



June 2023 Volume 38 | Number 2 CONTENTS

SPRING CELEBRATION PAGES 8-9
LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP PAGE 14
EMORY VILLAGE'S MUSIC SCENE PAGE 19
FERNBANK'S WILD THINGS PAGE 24



Join us for the Fourth of July Parade!

The Druid Hills Annual 4th of July Parade, (started in 1976) will once again kick off at 11 am on (Tuesday) July 4th! The parade starts and finishes at 948 Oakdale Road and The Byway (Phil and Caroline Moise's house.) Come early at 10:15 am to decorate children's bicycles, wagons and strollers with festive July 4th supplies provided by local organizations and the Druid Hills Civic Association.

Musicians of all ages are invited to join the band that leads the patriotic parade. No rehearsals and no recent experience required. Please contact Phil Moise (404-281-1496) if interested.

Refreshments (lemonade, bottled water and cookies) provided by the DHCA, Phil and Caroline Moise.

See you there!

★ Parade starts at 11 am at 948 Oakdale Road and The Byway.

Come at 10:15 am to decorate bikes, wagons and strollers!

All past and current musicians of all ages are invited to join the band.



ADVERTISE IN LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS! (770)623-6220 | info@frontporchatlanta.com

NATALIE GREGORY & CO.

Compass Intown

#1 Team #3 Team In Volume Atlanta **Board of Realtors**

\$460M + In Total Sales



"Natalie was AMAZING! Where do I even begin. From the moment we called her, she started impressing us. She viewed the house within the hour, sent us comps the next day, and then suggested a price higher than we had imagined. She immediately figured out what needed to be done to put our house on the market, which included small projects like yard work and interior painting. Not only did she manage all those projects but also staged our house to perfection and sold it in ONE day for 11% OVER the asking price. WOW! And she is an absolute pleasure and joy to work with — her entire team is. They are smart, savvy and do a tremendous amount of work and make it all look so easy. I would recommend her to anyone that I know."

- Angie Maddox, Managing Partner at Seed Factory



COMPASS



NATALIE GREGORY & CO.

404.373.0076 | 404.668.6621 natalie.gregory@compass.com nataliegregory.com

f | @ nataliegregoryandco



Chair's Corner

By DHCA Chair, Van Biesel



This year we began a new tradition for our neighborhood—the Druid Hills Spring Celebration. The DHCA worked with the Emory Village Alliance, the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, and several parks and greenspace organizations to offer a full week of activities. The week began on a Saturday evening with EVA's Concert on the Lawn, followed midweek by the Druid Hills Gala at Callanwolde, and culminated with the Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens. This year's celebration was further enhanced with a focus on the forest and some of the greenspaces which make Druid Hills such a unique and awe-inspiring neighborhood in Atlanta.

We now look forward to our next neighborhood event, the Fourth of July Parade, which begins at 11:00 AM at the intersection of Oakdale Road and The Byway. This annual tradition is a very popular, free event which includes kids' activities, music and a parade through Druid Hills. I hope to see everyone at there decked out in your red, white and blue!



Get ready to Sell Your Stuff

Save The Date - September 9, 2023

Druid Hills Civic Association is resurrecting the Community Yard Sale!

There will be a \$25 entry fee which will go towards advertisement and signs for the yards. The addresses will be listed on the DHCA website. As we have done in previous years, any remaining proceeds from this entry fee will be donated to a local charity.



CONTACT US TODAY 770-623-6220 info@frontporchatlanta.com

Please send ads directly to KDA & Tlehs.

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

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

Druid Hills Civic Association Board of Directors

Officers

Chair

Van Biesel (chair@druidhills.org)

Vice Chair

Harriet Lane (vicechair@druidhills.org)

Treasure

Mike Murphey (treasurer@druidhills.org)

Secretary

Harriet Lane (secretary@druidhills.org)

Committee Chairs

Public Safety:

Doug Rollins, Chair (safety@druidhills.org)

Atlanta Landmark District Committee:

Dawn McEarchern, Chair (atlantahistoric@druidhills.org)

Dekalb Land Use Committee:

Rob Kincheloe, Chair (landuse@druidhills.org)

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 (tour@druidhills.org)

Governance:

Phil Moise, Chair (governance@druidhills.org)

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): Carly Nassar, Chair (District2@druidhills.org)

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

District 4 (Between Briarcliff, N Decatur & Lullwater Creek):
Mike St. Louis, Chair (District4@druidhills.org)

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):
Sarah Banick (District6@druidhills.org)

District 7 ("University" Streets west of Emory University):
Susan Davis, 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)

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:

DECEMBER 2023DEADLINE - AUGUST 11

SEPTEMBER 2023DEADLINE - NOVEMBER 10

EDITORS

Editor: Jennifer J. Richardson Managing Editor: Fran Putney Communications Chair: Michael Ross

Design Consultant: Hillary Kilfeather

WRITERS/CONTRIBUTORS

We gratefully acknowledge the writers and contributors for this issue.

