



# THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

March 2021  
Volume 36 | Number 1

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How lucky are we to have our very own oasis in the middle of a city, where we have been able to run, climb, bike, explore, study, read, play, and BREATHE through this pandemic. With Olmsted's 200th birthday around the corner, we have even more reason to celebrate his vision!

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## President's Corner

By Kit Eisterhold

Dear Neighbors,

With your permission I'd like to take a short sabbatical from my usual philosophizing about high falutin' concepts like moderation and the meaning of life and talk about something more concrete: Sidewalks.

If you walk in this neighborhood (and I hope you do), you can't help but notice the decrepit state of our sidewalks. On my own street, Harvard Rd., some sections are so busted up and heaving it reminds me of packed ice pushed up in jagged piles by Arctic currents. My neighbor, a senior citizen well into her 80s, tripped on just such a section and fell face first into the pavement. As often as not, pedestrians walk in the street, preferring the traffic to the trip hazards.

I've had an endless series of discussions about this thing with all manner of people. I have attended meetings. I have called the County and complained. I had our Public Safety chair pay a private company to survey the carnage along Emory Rd., and even to repair a few places. I went so far as to demolish a 40-foot section next to my house that was so cracked up I couldn't stand it anymore; wailing away with a sledgehammer, hauling it off in my truck, and repouring it with 3 cubic yards of concrete I paid for myself.

Of course, none of this has really put a dent in the problem.

At the risk of sounding gratuitously alliterative, I have to say that, for something so seemingly simple, sidewalks have left me in quite the complicated quandary. I'm honestly at wit's end here. Seriously.

It was suggested recently that I write DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond and ask him for help.

So that's what I've done. On page 4 of this newsletter you'll find an open letter from me, your President, addressed to Michael Thurmond, explaining our problem and soliciting his help.

Hard to know what difference it will make, necessarily, one guy writing a letter. I do recall Andy Dufresne, in the Shawshank Redemption, writing a letter a week for the better part of six years, to the state government of Maine to get a \$200 appropriation to renovate the Shawshank Prison Library. That seemed to work OK.

But I think I have a better idea. If you'd be willing to cut out my letter from this issue of the Druid Hills News (or photocopy it if you can't bear the thought of desecrating our newsletter in such a manner), sign it with your name and address, and mail it to Michael Thurmond, then we might make some impact. I could scarcely imagine the effect of 300 letters arriving at his office over this issue, all in the span of a couple of weeks. If even one out of ten households here in Druid Hills would do this, we'd have as many letters as Andy Dufresne sent off to the state of Maine in six years, only for real this time, and for something more... Concrete.

If you're younger and don't mess around with the U.S. Postal Service, feel free to scan the letter and email it to Michael Thurmond. Or, barring that, get on the DHCA homepage at [www.druidhills.org](http://www.druidhills.org) and look under "Seen Bad Sidewalks" where you'll find an email template you can use, and Michael Thurmond's email address (CEOMichaelThurmond@dekalbcountyga.gov).

I'm just one guy, and a fairly small one at that, and there's not much I can do about this thing by myself. But together we can make a difference. Let's help each other out on this thing. It's what good neighbors do. And it's what makes a good neighborhood.

Sincerely,

**Kit Eisterhold**  
(DHCA President)

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## DRUID HILLS NEWS WELCOMES YOUR ARTICLES

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

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

### DEADLINES

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

*June 2021*

*Articles deadline – May 10*

*September 2021*

*Articles deadline – August 10*

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Julie Ralston, Jennifer Richardson,  
Thea Roeser, Doug Rollins, Dina Shadwell,  
Alida Silverman, Sue Sullivan  
and Lynn Speno

## Sidewalks Appeal Letter to DeKalb CEO

*By Kit Eisterhold, President, Druid Hills Civic Association*

Dear Mr. Thurmond,

I am writing to you today in my capacity as the President of the Druid Hills Civic Association to ask for your help. We've had the pleasure of meeting on several occasions, including at my house and at the DHCA Annual meeting, and I was struck by your candor and commonsense approach to local politics. Your hard at work tackling a number of long-neglected infrastructure issues in DeKalb County is appreciated; and on behalf of our entire neighborhood, I want to share our gratitude for the wonderful strides you've made in improving our water infrastructure.

As you probably know, Druid Hills has some of the oldest streets in DeKalb County, and many of our sidewalks are showing their years—a century or so in many cases. I've grown increasingly concerned with stories of our residents' sidewalk trips and falls that have resulted in visits to the emergency room. A senior neighbor, well into her 80s, tripped on a busted section of sidewalk across the street from my house and fell face first into the pavement. After complaints, DeKalb County spray painted a few of the worst sections along Harvard Rd., where the incident happened, but the repairs never occurred, and the paint has long since faded.

Our public safety chair has been in contact with DeKalb County for the better part of a year over this issue. As I understand it, we have been told that the county's budgetary priorities largely revolve around establishing new sidewalks, especially in areas immediately adjacent to schools, and that most county sidewalk repairs take place where they have been destroyed by construction work, such as water line replacement and the like. We have been told that requests for SPLOST funding are a possibility, but that the line is stacked up now for several years.

Over the past 3 months, the DHCA has created an initial inventory of the most dangerous sidewalks, which we have shared with our Commissioner, Jeff Rader (see attached). We hired Georgia Safe Sidewalks to do a survey of defects and trip hazards on a one mile stretch of Emory Rd., and they found 287 of them. We then had Precision Concrete conduct 20 repairs to some of the worst sections, but that was merely a drop in the bucket relative to that one-mile stretch, to say nothing of the 40 total miles of sidewalks that wind throughout the entire neighborhood, many of which are nearly as decrepit as Emory Rd.

Concomitant to this outstanding pedestrian safety issue is the state of our road crossings. Due to Druid Hills' location sitting astride the City of Atlanta, Emory University, CHOA, and the Centers for Disease Control, and being criss-crossed by major arterials and state highways like Ponce de Leon, Briarcliff and North Decatur, our streets have experienced an incredible surge in vehicular volume and speed over the past decade; and unfortunately, our roads, pedestrian crossing facilities, speed signage, speed enforcement and other measures for speed control have simply not kept up.

While we understand you hold the big picture of county priorities, our neighborhood residents believe it is a reasonable expectation that their tax dollars should be used to keep our sidewalks and streets safe for pedestrians. They can't help but observe the significant improvements to pedestrian safety in those areas of DeKalb that have annexed to Brookhaven, Atlanta, and Decatur where millions are being spent on impactful signage, LED lighting, pedestrian crosswalks, better street lighting, and ADA compliant ramps at intersections. Several of our residents that are attorneys have even expressed legitimate liability concerns over this issue that they feel DeKalb County needs to proactively address.

What I am asking for is a commitment to a relatively modest level of County investment over a multi-year period focused on pedestrian-related improvements within Druid Hills that are most in need of repair. I assure you that even a small amount of progress, such as an update 12 months from now from the DeKalb CEO's office touting the repair of a dozen or so of the most dangerous sidewalks in the neighborhood, with maybe a hawklight added in a high traffic zone, would make a huge difference in both safety and perception of responsiveness of the county to our needs.

I recall a couple of years ago at the DHCA annual meeting when you talked about the politics of "And." I'd like to believe we can have new sidewalks near schools in DeKalb County and fix sidewalks in existing areas that are presently falling apart. I'm open to any suggestions you may have to help move this issue forward, and I welcome your partnership. Finally, thank you for your time and service to our County.

