie, please contact her at carrieporterd-vm@gmail.com.

#### Lost Gardens - Coon Hollow

By Jennifer R. Richardson

Lorraine Meeks Cooney (1886-1951) was one of the most influential women in the early days of garden clubs. Born in Tennessee, Lorraine Meeks married Robert Lee Cooney in 1906 at a society wedding at a farm near Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Cooney was an executive with the New York Life Insurance Company, where he served for 60 consecutive years. The couple made their home on Ponce de Leon Avenue where the frontage on Ponce was 150 feet and the depth of the lot was 800 feet. During the Depression, the couple spent thousands of dollars to design and build their rear garden.

Mrs. Cooney was present at the founding of the Garden Club of Georgia in 1928 in Athens, Georgia. She was the president of the Cherokee

Garden Club and was the second president of the Peachtree Garden Club, honorary president of the Garden Club of Georgia, the Chairman of Atlanta's Gardens and City Beautification Committee, vice president of the state horticultural society, a flower show judge with the GGC, and with others helped found many of the "garden centers" some of which still exist today. (Both Rich's and Davison's had famous garden centers.). Mrs. Cooney was a state chairman of the Garden Club of Georgia, a chair of the Dogwood Festival Association, and the founder of the state organization of Garden Enthusiasts.

She received numerous awards for her garden, flower arrangements, extensive collection of native plants in her garden and her service to Atlanta in myriad respects. She arranged a committee to provide flowers to Grady Hospital patients once a week. She began a statewide campaign aimed at preventing the public from picking wildflowers. She briefly wrote a society column for the Atlanta papers, and she and Mr. Cooney were Metropolitan Opera enthusiasts and often entertained opera stars in their home or at the nearby Druid Hills Golf Club.

At the second Garden Club of Georgia Annual Pilgrimage, Mrs. Cooney's Garden was one of the features. A 1938 article in the Atlanta Constitution described her garden this way: "In descending levels, the paths of which are flanked by ivy-covered banks,



Rich's President Walter Rich and Mrs. Lorraine Cooney in 1934 at the 6th floor of Rich's Department Store celebrating the opening of Rich's Garden Center. Mrs. Cooney was chairman of the Garden Center Committee for the Garden Club of Georgia. Courtesy of the Atlanta Constitution.

the gardens of Coon Hollow, the Cooney Home, are noted for their laurel, azalea, Rhododendrons, and Spring Wild[flowers]. Against a deep bank is an interesting woodland shrine." This "shrine" was the façade of a replica of a Scottish or Irish chapel, built into the rock wall behind it, with a cross on top and wooden door that didn't open. Today, the façade remains, but the door has been removed.

Perhaps Mrs. Cooney's most lasting accomplishment was her involvement with the book: "Garden History of Georgia; 1733-1933." A Bicentennial Committee, formed to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Georgia, asked Mrs. Cooney to compile a book showcasing Georgia gardens from, 1733-1933. Assisting Mrs. Cooney

were editor Hattie C. Rainwater, author of the Early Georgia Gardens section, Florence Marye, and her spouse Thornton Marye, AIA, Dr. Albert Rogers, business manager of the project, a book committee, and dozens of subscribers who helped finance the book. The entire project was sponsored, financed and published by the Peachtree Garden Club, of which Mrs. Cooney was president.

The book, filled with historic photographs and pen and ink garden designs, was divided into three sections: Early Gardens; Modern Gardens; and Garden Club Projects, Institutional Projects, and School Gardens and Campuses. Today, the book is an invaluable resource to anyone wanting to research famous gardens in the state of Georgia—and a record of gardens that are now lost. In 2018, authors Staci L. Catron and Mary Ann Eddy, along with photographer James R. Lockhart, published "Seeking Eden", a history of 30 gardens that were featured in the original book.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Cooney sold Coon Hollow and returned to her birthplace and relatives near Nashville, Tenn. She briefly lived in Hendersonville, Tenn. before marrying Jackson Rogers in 1943 and moving to Kentucky. Mrs. Lorraine Rogers continued her involvement in gardening, garden clubs and lectures throughout the southeast United States. Mrs. Rogers died in the summer of 1951.

#### Emory University's Calhoun Oak

By Jennifer J. Richardson

In 1945, plans were made for some additions to Emory Hospital on Clifton (Now Emory Healthcare.) In order to construct these wings, several large trees would have to be removed from the grounds of the hospital. Enter Dr. F. Phinizy Calhoun, Sr. He wanted the trees saved.