Sarah Banick, Van Biesel, Dana Borda, Angela Cassidy, Kit Eisterhold, Becky Evans, Fernbank Museum, Grace Garrett, Marilyn Geewax, Hillary Kilfeather, Dawn McEarchern, Mary Margaret Oliver, Elena Parent, Sarah Reidy-Ferguson, Kimberly Ryan, Odette Diaz Schuler, Alida Silverman, Dorothy Sussman and Pam Woodley.



The 2023 Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour grew in a new direction this year to expand upon the important awareness and appreciation for our neighborhood's gardens and greenspaces. This fresh approach was reflected in the events coordinated by tour organizers and kick-started a successful partnership with the owners of private gardens, nature-focused non-profits, and Atlanta based companies.

Tour-goers delighted in the discovery of some of Druid Hills' most special privately-owned gardens including the certified Georgia native plant garden located at Dyson Drive and the 5.5 acre woodland oasis located at Emory Road. Deepest gratitude to the volunteers from Georgia Native Plant Society who served as docents in the gardens, sharing their expertise and planting advice with enamored attendees.

Our cherished greenspaces were highlighted through several engagement activities and events. The 'Clean Up the Creek' event paired volunteers with members of South Fork Conservancy (SFC) in a hands-on effort to spruce up the lush land surrounding Peavine Creek. Accomplished tasks included clearing space for new plantings, tidying the trail, and hauling out 10 bags of trash from the area. SFC members assisted as docents on the trail and to support the 'Help a Hummingbird' Planting and Peavine Creek Trail Walk. Josiah Patrick of Georgia Audubon Society was on hand to share fun facts about these tiny birds.

This interactive event for children also included planting a sample of what hummingbirds like to eat around Peavine Trail Rain Garden. Additionally, children were invited to participate in 'Slow the Flow' Planting Burbanck Exploration. This event was held at Burbanck Park on the edge of Emory Village and provided the opportunity for kids to learn about the Park, the Creek, and get their hands dirty planting a native to help with soil erosion near the creek. Exciting news to note, with the help of these two children's planting activities, over 200 new native plants were planted to support our local pollinators and birds at two locations in the neighborhood! These plantings will also help hold soil in place, reducing erosion into Peavine Creek.

Nature-lovers were in for a treat with a guided Bird Walk of Deepdene Park and led by a Georgia Audubon Master Birder. Guests explored more about Georgia's resident and migrating birds and the forest restoration efforts to enhance bird habitat. Visitors also had the opportunity to join History and Nature Walks to learn about the history of the park, and the restoration efforts to preserve its tree canopy and native plants. Horticulturist Erica Glasener led a walking tour of trees growing in Druid Hills. Erica is an author, a lecturer, and was an award-winning host of HGTV's "A Gardener's Diary" for 13 years. She talked extensively about some of the magnificent trees in the neighborhood, including oaks, tulip poplars, black gums, and more.

Many thanks to all our sponsors, partners, volunteers and participants for making this year's Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour a triumphant celebration of our neighborhood's natural surroundings.



You deserve to see what's possible.

At Georgia Eye Partners, your vision is our mission.

We are a specialty eye care group comprised of 26 expert physicians providing comprehensive medical and surgical eye care across John's Creek. Our services range from medical management to complex surgical care for conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, corneal disease, and retinal disease.

explore your possibilities at

gaeyepartners.com











Celebration Reflections

By Kit Eisterhold, Tour Chair

You told me so" I said, "and I'm happy to eat Crow."

I was wrapping up correspondences following the Spring Celebration this year when one of the newest members of the Tour Committee, Becca Raciborski, sent me an email politely reminding me about how I had been initially dismissive of her idea of a Garden & Greenspace themed Tour.

"Gardens are great but they aren't that popular.... People turn out for the Driving Mrs. Daisy Mansions.... Hummingbirds and Natives are cute but they don't bring in the Sponsors" I believe I told her, definitively, based on my grand total of 10 months experience as Tour Chair.

And, as is my habit, I was dead wrong, and so I could hardly begrudge Becca a well-deserved "I told generated you so" when the Tour and the Spring Celebration had turned Hammersmi out to be such a resounding success.