Sincerely,

**Kit Eisterhold**

*President, Druid Hills Civic Association*





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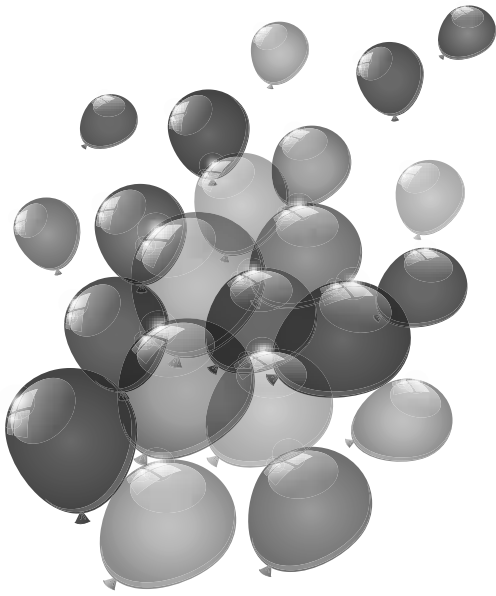


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## Planning Begins for Olmsted Birthday Celebration for Spring 2022

By Sue Sullivan



In the late 19th Century, when Frederick Law Olmsted was in the height of his career as a premier American landscape architect, the country was in great flux, much as we are today. Back then, the country had just come through the Civil War and was faced with social and environmental changes similar to those we are currently facing: racism, disease, pollution and inequality. Olmsted's main goal, no matter what and where he was working, was to attempt to change American society for the better. Olmsted used his landscape designs to promote harmony, health and social democracy and believed that parks and green space were places for people to come together, build community and connect on common ground. Celebrating the 200th birth of this famous landscape architect and social visionary could not be more timely or relevant. Plans are underway for Olmsted 200 in April of 2022, and Druid Hills will be a part of the celebration.

"Communitiveness," a word coined by Olmsted, was the bringing together of groups and individuals for the betterment of all. This word "communitiveness" is the *raison d'être* of the formation of the Druid Hills Olmsted 200 Celebration Committee. This group of neighborhood organizations has come together to represent Druid Hills as part of the National Birthday Celebration for Olmsted's 200th Birthday in the Spring of 2022. The group is com-



prised of representatives and volunteers from OLPA, DHCA, Emory Village Alliance, Olmsted Plein Air, the Druid Hills Golf Club, South Fork Conservancy, The Frazer Center, Callanwolde, Lullwater Garden Club, Fernbank, Emory, and the schools and churches within Druid Hills. The group has tasked itself with planning, organizing and co-hosting a week-long calendar of events for all ages and interests, designed to showcase and celebrate Druid Hills as an Olmsted neighborhood, and inspire the continuation of Olmsted's principles.

The week-long event will kick off on April 26th, 2022, with a Birthday Party Gala at Callanwolde, open to all neighbors and guests. Many diverse activities for all will be held throughout the week, with the Olmsted Linear Park on Ponce as the backdrop, including the DHCA's Tour of Homes and Gardens, a fun run, Plein Air painting with the artists, children's stream and nature walks, history walking tours, symposiums and lectures on Olmsted and landscape design, plant sales, outdoor markets, food trucks and a concert in the park. These events will celebrate the "the father of American landscape architecture" and raise funds for a Druid Hills Improvement Fund to create a lasting legacy project in Olmsted's name.

Your involvement, your ideas and your opinions will benefit this entire neighborhood in the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted's "communitiveness." For more information, please contact Sue Sullivan [SueSullivan721@gmail.com](mailto:SueSullivan721@gmail.com), Anne Wallace, [awallace@tloffices.com](mailto:awallace@tloffices.com), or any of the representatives of the organizations involved. Please be on the lookout for ways to become involved with this exciting celebration and to provide input on how you would like to see resulting funds spent!

## Olmsted 200 Celebration Kicking Off Nationally

By Alida Silverman

The Olmsted 200 website is live! Check out [olmsted200.org](http://olmsted200.org) to learn about the 2022 celebration of the bicentennial of Frederick law Olmsted's birth. The official launch is set for his actual birth date of April 26 of this year, but already there are postings of planned events around the country. Click on the "Join the Celebration" tab to keep up with what is happening. Olmsted landscape stewards across the country will be posting news of their events as the year goes on.

A happy coincidence: Special Supplementary Volume 3 of *The Olmsted Papers* is now available. Published late last year, this is the final volume of the writings and works of Frederick Law Olmsted so that the full scope of his work is ready for the bicentennial celebration. Titled

*Frederick Law Olmsted Plans and Views of Communities and Private Estates*, SSV 3 is rich in photographs, plans, and graphics as well as text.

Druid Hills is in it. There we are at the end of the first section "Residential Communities" since Druid Hills was his last subdivision design. Biltmore in Asheville, N.C. appears at the end of the "Private Estates" section. Olmsted was working at Biltmore when he first travelled to Atlanta to look at the land Joel Hurt had amassed for Druid Hills. Alums of UC Berkeley, Stanford, and Amherst will be interested in the "Academic Campuses" part.

DHCA and OLPA contributed financially to publication of this final volume. And, Sally Harbaugh, founder of the Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta, appears in the Acknowledgements for sharing "her extensive research into Olmsted's role in planning Druid Hills."



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## It Took Some Fires

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Before 1934, the part of Druid Hills in DeKalb County had no fire protection. (The City served the homes inside the city limits.) So if your house caught fire, it was just too bad. Thanks to a fireman in Nashville, Tenn. named J.V. Draughon, who brought his system and expertise to Druid Hills, a fire department was established in our community in 1934. The Druid Hills Fire Department eventually acquired a building on North Decatur Road, a stove, four cots, and a six-cylinder fire engine.

There was only one problem: you had to subscribe to the Druid Hills Fire Department in order for them to protect your home if it was on fire. The subscription cost \$20-\$30 per year. But because insurance rates were high for the area, many didn't subscribe, gambling that they wouldn't need fire protection. And for some, the gamble brought about devastating loss.

The Druid Hills Fire Department could be summoned by dialing their phone number. A rat trap rigged to a light switch was activated when the telephone rang. The fire house lights went on, awakening the crew, who raced to the scene of the fire. But they didn't always fight the fire.

Captain Ade Orrill lived at number 4 Villa Drive. On December 16, 1934, his home caught fire and two fire companies responded: City of Atlanta and Druid Hills. Druid Hills firefighters stood by and watched the home burn because Captain Orrill didn't subscribe to their fire service. The City firefighters were not legally allowed to fight a fire in DeKalb County, so they stood by as well. Mrs. W.H. Lee, who lived next door at 3 Villa Drive, pleaded with firefighters to spray water on her house to keep it from burning, but Mrs. Lee was not a subscriber to the Druid Hills fire service. Instead, she called her son, a student at Emory, and he brought several students with him who helped fight the Villa Drive fire with garden hoses. Employees from the nearby Candler Zoo (at Briarcliff Farms on Briarcliff Road) also came down to fight the fire. The home was a total loss.

Prominent Atlanta attorney Edgar Craighead lived at 1739 North Decatur Road. His home, valued at \$30,000, was two story with a tile roof. In February of 1935, a fire started in the basement of the home which soon engulfed the entire structure. Craighead's baby grandson, Craig Dwyer, sixteen months, was visiting his grandparents and asleep in his room. Grabbing the child and his wife, Craighead led the family to safety, "with flames licking at their heels as they ran out the front door," according to an article



*Fire trucks at the old Druid Hills fire station*



in the Atlanta Constitution in 1935. Druid Hills firemen answered the alarm but did not attempt to combat the flames as the Craigheads were not subscribers. The home was a total loss.

Oscar S. Oldknow, who was involved in theatre and films, lived in a 15-room house valued at \$50,000 at 1050 Springdale Road. On January 23, 1935, the house began to burn. Mr. Oldknow was out of town on business, but his wife, son, and a houseguest were trapped on the second floor of the home. A housekeeper brought a ladder to the window, enabling Mrs. Oldknow, her son Billy and the guest to escape. The Druid Hills Fire Department arrived on the scene, but the Oldknows were not subscribers, so they watched the house burn to the ground. Later, Mrs. Oldknow stated, "I don't know if they could have

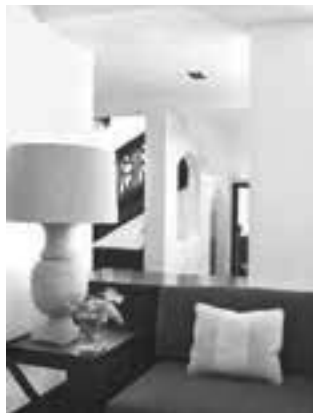
saved the house or not," she said of the Druid Hills brigade. "But I think if they had tried, the damage would be less."