Dr. Calhoun was an ophthalmologist who chaired his department in Emory's School of Medicine. He'd been a major donor to Emory since the 1920s and became an Emory Trustee in 1931. As a trustee, he served on the health services, building and grounds, and executive committees.

Dr. Calhoun, Sr. came from a long line of physicians. His grandfather, Dr. Andrew B. Calhoun, was one of the founders in 1854 of the Atlanta Medical College, which later became Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons, and still later Emory Medical School. His father, Dr. Abner Wellborn Calhoun, chaired the Atlanta Medical College ophthalmology department for 38 years, and later at its successor, Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons. After Dr. Andrew Calhoun's death in 1910, his son, Phinizy, became chairman of ophthalmology. Dr. Phinizy Calhoun, Sr. performed the first surgery at what was then called Wesley Memorial Hospital (now Emory) right after it opened in 1922. Dr. Calhoun later made a monetary gift in memory of his father in 1923 to establish the Abner Wellborn Calhoun Medical Library, which was originally housed in the hospital. Dr. Calhoun continued to support this library and a branch at Grady Memorial Hospital downtown, and by 1965, the library contained over 64,000 books.

After his retirement from the School of Medicine in 1940, among his many accolades and tributes, the Trustees said of him: "All students profited by his clear teaching and in later years men well prepared to specialize in ophthalmology have been sent out by this institution as products of Dr. Calhoun's vision and progressive methods... No one has contributed more to the advancement of the School of Medicine or assisted more effectively in making it known as a national institution." In the same year as his retirement from the Emory faculty, Dr. Calhoun was elected president of the American Ophthalmological





Calhoun Oak Plaque

Society. When he received his honorary LL.D degree, a citation greeted him as a "brilliant surgeon, scholar, teacher, author, patient and wise counsellor, great-hearted gentleman and an aesthete whose concern for beauty of structure and landscape has at times troubled us as well as helped us."

After retirement, Dr. Calhoun continued an interest in creating beautiful grounds on the Emory campus. In his role as member of the building and grounds committee, he was quite familiar with all building projects at Emory and knew intimate details of all of the school's landscaping. Dr. Calhoun used his influence as a leader at Emory to convince the hospital building committee to save the trees slated to be cut by hospital expansion. And they were, thanks to Dr.

The Calhoun Oak, located north of the hospital's main entrance, stood sentry at that spot for more than 100 years.

Calhoun. He was especially proud of one white oak tree. (*Quercus alba*).

In 1964, the Emory Board chose that white oak as one most likely to have many healthy years of life. It was located just north of the hospital's main entrance. Fellow Trustee, Bishop Costen J. Harrell, informed Dr. Calhoun that the white oak would be named the "Calhoun Oak" in his honor and a plaque attached to it. The plaque read "The Calhoun Oak. A tribute to Dr. F. Phinizy Calhoun Sr., whose interest in the trees and plantings on this campus has made Emory University more beautiful." The Calhoun oak had been present in that spot for more than 100 years—before Clifton Road was paved, according to Emory Historian Emeritus, Dr. Gary Hauk.

Dr. Calhoun died in 1965. His Calhoun Oak, which had spread its canopy over the lawn of the hospital, succumbed to Ambrosia Beetle in 2011 and was removed. The usable wood from the tree has been saved, as has the plaque. In the meantime, Emory continues an ambitious tree planting program on the campus—perhaps just one more legacy of Dr. Phinizy Calhoun.

After several years of planning, the Druid Hills Education Foundation has finally been established at Druid Hills High School!



Our mission calls for us to promote and enrich the education and development of ALL DHHS students.

We pledge to raise funding to support the school's academics, athletics, the arts, and capital improvements.

Through our fundraising efforts, we will support the needs of the DHHS PTO and DHAA.

#### KICKING OFF WITH A BANG!

2022 Inaugural Donors who contribute \$2022 or more will have their family name added to a special plaque in the central lobby of the school, commemorating the establishment of the Druid Hills Education Foundation.

## **HOW TO DONATE**



Simply fill out our Foundation Donor Form, submit, then pay! Make a payment online or give us a check. Employer matching funds are eligible towards your total.