That I seem to have been given the lion's share of the credit makes eating that heaping helping of Crow all that much easier. Speaking of credit I even took the liberty of plagiarizing some of her words for this article. I hope if she's reading this, she understands that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

In all seriousness, it was thanks to people like Becca, the Tour Committee, and all the other participating non-profits like EVA, OLPA, Callanwolde, the South Fork Conservancy, and the Georgia Native Plant Society – to name just a few — that we were able to pull off something truly special this year.

What they did was extraordinary. I especially loved how they were able to get the kids involved this year. The Georgia Native Plant Society held plantings of natives at the Peavine Rain Garden ("Help a Hummingbird") and in Burbanck Park ("Slow the Flow"), which nearly a hundred kids turned out for; Springdale Park Elementary held open its environmentally award-winning Rooftop Garden. and Fernbank opened up their Old Growth Forest.

Coca-Cola also turned out a VERY large group of volunteers, and brought much needed beverages, to the Clean Up the Creek Event on Earth Day, clearing space for new native plantings, tidying up the trail, installing a new handrail for the steps, and hauling out over 10 bags of litter from around Peavine Creek.

The whole neighborhood seemed to turn out for the Coca-Cola Clean Up the Creek Concert in Emory Village. The weather was picture perfect and a great time was had by all. Michelle Malone and Canyonland were amazing, closing with a series of crowd pleasers, including "When Will I Be Loved" by the Everly Brothers, which I, despite being

overserved and entirely tone deaf, enthusiastically sang along to with all my friends.

We have already raised over \$25,000 so far for the South Fork Conservancy's Raingarden in Emory Village, thanks to a substantial donation from Coca-Cola, a grant from the DHCA, and grants through Dekalb County Commissioners Ted Terry and Michelle Spears' offices.

In addition to our \$5000 grant to the South Fork Conservancy the DHCA will also be distributing grants to the Georgia Native Plant Society, the Friends of Peavine Trail, as well as Springdale Park Elementary, Paideia, and Fernbank Elementary, thanks to a generous Sponsorship from Warmer McConaughey at Hammersmith.

More importantly, we were able to bring together virtually all the environmental non-profits here in the neighborhood with the schools, the parents, and their kids, all engaged in this common endeavor. And the working relationships we have established should bear significant fruit in the future. We raised awareness about the importance of native plants to pollinators and birds, as well as the importance of the creek system, the natural environment, and how it ties us all together. We've formed great partnerships that are already leading to new plans for future collaboration, and that is a good thing.

In closing, as I huddle over my heaping helping of Crow, I'd be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to all those who made all this possible:

To Becca, Cynthia Tauxe, Lisa Hill, Donna Shapiro, Sandy Kruger, and others, who had the foresight to us in a new and exciting direction; To Hillary Kilfeather, our Publicity Chair, and our hard working Tour Committee, who pulled it all together in the 11th hour; To our House Managers, Docents and other Volunteers; To all those Homeowners who worked their fingers to the bone—and even threw out their backs—to have their homes and gardens ready and open for the Tour; To our Friends, Patrons and Benefactors; To Cottage Garden Natives for providing the plants for both the 'Help a Hummingbird' and 'Slow the Flow' events; and, to our Sponsors at Coca-Cola, Warner at Hammersmith, Bonnie and her Harry Norman crew, Molly Carter Gaines, Peggy Hibbert, Joe Crochet, Ruth Sharian, Kristen Pollock—and last but not least—Niki Paris & Kevin Steward, and Harvin Greene, who were gracious enough to sponsor Gardens.

And thanks, of course, to all of you who came out to join us. We'll see you next year!