The devastating fires with lack of fire fighters working them infuriated the neighbors in Druid Hills. Papers throughout the United States covered the issue from Texas to Chicago, to Florida. Druid Hills was shamed in the national press. As a result, the DeKalb Fire Department was formed in 1937 and operated out of the Druid Hills station space on North Decatur Road. Taxes now paid for fire protection—not subscriptions. And so, for the DeKalb portion of Druid Hills, house fires had a fighting chance of being put out.



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## Olmsted Plein Air Competition Set for April 17 - 15

By Dina Shadwell

Atlanta's *Collectors Preview Gallery Exhibition* March 18 – 20th will kick off the 2021 season for Olmsted Plein Air Invitational by showcasing representative works by each of the 33 invited artists. Guest will 'meet' the 2021 Invited Artists via an outstanding body of work. Hosted by Hindman Auction at their Miami Circle location, the Collectors Preview Exhibition celebrates Olmsted Plein Air Invitational's seven years of sustaining contemporary Impressionist landscape painting in Atlanta amidst Gallery ambience, art enthusiasts, collectors and some live demonstrations by artist who will be competing in the Invitational in April. Paintings will be available for purchase.

The 2021 Olmsted Plein Air Invitational competition week is scheduled for April 17 – 25, 2021. In this year of resilience, we will offer 33 premier American artists many of whom will paint across Georgia and in Atlanta for the 7th annual Olmsted Plein Air Invitational. With an abundance of caution, we will limit the number of physical art events this year. For the public and collectors, we will offer a variety of both 'virtual' and in-person opportunities to see and purchase collectible paintings created by the esteemed invited Artists. The 'Virtual' Gallery Opening is April 17th. To receive the virtual Gallery, you can subscribe at [www.olmstedpleinair.com](http://www.olmstedpleinair.com)

Daily the public is invited to locations to experience the artists creating paintings; open air art parties; purchase appealing Impressionist-style paintings by your favorites; local artists and youth participate in the public PaintQuick competition during the competition week. [OlmstedPleinAir.com](http://OlmstedPleinAir.com)

Invited Artists are welcomed to paint across Georgia from the coast to the mountains for the first half of the week, gathering in Atlanta for the

Attend free, public painting events or exclusive ticketed evenings, mingle with invited plein air artists and take home your favorite fresh, framed painting off of the easel!

A panel of Esteemed Awards Judges will determine the winners and award the Olmsted Trophy and a purse at the Sunday's 'Virtual' Awards and Collectors Soirée.

An open-air Gallery Garden Stoll will take place on Thursday, April 22 will be held in one of Atlanta's most esteemed private Gardens. Painting created during the week as well as a library of paintings will be on exhibition and available for

purchase. The price a ticket will be credited toward a painting.

Paint Quick®, a 2-hour paint-in-the-outdoors Competition is Saturday, April 24 at Chateau Elon just 30 miles north of Atlanta. Local painters and painting students may register to paint alongside the Invited Plein Air Master Artists, with judging and awards for each category.

The 'virtual' Collectors and Artists Awards Soirée Sunday, April 25 will be the first time to see the competition paintings. FRIENDS of Olmsted Plein Air Invitational are the first to learn who won and may invest in collectible paintings before the public

gets to view them.

With and abundance of caution all Olmsted Plein Air Paintings will be available via our 'virtual' Gallery Catalogue and will feature new fresh paintings each week through July 17. We will not have a physical gallery this year.

Become a FRIEND or a Corporate Sponsor of Olmsted Plein Air to support the event (in its seventh year) and receive many discounts and tickets and perks. To get involved and see a full listing of the week's activities visit [OlmstedPleinAir.com](http://OlmstedPleinAir.com).





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Children playing in Springdale Park

## Help OLPA Renovate Springdale Park Playground

*By Sandra Kruger*

The Springdale playground has welcomed a myriad of visitors over the last twenty years. It continues to be a destination for people of all ages – both children and those who are young at heart. Due to how much love it has gotten, the safety surfacing and infrastructure are showing wear and the play structures are outdated. Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) is in the beginning stages of a master plan to renovate the playground and repair some of the asphalt paths in the area.

To better understand how the playground is used and what play structures the community would like to see installed, OLPA has created a survey to gather community input. If you responded to this survey, we thank you for your participation. Your input is invaluable as we put together a master plan for this project. If you've not yet done so, we ask that you take a few minutes to complete the survey so we can take the necessary steps to best serve our community. To access the survey, visit <https://forms.gle/Yxq8UDPi6AhHBNaX6>.

This survey will be sent out to several community organizations so you may see it in other communication outlets. If you have any additional questions or would like to contact OLPA directly, email [atlantaolmstedpark@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaolmstedpark@gmail.com). Thank you so much for your commitment to Olmsted Linear Park.

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# Implementing our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan



## Clarifying our role in Druid Hills

The DHCA was founded in 1924 and over the years, it has served many roles for our neighborhood. As we start 2021, and implement our new strategic plan, we are defining exactly what we are aiming to be to our community of Druid Hills.

- ➔ We are an advocacy group, and as such we will continue to advocate for Druid Hills and foster relationships with public officials and other organizations. Our aim is to influence policy and regulations that affect our neighborhood.
- ➔ Although we cannot make decisions about zoning and land use, we will advocate for fair and consistent interpretation of guidelines and regulations.
- ➔ We do not have authority over historical guidelines and regulations in Druid Hills but we have two committees dedicated to helping homeowners navigate them - one for each of our two historic districts.

## Focusing our efforts to stay true to our mission

*"Connect neighbors, foster civic engagement, and steward the neighborhood's beauty."*  
our new mission statement for the Druid Hills Civic Association

### Defining our Areas of Focus



We will work to **Conserve Our Natural Environment** by protecting our creeks, rebuilding our tree canopy and increasing our neighborhood's participation in the Wildlife Sanctuary Certification Program.



We will **Maintain and Protect our Built Environment** by being a valued partner to homeowners navigating historic guidelines, zoning or land-use matters. We'll invest in amenities that will enhance our community such as adding Druid Hills signage at gateways to the neighborhood.



We want to **Unite Residents and Build Community** through opportunities for neighbors to network, enjoy a variety of planned community events, and give us input through a yearly listening survey. We want more neighbors to engage with our organization through membership and to regularly volunteer time in our beautiful neighborhood.



We will **Consistently and Clearly Communicate** to make sure residents are in-the-know about what's going on in Druid Hills. We are reorganizing our website so resources - like historic guidelines - are easy to find and understand.

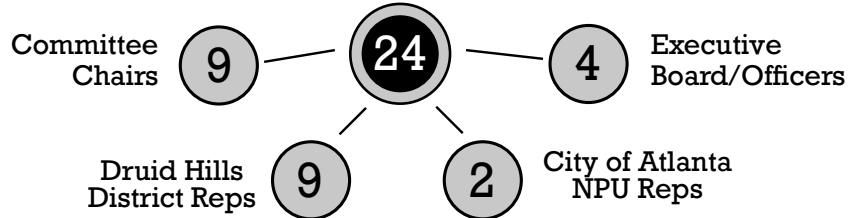


A big goal for the DHCA is to **Keep Residents Safe** by creating a proactive, multi-year Transportation Plan to address issues related to vehicles, public transit, bicycles and pedestrians. We'll partner with government agencies to seek funding and implement the plan. We'll also advance neighborhood safety by collaborating with the Druid Hills Patrol, and further strengthen our neighborhood watch program.

## Restructuring the Board

It's time for us to reorganize our board structure, our committees, and our meetings so we can accomplish our goals, engage volunteers and partners, regularly rotate board leadership, and fairly represent the whole neighborhood.