## **Druid Hills High School Establishes Foundation**

Contributed by Druid Hills Education Foundation

We would like to thank the many neighbors who took an interest in helping Druid Hills High School when our brave students spoke out about some disturbing physical conditions in the buildings and on the grounds. You helped advocate for Druid Hills High School at the time, and in May, the DeKalb County School District Board of Education resolved to modernize the school. While we still await the important next actions to approve the modernization on the ESPLOST six project list, we are excited about the future of our school. The beautiful original building, built to house the "Druid Hills School" in 1929 could finally be restored. We encourage everyone to continue to follow the Red Devil Task Force updates on the PTO website: www.dhhspto.org/modernize-dhhs

In other exciting news at the high school, after several years of planning, a brand-new Druid Hills Education Foundation has been created! The establishment of an education foundation at DHHS has long been a vision of Principal Mark Joyner: "I'm thrilled to see the Druid Hills Education Foundation finally come to fruition, allowing us to fundraise strategically for longer term goals and other much-needed support for our Red Devils."

The mission of the Foundation is to promote and enrich the education and development of all DHHS students. Its aim is to consistently support the school's academics, athletics, arts, and capital improvements. Fundraising efforts will also help fund the operating budgets of the DHHS PTO and the Druid Hills Athletic Association.

We invite all our neighbors to be a part of DHHS's history and future with a tax-deductible donation in any amount to the Druid Hills Education Foundation. We especially want all DHHS friends and alumni to be aware of our special 2022 inaugural fundraising incentive. Donors of \$2,022 and above, received by Dec. 31, 2022, will be recognized forever on a special commemorative "Inaugural Donors" plaque centrally located in the main school building.

Donations may be made by scanning the adjacent QR code to make an electronic payment via Zelle or PayPal, or a check may be delivered to the DHHS front office in an envelope marked with FOUNDATION and your name, phone number, and email address. Questions may be directed to: dhhsedufoundation@gmail.com. We appreciate your consideration in helping us do great things for Druid Hills High School!



So as the seasons change we are waking up to cooler temperatures. Maybe they aren't 'fire up your furnace cold' enough, but your feet still feel cold, especially sitting at your desk at home or in the office.

However slow your burn a little bit. It's not that time of year when we should throw all common sense out the window and go with the first space heater we find lying about.

ou know what that means? That's

For example, do you know the answer to all these questions when it comes to your space heater? You should.

How old is it? How has it been stored? When was the last time it was used?

You're telling me you just bought a new space heater? You're saying that you just got one two years ago but it's been neatly stored in your crawlspace?

Just because your space heater is new, you still need to beware. I wouldn't use a brand new space heater that smelled funny when I plugged it in let alone one I drug out from my crawlspace where who knows what has been using it for who knows what for who knows how long.

HERE ARE SOME SPACE HEATER POINTERS TO HELP KEEP YOU WARM AND ALIVE WHEN IT IS CHILLY OUTSIDE:

- ▶ Only use space heating equipment that has the UL Mark.
- Space heaters should be used to only heat spaces, not to dry clothes or heat food
- ➤ Keep a 3-foot zone around your space heater free of anything flammable.
- Turn off your space heater when you leave the room or when you go to sleep for the night.
- Make sure the wiring is sound on your heater and that the connections are tight.
- When buying a new space heater look for ones with an automatic shut-off feature and with heating element guards.

## In a nutshell - treat your space heater like you would an open flame and you should be ok.



Grab your hammer and join the show! In Atlanta, 404.872.0750 or 1.800.972.8255. Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Dave Baker is WSB's resident household repair and home improvement

expert! He provides a multitude of tips and advice on planning, building and fixing up around the house. Follow Dave on his Facebook page: Facebook.com/thehomefixitpage



he holidays are upon us, and along with traditions with family and friends, you will likely be enjoying some kind of holiday plant. Many of them can be cared for long past the Christmas season. Here are some common plants associated with this time of year and how to care for them.

ROSEMARY

You know the scent and flavor of Rosemary. It is common for use in meat and vegetable dishes. Its branches can be used as skewers for kabobs, adding flavor to the meat! And its beautiful white and lavender

flowers can also be used in prepared dishes. This herb can stay containerized or can be planted in the ground once the chance of frost has passed in early spring. It demands well-drained soil and bright light. You may see Rosemary bushes pruned into a topiary. It is perennial and evergreen, so it always holds on to its leaves.

#### POINSETTIA

This plant's bright bracts
("flowers") add such a nice
pop of color to holiday décor.
Poinsettias come in many
different colors- from cream
and pale pink, to red, speckled,
and sometimes adorned with
glitter! This is not a plant to put
out as trash with the Christmas

tree. It can be placed outdoors after the last chance of frost, and when happy, grows a few feet high. When kept inside during the holidays, keep Poinsettias away from vents and drafty windows, and make sure the soil doesn't stay too wet. When

you water them, be sure to empty the water settling at the bottom of that foil wrapper they're often sold in.