NICOLE ? DAVIS

HOMES



\$1.149,000 | FOR SALE 1903 Ridgewood Rd Druid Hills



\$789,900 | FOR SALE 1667 E. Clifton Druid Hills



\$1.65M | SOLD 1000 Clifton Rd Druid Hills



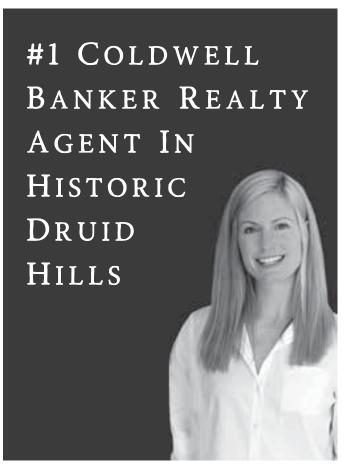
UNDER CONTRACT 3895 Club Dr Brookhaven



\$1.2M | SOLD 316 Madison Ave Oakhurst



\$1.06M | SOLD 1923 Durand Mill Dr Druid Hills



YOUR NEIGHBOR,
NICOLE DAVIS

DIRECT: 404-358-6252 | OFFICE: 404-874-2262

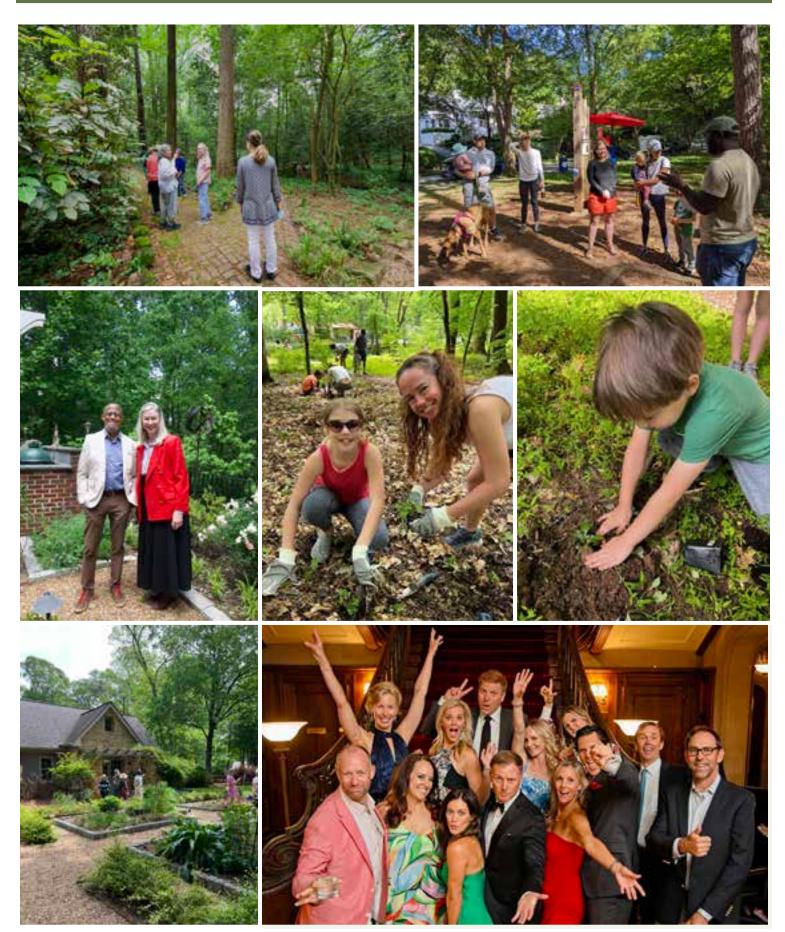
NICOLE@NICOLEDAVISHOMES.COM

WWW.NICOLEDAVISHOMES.COM









Our thanks to the following photographers for capturing the images of the Spring Celebration: Lisa Hill, Randy McDow, Jack Meyer and Rebecca Raciborski.

Michelle Malone Headlines Celebration Concert

By Sarah Banick

It was a perfect spring day for the Coca-Cola Clean Up the Creek concert on April 22, featuring the Laurel Canyon folk-rock sounds of Michelle Malone and Canyonland. A large, multi-generational crowd turned up to sing along to hits by Linda Ronstadt, the Eagles, and Crosby, Stills & Nash, to name a few. Gus' Spaghetti Junction opened the evening with a genre-spanning mix of songs.

The crowd spread out on blankets and chairs, enjoying food from the Sweet Auburn BBQ food truck or goodies they brought from home. Thanks to Coca-Cola for the free water and soft drinks, as serving as presenting sponsor.

Other sponsors were Druid Hills Civic Association, Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty, Tribridge Residential, Engel & Volker's, Acadia Shutters, Savi Provisions, Hammersmith, Pogo Pictures, Tilting Windmill, Stoddard Law Firm, and Compass.



EVA Board Chair Todd Hill welcomes the crowd.



Michelle Malone performs with her band, Canyonland.



The crowd enjoyed a beautiful day for the Coca-Cola Clean Up the Creek Concert on April 22. Photos courtesy Lisa Hill Photography

Molly Carter Gaines Your Druid Hills Expert

CELEBRATING RECENT CLOSINGS AND PENDING SALES





Druid Hills Buyer Need up to \$6M

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW IS CONTEMPLATING SELLING!

CALL MOLLY **TODAY** IF YOU'RE THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING!