*Please note: A District Representative may also be a Committee Chair, decreasing the total number of board members.*



### DHCA Committees

- Communications
  - Finance (*chaired by the Treasurer*)
  - Governance
  - Membership
  - Parks & Greenspace
  - Preservation (2):
    - DeKalb Historic District (unincorporated DeKalb Co.)
    - Landmark District (City of Atlanta)
  - Public Safety (*includes Transportation*)
  - Tour of Homes
- Our Committees will be empowered to carry out their charters as laid out in the strategic plan without the need to involve the board in execution.
- Each committee will submit a report prior to each board meeting.

### DHCA Officers/ Executive Board

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Our Executive Board (executive officers) will:

- Set the agenda for board meetings using our new Standard Agenda and Dashboard format
- Make decisions only in a time-bound emergency\*

\* *If a decision is made by the Executive Committee, it must be ratified by a vote of the board at the board's next meeting*

## Board Meetings

- Board meetings will be streamlined by following a standard agenda and utilizing a dashboard which will ensure we stay focused on our goals and objectives.
- Board meetings will include a public comment period so that residents will have the opportunity to raise concerns and share information that affects the neighborhood.
- Residents will need to contact the board secretary prior to the meeting to request a two-minute slot. Matters raised during the public comment period will be referred to the appropriate committee for follow up and action.

Want to learn more?  
Visit [druidhills.org/strategic-plan](https://druidhills.org/strategic-plan)

## Historic Preservation

### *One Neighborhood, Two Jurisdictions*

*By Jan Jones*

Many people in Atlanta, and indeed beyond, have heard of “Historic Druid Hills.” They know it as the last residential neighborhood planned by Frederick Law Olmsted, and some may know that Joel Hurt, Atlanta businessman and developer, was the first person to envision a neighborhood in Druid Hills. Some people may know it is one of the first “suburbs” developed after automobiles came into use, a fact which probably accounts for the beautiful roadways and graceful drive-ways. Whatever historical knowledge one might have, everyone knows Druid Hills to be a neighborhood of lovely old homes, many designed by leading Atlanta architects of the early twentieth century, set in a park-like environment where each individual property is integral to the whole.

What many do not realize is that “Historic Druid Hills” is actually in two different jurisdictions and, therefore, governed by two different sets of rules. Recent illegal projects within the city limits of Atlanta combined with feedback from our previous articles in this publication have made us realize that some Druid Hills homeowners do not understand this distinction. All of Druid Hills lies in DeKalb County, but part of Historic Druid Hills is also in the city of Atlanta while the remainder is in unincorporated DeKalb County (see adjacent maps).

The area that is in the city of Atlanta is governed by city regulations. Atlanta has designated Druid Hills as a “Landmark District” (LD) which is the most significant historic designation the city can bestow on a neighborhood. This comes with the strictest regulations concerning what is allowed and not allowed in terms of alterations to the exterior of a home and landscaping. For details on these regulations which include setbacks, which properties are zoned single-family and which are zoned multi-family, along with many other regulations, go to [Atlantaga.gov](http://Atlantaga.gov) and search “Druid Hills Landmark District.” Should residents of the LD wish to make an alteration to their home or landscaping, it is necessary to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) through Atlanta’s Urban Design Commission (UDC). For more detail of this process, please read “Historic

Preservation and Druid Hills: Know the Basics” in the June 2020 issue of The Druid Hills News in the newsletter archives found on [druidhills.org](http://druidhills.org).

Over 80% of Druid Hills lies within unincorporated DeKalb County. This area is governed by the DeKalb County zoning ordinance and DeKalb County’s development standards. These ordinances govern land use, building height and setbacks, development standards, stream buffers, floodplains and the tree ordinance. Most, but not all, of this area also lies within the Druid Hills Historic District (DHHD). The DHHD governs changes to building exteriors (but not interiors) and landscape changes. A “Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)”, issued through the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is required for changes to buildings or landscapes. Standards for making these changes can be found in the “Druid Hills Design Guidelines.” Within the DHHD, changes to buildings and landscapes must comply with both the county’s zoning and development standards and the Druid Hills Design Guidelines.

Both jurisdictions share the goal of maintaining the beauty and historical significance of this neighborhood and the Olmsted design. Whichever part of the neighborhood you live in, the Druid Hills Civic Association has a committee with members to help you understand the rules you must follow when starting a new project.

For residents of the Landmark District, the Landmark District Preservation Committee (LDPC) can help. Current members of the LDPC are: Sally Cohen, Justin Critz, Jan Jones, Betsy Marvin, Dawn McEarchern, Tom Newsome, Jennie Richardson, Forrest Rose, Alida Silverman, Carol Sleeth, Barbara Stafford and Joanna Stroud.

For residents of unincorporated DeKalb, DHCA’s Land Use and Historic Preservation Committee can help. Current committee members include Rob Kincheloe, Steve Misner, Bruce MacGregor, Cynthia Tauxe, Sean Fowler and Kit Eisterhold.

## Druid Hills Railroad Bridge Update

*By Alida Silverman*

Many times over the years this neglected railroad bridge, which arches over Ponce de Leon Avenue and is our eastern gateway to the neighborhood, has been defaced. Many times Yvette Weathersby, DHCA Division 2 Chair, has asked for painting over and GDOT has responded. Our GDOT District 7 engineer Kathy Zahul has been particularly helpful. Yvette will keep trying.

Meanwhile, rehabilitation of our bridge has been put on DeKalb County’s SPLOST list by our district commissioner Jeff Rader. DHCA has sent a letter to CEO Michael Thurmond asking for his support of our bridge project as a SPLOST project.

We have a professionally prepared assessment of what needs to be done. This assessment is the basis for the SPLOST project. It would be very nice to see this project begin as part of our local Olmsted 200 celebration. Stay tuned.



*Photos by Yvette Weathersby*



# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW DRUID HILLS PATROL?

## -TRUE OR FALSE-

*Druid Hills Patrol (DHP) and DHCA (Druid Hills Civic Association) are the same organization.*

**FALSE.** DHP and DHCA are separate non-profit organizations in Druid Hills. They support one another and both have a purpose in the neighborhood. Druid Hills Patrol is a private paid police service that is offered to those located in the catchment on the website ([www.druidhillspatrol.org](http://www.druidhillspatrol.org)). Druid Hills Civic Association is the entity involved in community issues and helping with the present and future welfare of the neighborhood.

*Druid Hills Patrol employs security patrol people who are NOT law enforcement officers.*

**FALSE.** DHP employs police/ law enforcement officers in good standing from both agencies: DeKalb Police Department and Atlanta Police Department. They are capable of ticketing and arresting as well as have the ability to hear and respond to all 911 calls coming into the area.

*Druid Hills Patrol needs your support.*

**TRUE.** Druid Hills Patrol runs solely on membership dues and can accept donations. As a member, you get a DHP sign placed at your home which helps the officers know which homes are part of the patrol. The police officers can also give members a home security assessment and offer vacation patrols. As a member, you also get crime

and incident reports plus tips. You also have an advocate or advisor if a crime is committed and you need more information. Finally, being a member contributes to having a DHP police officer patrol your home and your neighborhood.

*Druid Hills Patrol has been a private patrol service for over 30 years.*

**TRUE.** DHP was created 32 years ago and has been successful in providing supplemental services to DKPD and APD.

*Druid Hills is one of the most crime-ridden neighborhoods.*

**FALSE.** Druid Hills is one of the safest neighborhoods in Atlanta and has the wonderful asset of DHP which adds as a deterrent to crime.

*By living in Druid Hills, you are automatically part of Druid Hills Patrol.*

**FALSE.** DHP drives around the catchment which covers over 70 streets in Druid Hills. DHP pays particular attention to the homes who are members and pay dues. They patrol at different hours and deter crime while they are visible and vigilant. You can join DHP at any time of the year and your dues are pro-rated.