#### **HOLIDAY CACTI**

Many gardeners
have posted beautiful
photos to gardening Facebook pages of
what they thought were Christmas cacti,
but they reported them blooming as early
as Halloween. There are many varieties
of holiday cacti, but most common are
Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The
Thanksgiving cactus is easily determined by
the spikes on its leaves.



It is important to keep these outside in the summertime, then bring them back inside when lows get below 50 degrees at night. And as long as there is no patent pending on your variety of cactus, its leaves can be easily rooted in a pot of sand or soilless mix to make a whole new plant.

#### **AMARYLLIS**

Breathtaking, big holiday-colored flowers atop a tall stalk, amaryllis are easy plants grown from bulbs. Just place them in front of a bright window, and they'll show off their large flowers for weeks. They can be kept happy two ways- one is in a short container with marbles or pebbles and just enough water to touch the bottom of the bulb. The other, more traditional way, is potted shallowly in soil. Recently introduced to the consumer market are amaryllis bulbs covered in wax. They are marketed as easy gifts, even for the

non-gardener, because of not needing water or to be potted.

# Looking for cheap and easy ways to decorate in a hurry? Here are four ways to use some outside plants as décor this holiday season.

- Obtain the evergreen leaves of Magnolia and holly to adorn centerpieces, swags and more
- Grapevines or vines of Virginia Creeper make sturdy frames for wreaths
- Use Rosemary plants as topiaries that could even be decorated

4. Frame windows, doors and mantles with fresh Cedar or Fir garlands. According to Pike Nursery, the key to keeping greenery fresh is maintaining moisture. When you get your garland and wreaths home, soak them in cold water over night. Completely submerge them in a large bucket or bathtub. Once the greenery has soaked overnight, let it dry, then spray it with all-natural preservative like Wilt Stop.

Photo credits: cactus, Ian Matthes / rosemary, Pike Nursery



Ashley Frasca is host of the radio show Green and Growing, heard on 95.5 WSB Radio every Saturday from 6-9:00 a.m. For gardening tips, information, and advice, follow her Facebook page: Facebook.com/greenandgrowingwsb

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Signature Accounting Services, LLC.		678-883-7868		
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Advance Control   Piece   770-346-2023   Piece   Piece   770-346-2023   Piece   770-346-2	<u> </u>	110-915-1009		
Assisted Living		404-445-7777		
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Concrete Lifting & Leveling   Advance Concrete Lifting & Leveling   Advance Concrete Lifting & Leveling   Advance Concrete Lifting & Leveling   678-235-9322   Pre-Schools & Kindergarten   Advance Concrete Lifting & Leveling   770-848-7600   Uptown Cheapskate-Cumming   7770-844-7600   Uptown Cheapskate-Least Cobb   770-989-1967   Uptown Cheapskate-Least Cobb   770-989-1967   Uptown Cheapskate-Least Cobb   770-989-1967   Uptown Cheapskate-Least Cobb   770-991-1967   Propage Service   Gas Incorporated   770-770-40-7721   Propage Service   Account Dental   770-974-1914   Bridgebill Dentistry (Scott Merrit, DMD)   770-704-1812   Distinctive Dentistry   770-744-1812   Distinctive Dentistry   770-744-5860   Esthelic Dential Solutions   678-552-1333   Northpoint Dental   678-574-837   Northpoint Dental   678-574-837   Northpoint Dental   678-574-837   Northpoint Dental   678-574-837   Northpoint Dental   678-678-574-837   Northpoint Dental   678-678-574-838   Northpoint Dental   678-678-578-1938   Northpoint Dental   678-678-5		100 012-4400		
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CK DanceWorks, Inc. & CK Yoga		····· 770-495-1515	•	//0-/20-13/8
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Esthetic Dental Solutions				
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## Happy Holidays

## AS WE HEAD INTO THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND TURN THE CORNER ON A NEW YEAR.



We were proud to sponsor the Frederick Law Olmsted 200th Birthday Gala, the 2022 Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour, the Emory Village Alliance Concert, the Atlanta Beltline and the High Museum of Art. HARRY NORMAN, REALTORS® continues its' commitment to our community and city.

Wishing you and yours a most Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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