Go to [www.druidhillspatrol.org](http://www.druidhillspatrol.org) for more information or email us at [admin@druidhillspatrol.org](mailto:admin@druidhillspatrol.org).



Druid Hills Patrol's new vehicle

## Did You Know?

By Alida Silverman

Druid Hills may have been the home of Georgia's governors? According to an article in the January 16, 1913, DeKalb New Era, a committee of the Georgia Legislature was to take up a proposal from Forrest and George Adair "to build a \$75,000 mansion on a \$25,000 lot in Druid Hills." It seems a new home had been a question for some time.

"It is well known that the most choice residence section about Atlanta in the future will be along Ponce de Leon avenue(sic) in Druid Hills and a strong effort will be made to locate the future home of our governors there." The Adair brothers owned a realty company begun by their father after the Civil War and were board members of Asa Candler's Druid Hills Corporation that bought Joel Hurt's Druid Hills project in 1908. Forrest Adair moved into his Ponce mansion in 1910. (George later built his own further east.) In those days the Session began in June.



## School News

Note: The pandemic continues to pose challenges for many of our schools. The following are those that were able to send us news for this issue.

### Art Gallery Comes to Fernbank!

**Contributed by Dana Borda**

Thanks to the Besharat Arts Foundation's



"Art in School" program, Fernbank Elementary is a more colorful, vibrant, and interesting place! We were thrilled to receive an art installation of photographic prints by well-known National Geographic photographer Steve McCurry. We originally received the first installment of 44 prints in October 2019, with an additional 120 photographs just installed at the end of 2020.

The large and colorful portraits depict children from all around the world – from Burma to Afghanistan to Italy, India, Chile and Togo -- all different continents and walks of life. Our teachers have used the images as prompts for narrative writing and research topics to explore what life is truly like for children in other areas of the world.

IB coordinator and ESOL teacher Jessica Elgin appreciates our new artwork, saying: "These photos are especially valuable to me because they promote global-mindedness and affirm diversity and inclusion as students simply walk the halls of Fernbank."

### Paideia News

**Contributed by Anne Dukes**

The Paideia high school Science Olympiad team placed first in the A/AA division at the Brookwood Invitational Tournament. The team finished 13th overall. This was the team's third team win this school year.

The Paideia Academic Bowl A and B teams competed to a strong finish in the Georgia Academic Team Association tournament. Team A placed second and Team B placed in fifth place.

Twenty Paideia students won Scholastic Arts awards in the regional 2021 Scholastic Arts and Writing program. Students received 12 gold key awards and 16 silver key awards for art or photography, and 20 honorable mentions.

Junior Molly Fischbach won first place in the Youth division, ages 14-18 in the Atlanta Celebrates Photography exhibition.

### Ben Franklin Academy

**Contributed by Angela Cassidy**

Ben Franklin Academy continues to offer in-person and virtual classes for metro Atlanta students, grade 9 – 12. At this time, enrollment is underway for the 2021-22 school year. Please visit - <https://www.benfranklinacademy.org> for more information.

Participation in the various BFA clubs has remained virtual, but active. The students have enjoyed taking nature walks, making fun art projects and planning the next play. The Franklin Players presented a student written, virtual radio play in November for the Ben Franklin Academy community. They are now hard at work on their next virtual production. The Cross-Country team is running, virtually, across America, with the female runners well ahead of the male runners – at press time!

This Spring Ben Franklin Academy will extend its reach even more as they present *The Franklin Toolkit*, an online community that provides free training to parents, teachers, and students. Students may enroll in two online, self-paced courses. One will focus on helping students improve their study skills while the other will focus on helping dyslexic students develop stronger writing skills. A third course, for teacher and parents, will focus on providing professional development in implementing Ben Franklin Academy's pedagogical approach: *Mastery Learning and Individualized Instruction*. All three courses will be released during the Spring Semester, 2021. The offerings may address some of the educational needs of parents, teachers, and students during this challenging time.

To all of our dedicated neighbors working in hospitals, grocery stores, home services, restaurants, our teachers, and other essential workers keeping us going through this uncertain time,

*we thank you.*

**KDA&Tlehs**

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## It Happened in Druid Hills

### *Another amazing story from the past*

By Jennifer J. Richardson

February 20, 1974 was a cool, crisp day in Atlanta. That evening, a man went to the front door of Atlanta Constitution Editor Reg Murphy on North Decatur Road. Earlier, the same man had called Mr. Murphy to ask where he might be able to donate 30,000 excess gallons of heating oil to the poor and needy. Mr. Murphy was active in the Atlanta community and learned that three local universities and a children's hospital would be happy to receive such a donation. Murphy followed the man to his car and got into the passenger side of the man's green Ford Torino to accompany the man to file some tax papers regarding the donation.

Murphy, age 40 and a native of Gainesville, Ga., had graduated from Mercer University with a degree in journalism. He began his career with the Macon Telegraph Newspaper before becoming the Constitution's editor. He and his wife and two daughters lived in Atlanta's Druid Hills neighborhood.

At one point, the Torino driver pulled over, aimed a gun at Murphy, and said, "Mr. Murphy, you've been kidnapped." He tossed a roll of white adhesive tape to Murphy and told him to cover his eyes with the tape. Then the man got out and tied Murphy's wrists and ankles together with rope. Then he forced Reg Murphy into the trunk of the Ford and slammed the lid down. Murphy tried not to panic. He was curled in a position in the trunk that was very uncomfortable. The air was hot and filled with exhaust fumes and he worried about suffocating. To calm himself, Murphy thought about all the golf courses he'd played and all the golf shot he'd made.

When the vehicle started moving again, the driver began to address Murphy, telling him that he was a colonial in the American Revolutionary Army and asked to be addressed as "Colonial." The man stated that the group's mission was to "stop leftist newspapers." The man also told Murphy that "the American people have lost their freedom to a government that is a fraud and a murderer on a mass scale" and to a "megalo-maniacal press." The kidnapper told Murphy that "we are quite strong throughout the USA, and we are calling for the resignation of all of Congress and for free elections to return the American government to the American people." Hearing about this "Revolutionary Army" must have terrified Murphy, as just two weeks before, Patty Hearst had been kidnapped by a group calling themselves the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Murphy was first driven to a home, where he slept on the floor between a wall and the bed. He pulled wool from a blanket on the floor and stuffed his pocket in case it could be used for evidence later. He was made to call managing editor Jim Minter to make a ransom demand for \$700,000 in five, ten and 20 dollar bills. The ransom money was to be taken to the kidnapper by a person driving an open top Jeep on a rural road in north Georgia, and the driver was instructed to wear a short-sleeved shirt and tennis shoes. Constitution Publisher Jack Tarver obtained the money in marked bills from a local bank, and Minter was to deliver the ransom money.

Meanwhile, the kidnapper took Murphy to a cheap motel, where he was again made to sleep on the floor. Upon arising, Murphy was finally



AJC Editor Reg Murphy being interviewed

given something to eat and then the kidnapper went to collect the ransom money. Upon returning, the kidnapper took Murphy to the parking lot of a Ramada Inn and freed him. His eyes still covered by tape, Murphy managed to make it to the motel's office, where, because of all the publicity, he was instantly recognized.

Neither the kidnapper nor Murphy knew that FBI agents were following the kidnapper as he drove to fetch the ransom money. Just a few hours after Murphy was set free, agents stormed a home in Lilburn where they arrested William A. H. Williams (a sheetrock contractor) and his wife, Betty. There were also two children in the home. The ransom money was recovered.

Murphy was taken by officers for a short visit with his wife and daughters at his Druid Hills home, and then to the police to give his statement. Meanwhile, Murphy noted that his front lawn was ruined by all the TV and reporters' vehicles. In all, Murphy's ordeal had lasted 49 hours.

Williams, age 33, was tried and found guilty. He offered no motive but had plenty of excuses. He stated he was mentally unstable, had been abused as a child, and was high on speed. Though sentenced to more years in jail, he served only nine. Betty Williams received probation as an accomplice—but with the knowledge she was a mother to two children.

During his jail time, Williams' wife divorced him and he was never able to see his children again. Once out of prison, he married several more times and drifted around the United States. On the 40th anniversary of the kidnapping, in 2014, Williams called the Atlanta Constitution to apologize for what he'd done.

## Emory Grove Community Garden Update

*By Lynn Speno*

The pandemic has not stopped the Emory Grove garden workdays or its gardeners. Rather, this wonderful outdoor space has been an oasis during this time. The garden began in 2011, sparked by DeKalb County's "Garden in the Parks" program and a grant from the DHCA. Ten years later, the garden is still thriving.

Located adjacent to the tennis courts in the Emory Grove park, across from Emory Presbyterian Church, the garden encourages conversations and sparks comments from all who pass by. It has been a wonderful addition to our small neighborhood. More than just providing gardeners with flowers and organic vegetables, the garden has fostered community. New young families bring energy and ideas. Adults and children work together and share veggies and information. Friendships have formed. Ideas sprout like seeds. Food is shared. Recipes and seeds are traded. Workdays build community while chores are divided. From young to older, everyone contributes.

From its rough beginning out of bare soil in 2011, the garden has matured and grown. Paperwork to the county, removal of invasive wisteria, bamboo, and privet, and acquisition of a small metal shed for tool storage donated by Emory, were tasks undertaken early on. The garden soil was amended and sectioned into plots. A few years later, the garden was the beneficiary of an Eagle Scout project by one of the neighbors who constructed a three-part compost bin. Later a fence was built around the entire garden by a neighborhood college student with the help of several of the adults.

Another neighborhood family, having previously been stationed in Bangladesh, brought the idea of a hand-washing station to the garden. They were spurred on by their son, to build a 'Tippy Tap' hand-washing station at the beginning of the pandemic.

A close relationship with Druid Hills High School students from the Environmental Club, Honor Society and Beta Club has brought willing hands and strong backs to participate in garden workdays over the past 5-6 years, while the students earned community service hours and learned about urban farming. They also initiated a collaborative project to recycle their cafeteria food scraps in the garden compost bins. Rodents later brought that project to a close, but the effort by the students was a learning experience for all.

The garden has been registered as an official Georgia non-profit, "Emory Grove Community Garden, Inc." The neighborhood enthusiastically supports the garden and the gardeners reciprocate by making the herb garden available to all.



# SAVE THE DATE!

*Olmsted Linear Park Alliance presents:*

## “ATLANTA’S HISTORIC DRUID HILLS AND CHICAGO’S VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE”

A PERSPECTIVE ON  
FREDERICK LAW  
OLMSTED’S FIRST &  
LAST RESIDENTIAL  
COMMUNITIES

Tuesday, April 27  
at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Free registration to first 100 at  
[www.atlantaolmstedpark.org](http://www.atlantaolmstedpark.org)

Please join us for a presentation about these two historic communities, designed by the father of American Landscape Architecture, Frederick Law Olmsted.

Noted Atlanta landscape architect and National Association for Olmsted Parks board member, Spencer Tunnell, will take us back in time to explore how these two special communities were designed to build a sense of community, equity and greenspace for



## 2021 Concerts at Callanwolde Amphitheater

*By Andrew Keenan*

One of the many benefits of living in Druid Hills is its history, beauty and proximity to cultural events. The past year has made it a challenge to see live music. Fortunately, for the neighborhood, Callanwolde was able to safely and successfully hold six jazz concerts this past fall. For about 240 lucky guests, the Callanwolde Amphitheater became a cultural refuge where they listened to live music in a peaceful setting, while sipping wine and eating dinner. Even the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra was able to take advantage of our beautiful outdoor space.

The feedback from our 2020 concerts was so overwhelmingly positive that in addition to our Jazz on the Lawn concerts, we decided to introduce an all-new Spring Concert Series this year—with music ranging from rhythm and blues, to boogie-woogie, soul and folk rock. The Callanwolde Spring Concert Series features four Friday evening performances starting in March.

Ruby Velle and the Soulphonics kick the series off on March 19. Ruby played to a sold-out crowd last year at Callanwolde and has a passionate following. Michelle Malone takes the stage one week later on March 26. Michelle is a native Atlantan with a long list of accolades including performances with the late Greg Allman. American blues and boogie-woogie singer, songwriter, and pianist Victor Wainwright performs April 16. Victor is originally from Savannah and now hails from Memphis. We close out the series with Seth Walker and his band on April 23. Seth grew up in North Carolina and now lives in Nashville. He is a blues singer, songwriter and guitarist.

2021 marks Callanwolde’s twenty-second year of hosting Jazz on the Lawn. Eddie and Mayi Lopez and their Orquesta MaCuba start the season on August 27. If you like Latin music you will not want to miss this concert. Renowned trumpet player, Joey Sommerville (a.k.a., “Papa J Sez”), performs with his band on September 10. The amazing Karla Harris performs September 24. Local keyboard player Joe Alterman performs at Callanwolde for the very first time on October 8. Our season finale, on October 22, features Joe Gransden and Robin Lattimore, backed by Joe’s sixteen-piece Big Band.

The Callanwolde Amphitheater is divided into two major sections: VIP and Lawn seating. VIP guests enjoy dressed tables located in the tiered section just above the stage and are guaranteed on-site parking. Lawn guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets. All guests are welcome to pack a picnic dinner and drinks. We expect that all seating for the Spring Concert Series will conform to six-foot physical distancing rules, and all guests will be asked to wear masks when they are not seated. Hopefully, by the time Jazz on the Lawn starts things will be back to normal. Fortunately, we have many friends at the CDC who keep us up to date on safety guidelines.

Tickets are available through Eventbrite. Links and information can be found at [Callanwolde.org](http://Callanwolde.org). I hope to see you there.

## Gardening for Pollinators: *Shifting Landscapes*

By Amelia Aidman

A world without butterflies and fireflies? Fewer birds? No, thank you! Through gardening to support pollinators we know how to help them flourish and use our yards to reclaim essential habitats. News about declining numbers of pollinators and birds is motivating many of us to learn about and create beautiful native plant gardens.

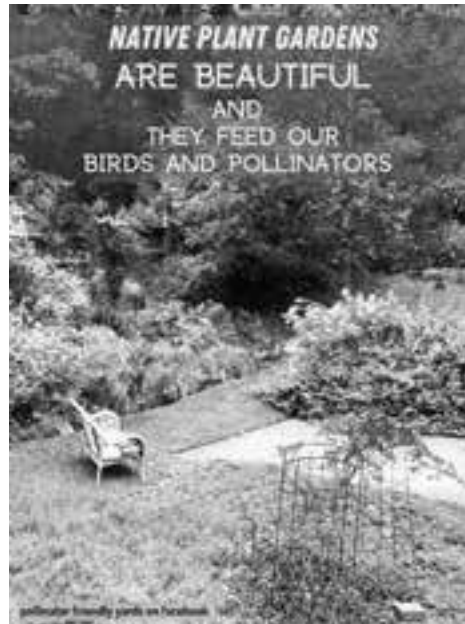
A shift in typical lawn care practices might seem like an insurmountable task, but cultural corrections in behavior are common and this one is driven by the knowledge that human life depends on pollinators.

Cigarette smoking, for example, was once an accepted practice that has seen a huge change in status. Promoted through Hollywood films and network television, smoking was framed as glamorous for many years. It has been a very long struggle to reach the point where the tobacco industry and cigarette smoking are regulated all over the world, not just through laws, but also by social norms and perceptions. Today, most smokers would not dream of lighting up in the home of a new friend or acquaintance, certainly not without asking, and those who haven't quit, tend to self-regulate. Smoking went from completely respectable to almost totally taboo.

Other examples illustrating changes that have been accepted over time when new considerations, scientific or otherwise, come into play include: the installation and use of seatbelts in cars, as required by law and the use of helmets for biking and motorcycling; banning of poisonous chemicals, including DDT (the insecticide dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, which causes cancer), which was named as contributing to the demise of bird populations by Rachel Carson in her classic, best-selling 1962 book *Silent Spring*; the regular practice of recycling in cities all over the world, to reduce waste and to reuse and repurpose materials that once went to landfills; and changes in dietary recommendations over time from heavily animal-based to plant-based.

Today, as related to the climate crisis, we are seeing paradigm shifts in numerous fields—such as new ways of thinking about energy production and use, public transportation priorities, and preservation of natural resources, to name a few significant areas. Perceptions of residential yards, the lawn care industry, and the value of helping to restore the natural environment are also generating new considerations and priorities.

Conversations are happening in the Atlanta area about what individuals can do to make our local environment friendlier for beneficial insects, butterflies and birds. Recently there was a lengthy discussion on the online forum Nextdoor Druid Hills, under the subject



title “do less work,” meaning to do less yard work to protect beneficial insects. The core points were that if we “leave the leaves,” promote wild areas in our yards, and replace lawns with native trees, bushes and flowers, our yards will largely take care of themselves while encouraging beneficial insects and butterflies, that will in turn feed the birds. This sounds like a win-win idea, however it goes against the notion that a carefully maintained green lawn should be the standard indicator of residents’ attention to the upkeep of their homes and surroundings.

Walking or biking through Druid Hills finds that noisy, polluting lawn care is de rigueur. Professional crews are mowing and blowing daily, often with multiple machines blasting simultaneously. With so many people working from home these days, it can be a challenge to concentrate with the frequent and sometimes long-lasting drone of yard care devices. The quiet of even the inside of their homes, with windows closed, is disturbed by this noise. Aside from the disturbance, this cannot be good for the workers—not for their hearing and not for their lungs, even with protective gear.

Leaves are often seen as the enemy in our area, which is ironic in that we Atlantans have chosen to live in a forest city. A few leaves on the lawn is seen by some as a sign to break out the blower—sometimes for hours on end. It is considered normal to bag up leaves, have them carted away, and then order mulch. Why not let the leaves that fall from the trees be that mulch?

The idea of a perfect carpet of green grass has been heavily promoted by the lawn care industry, as well as

by realtors, for decades (think “curb appeal”). Looking into the history of the lawn in the U.S. (see video on history of lawns “The Great American Lawn: How the Dream was Manufactured,” New York Times, David Botti, August 9, 2019, link below) we learn about growing evidence that having most residential plots surrounded by a carpet of manicured grass is problematic for the well-being of the planet and animals, including human beings. All around the country conversations about these issues are ongoing and intensifying. Regulations are getting on the books. Quiet and poison-free yard and garden enterprises are popping up. Awareness is changing as people educate themselves.

It is a good time to for a conversation about these issues in magnificent Druid Hills. How can we make this an even better place to live—healthier, calmer, even more beautiful and give greater priority to what we can do to mitigate the climate crisis and extinction of species that our world is facing? I invite that conversation and fervently hope that Druid Hills can tap into what other leading communities are doing and be an early adaptor of change and a role model for other neighborhoods.

### For more information:

“The Great American Lawn: How the Dream was Manufactured,” David Botti, August 9, 2019, New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000006542254/climate-change-lawns.html?fbclid=IwARo-EzYPO5jM9lrn85D7UGPlmeXbomnY6GI3rCEhWHwH3i-qvAArj6O37Y>

“Why Lawns are not Sustainable in Ecosystem Gardening”

Ecosystem Gardener | Jan 17, 2021 | Sustainable Landscaping:

<http://www.ecosystemgardening.com/why-lawns-are-not-sustainable-in-conservation-gardening.html?fbclid=IwAR35oqf3fuG8yqKprHSvOPuhR6aW54xTGFadcxw1cXBQjd5NhLeUhwac4>

“How to lower the noise and help clear the air”

Rick Casey, January 19, 2021, San Antonio Report:

[https://sanantonioreport.org/rick-casey-leaf-blowers/?fbclid=IwAR2apboXa4Cd4Qp-DzEOzdVK6XEKYts8LcUH-VSVF\\_j4f539LmLZKehOlfk](https://sanantonioreport.org/rick-casey-leaf-blowers/?fbclid=IwAR2apboXa4Cd4Qp-DzEOzdVK6XEKYts8LcUH-VSVF_j4f539LmLZKehOlfk)

“Get Off My Lawn: How a small group of activists (our correspondent among them) got leaf blowers banned in the nation’s capital” by James Fallows, April 2019, The Atlantic:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/04/james-fallows-leaf-blower-ban/583210/>



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## Quilting the Creek at South Fork Conservancy's Creek Rising

By Julie Ralston

Yes, hope springs! South Fork Conservancy (SFC) is planning to hold its annual Creek Rising fundraising benefit on October 14, 2021 at Zonolite Park on the banks of the South Fork of Peachtree Creek. Mark your calendar now to join in the fun at this outdoor event, filled with food, fun and of course the annual duck race.

This year's Creek Rising event will offer something new, as well – a quilt exhibition and auction, featuring some of Atlanta's most talented and renowned quilting artists. "Quilting the Creek" will be focused on nature themes, helping to depict the 30-plus miles of the South Fork waterway. Guests will be able to take a "quilt walk" through the outdoor exhibit, which will be installed on site. The quilts will also be available for view virtually at [www.southforkconservancy.org/quilting-the-creek](http://www.southforkconservancy.org/quilting-the-creek).

Like quilters who piece together fabrics to make something beautiful and useful, SFC works to restore the South Fork's creek banks, removing invasives and restoring or building nature trails that connect the creek to nearby communities. You can learn what we've been up to and where we're headed by exploring our website at [southforkconservancy.org](http://southforkconservancy.org). Take a look at our trail map and make plans to walk one or more of the trails that connect people to the creek.



Sally Bethea, young participant & Robby Astrove have fun during South Fork Conservancy's 2019 Creek Rising Event Duck Race.

## Frazer Hosts Two Virtual Events in March

By Dina Shadwell

The Frazer Center invites the community to an online screening of 6000 Waiting, an important new documentary created by The Storytelling Project of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, in partnership with L'Arche Atlanta. The "6000" in the film title are the number of Georgians with disabilities on the waiting list to receive a Medicaid waiver which would allow them to receive support services—the kind of services that Frazer provides.

Because Georgia's legislature releases such limited annual funding for Medicaid waivers, getting to the top of the waiting list can take five to ten years or longer. That means, once a person with a disability graduates from high school, usually at age 21, unless that person and their family have enough money to pay for support services, they go without.

With no Medicaid waiver and the support it affords, many individuals with disabilities face overwhelming obstacles such as poverty, isolation, developmental regression, mental, emotional, and physical distress. The parents and guardians of such individuals may be forced to choose between going to work or staying home to care for their loved one with a disability.

Everyone, with or without disabilities, deserves to live a life of meaning and dignity. 6000 Waiting follows the journey of three individuals on Georgia's waiting list, all seeking to live life on their own terms.

The audience will leave the screening a little more informed and, hopefully, inspired to take

action to positively impact the lives of so many Georgians with disabilities.

One way Frazer makes an impact is by providing scholarships to individuals on the waiting list. Our Flourish Fund helps families in need bridge the gap between high school graduation and Medicaid waiver issuance. If you would like to support Frazer's Flourish Fund, please join us for our annual fundraiser, GATHER IN THE GARDENS, happening virtually this year on March 18. The event lasts about 45 minutes and includes an auction with such items as your own Seed & Feed Marching Abominable performance, a custom pet portrait, and trips to Las Vegas and New York.

### 6000 Waiting Documentary Screening

Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

The film lasts about 30 minutes and will be followed by a brief panel discussion and Q&A session. Attendance is free, but space is limited and registration is required.

### Gather in the Gardens: A Virtual Fundraising Event

Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Attendance is free, but registration is required.

**To register, or for more information about both events,**

**visit [frazercenter.org/about-us/events](http://frazercenter.org/about-us/events).**

# Bilingual Learning Worldwide

Submitted by Mary Rose Provence

## How Does The United States' Language Learning Compare To Other Countries?



In today's world, it is not uncommon for people to speak more than one language. Studies show the best age to begin learning a second language is between the ages of 3 and 4 because at the age of 4, 50% of our ability to learn is already present. Yet, it is easier for a student to begin learning a new language before they hit puberty. Sometimes, multiple different language classes are not offered until middle school or sometimes even high school, but how does the United States' language learning compare to other countries?

### EUROPE

In Europe, every country begins teaching their children new languages at different ages. Over 20 European countries do require their students to learn a language for at least one school year in order to move on to the next grade. However, the age that they require students to do this at differs between ages 3-11.

In the United Kingdom, the starting age is the oldest of all other European countries. The average age for a student to begin learning a new language is 11 years old which is right on the cusp of puberty. However, in Ireland they aren't required to study another language at all, although most students learn Gaelic which is not considered to be a foreign language. Many Irish students enter University without any foreign language learning. Belgium starts students at the youngest of all European countries, as it requires students to begin learning another language at only 3 years old, and then they must take up learning a third language again at 13. In Italy, they begin learning a second language at age 6 and then often times another language at age 11.

In Germany, German students begin learning a second language around 9 years old. 95% of the people speak German and 67% of the population

can speak more than one language, often times being English. However, 81% of students currently enrolled in school are learning English in the classroom.

### ASIA

Similar to Europe, language learning varies by country in Asia. In China, students are required to begin learning another language (mainly English) by third grade. However, in wealthier families, they often times hire a tutor and begin teaching their children English before they enter primary school, around ages 4-5. Although English is the most popular language to learn, Korean, Japanese, French, and German are also popular subjects to learn. In India, the most popular languages to learn are Mandarin Chinese, French, Arabic, and Spanish. They have two official languages in the country: Hindi and English which students are required to take classes in both.

In Hong Kong, 96% of people speak the native language of Cantonese. After Cantonese, 48% of people can also speak Mandarin. English is the third most spoken language in Hong Kong. The biliterate and trilingual policy in Hong Kong encourages people to be biliterate in English and written Chinese and trilingual in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English.

### SOUTH AMERICA

Most of South American countries speak Spanish (60%) or Portuguese (34%). The next most popular languages in South America are English, German, and Italian. Most English speakers live in Argentina or Colombia, most German speakers live in Brazil or Argentina, and almost all Italian speakers live in Argentina. In Mexico, English is mandatory to learn in junior high or high school. However, it can be difficult to find English teachers in more rural communities. After Spanish, Nahuatl and English are tied for second most spoken languages. Nahuatl is a part of the Aztec language family and is mostly spoken

in central Mexico. Brazil is the largest country in South America with over 200 million residents. Their official language is Portuguese with 99% of the population speaking this language.

### AUSTRALIA

In Western Australia, students are required to learn a second language between grades 3-6. However, they are hoping to increase this requirement across more grade levels in the near future. Students can learn any languages from Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, and Japanese. In more rural parts of Australia, local aboriginal languages are taught to students so that they can learn about their culture and heritage.

### AFRICA

Africa has over 1/3 of all of the world's languages. The most common language spoken in Africa is Swahili which is spoken by over 100 million people. The next most common language is Amharic which is mostly spoken in Ethiopia. In most African countries, school is not taught in their native language once they enter secondary school. Students are taught only in English, French, or Portuguese.

In Rwanda, the native language is Kinyarwanda and English and French are both official languages of the country as well. In students first three years of school, they are taught solely in Kinyarwanda, but after this they must choose either English or French to be taught in for the rest of their schooling. Nigeria has the largest population in Africa with its official language being English. However, there are three other main languages spoken in Nigeria: Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo.



Article by Mary Rose Provence.  
I am a current senior at the  
University of Georgia studying  
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the pursuit of a Master's in  
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The DHCA Membership Committee would like to thank and recognize the following individuals and families who have given their support to the civic association through their 2021 membership commitment.

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# Are You Waking Up Tired?

By: Rachel Kerven; English B.A.

## Oak Grove Resident Found An Easy Way To Stop Snoring And Start Sleeping Better!

We all know sleep is important. We rely on it to have happy and productive days. But, what if I told you snoring could be preventing you from getting restful sleep? Yes, snoring of all things could be stealing the power of sleep in your daily life.

Not all sleep is created equal and neither are all snores. Echo Lake resident, Dr. Andrew Soulimiotis, states, “when we sleep, our tongue and soft tissue sometimes blocks our air flow to the lungs causing lack of oxygen to the brain. The airway blockage causes snoring and for some, gasping for air.” Snoring can also be an indicator of other health issues such as sleep apnea. Sleep apnea increases the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart failure and stroke.

Thankfully, for all snorers out there, local business, Sleep Apnea and Snoring Solutions, has sleep medicine dentists trained in addressing sleep conditions using an oral device. An oral device is similar to an orthodontic retainer. It is custom fitted to your mouth to provide adequate air flow while you sleep.

Oak Grove resident, Grace Peace, knows all about the negative impacts of lack of sleep. She shared:

“I was just dumb. As a data developer, I take pride in doing difficult work. I remember one day. I was looking at code I had written the day before and I could not even follow it! Another time, I could not figure out which way

to go home on my regular route, even though I drive it twice a day. My sleep deprivation was causing significant brain fog. It was affecting my job performance, my safety, and my overall happiness. I was tired all day. I decided then, I must find a solution to regain my sleep.”

Mrs. Peace heard about an oral device from a friend and was recommended to Dr. Soulimiotis. She shared, “3 weeks after my initial appointment, I was sleeping again thanks to my oral device. The brain fog started clearing up immediately because I was finally getting deep sleep and waking up rested. I even have data from my Oura Smart Ring to prove it works. I went from zero deep sleep to ideal deep sleep.”

Dr. Soulimiotis says, “Patients often share their lack of good sleep is negatively impacting their health, relationships, and mental state. It is wonderful to see the transformation an oral device makes in their quality of life. It’s a simple solution to a serious issue.”

Snoring is unhealthy... For both of you. If you or anyone you know are suffering from snoring you can schedule a sleep screening appointment with the doctors at Sleep Apnea & Snoring Solutions by phone at 404-321-2722 or visit their location at 2172 Lavista Road, Atlanta, GA 30329, across from Toco Hills. And for more information you can visit their website [oralappliancetherapy.com](http://oralappliancetherapy.com).



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Sleep is the new self-care. An oral device is an effortless way to stop snoring so you and your partner can get all the benefits of quality sleep.



## An FDA Approved Solution for:

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

Gas Incorporated	770-720-1378
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Berkshire Hathaway Home Services-Blumer	678-858-4927
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Compass Realty-Gipson and Co.	404-405-5363
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# Your Neighbors Trust *Peggy Hibbert*

## When Selling Their Homes

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23

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# JUST SOLD

## 760 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE

No easy feat in this Seller's market. So pleased to help my buyers' dreams come true. They always wanted a porch...with this property they got two porches, a pool, a he shed, a she shed, and a chicken coop. Wow!

### BRING ON SPRING!

Atlanta prices increased **18% over 2020**, rates and inventory are still low so now is a great time to sell!

**Call me if you'd like a market analysis of your home.**



Photo courtesy of Denise Mellow Boyed of Keller Williams Realty, First Atlanta



### ★★★★★ RATED AGENT

Big or small, I can sell them all!

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

Bonnie.Wolf@HarryNorman.com



760 Birch Ridge Drive was listed by Denise Mellow Boyed of Keller Williams Realty, First Atlanta. Bonnie Wolf represented the buyer. Harry Norman, REALTOR® The InTown Office | 1518 Monroe Drive NE, Suite E | Atlanta, GA 30324 | 404-897-5558 | HarryNorman.com/Atlanta. Information is believed to be accurate, but is not warranted. Offers subject to errors, changes, omissions, prior sales, and withdrawals without notice.



# JUST SOLD

## 2378 LAVISTA ROAD NE



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