Molly Carter Gaines

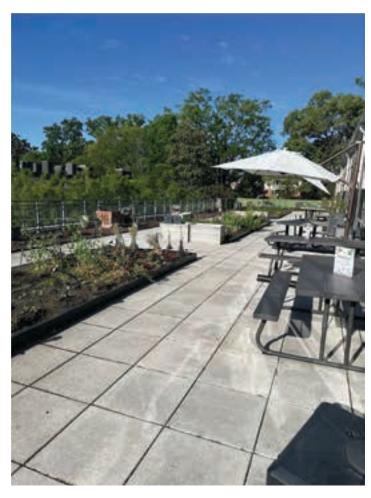
ANSLEY

CHRISTIE'S

c. 404.542.3120 | o. 404.480.HOME | MOLLY@ANSLEYRE.COM

404.480.HOME | ANSLEYRE.COM | 952 PEACHTREE STREET, SUITE 100. ATLANTA, GA 30309

All data believed to be accurate but not warranted. If you have any existina brokerage relationship, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal housing apportunity



The SPARK rooftop garden was open to visitors during the 2023 DH Celebration weekend.

SPARK's Rooftop Garden

Submitted by Kimberly Ryan

We are wrapping up yet another successful year at Springdale Park Elementary School. SPARK had the annual fundraiser/auction in March, and the proceeds will be split between SPARK and the new Virginia Highland Elementary. Springdale Park will use its portion of the money to add experiences for student growth and enrichment throughout the 2023-24 school year.

Springdale Park was honored to be a part of the Druid Hills Tour of Homes this year! During the tour, SPARK invited guests to the rooftop garden where they learned about food insecurity in Atlanta and how SPARK uses the garden's vegetables to give back to the community. Guests also learned about native Georgia plants and were entertained by our very own Springdale Park Chorus! If you would like to donate to help with costs for the rooftop garden, please visit the following link:

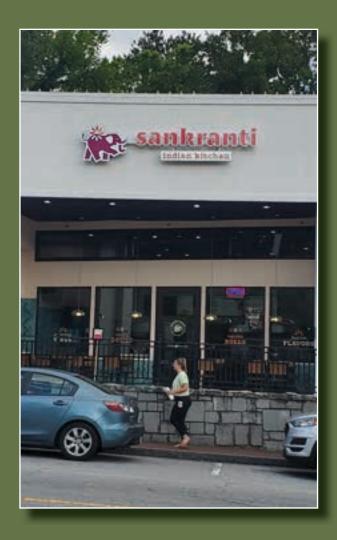
https://www.donorschoose.org/classroom/ksiembieda

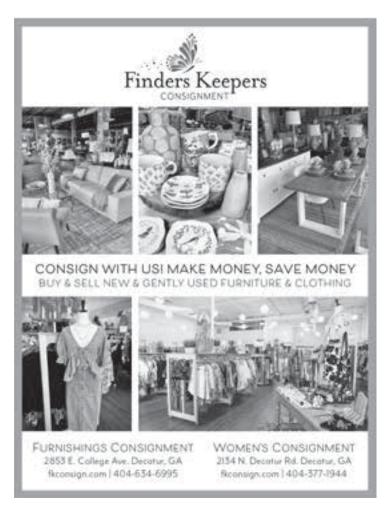
We are looking forward to seeing our SPARK Dragons for the 2023-24 school year on August 1st!

New Food Options in Emory Village

New restaurants and businesses are opening in Emory Village.

- Sankranti Indian Kitchen is now open, serving customizable curry bowls, kathi rolls, pulao, and traditional Indian appetizers for lunch and dinner daily. Guests who dine at the new restaurant during its first three months in business will receive a 20 percent off coupon that can be used during a future visit.
- Sweetgreen will soon open in the space that used to be Dragon Bowl. The restaurant offers fresh, plant-forward, earth-friendly food including salads and grain bowls.
- The former Zoe's Kitchen is expected to re-open soon as Cava, a Mediterranean concept featuring customizable salads, pitas, juices, dressings, and dips.
- Savi Provisions has finally completed the time-consuming permitting process with DeKalb County to sell alcohol and expects to announce an opening date in June.







404.377.1021

HAMMERSMITH.NET



atlantaplumbersguild.com

corey@atlantaplumbersguild.com

10 Executive Park West, 567, Brookhaven, GA 30329

emergency hotline

number if you have any plumbing emergencies.



Legislative Round Up 2023

Our thanks to Mary Margaret Oliver, Becky Evans and Elena Parent, the state legislators who represent our community, for contributing the following reflections about the 2023 legislative session, which began January 9 and ended March 29.

Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver

HOUSE DISTRICT 82 WWW.MARYMARGARETOLIVER.ORG

Like all sessions of the Georgia
General Assembly, the 2023
Session was a mixed bag
of good and bad actions,
and the change of
leadership in both the
House and Senate had a
significant impact in our
productivity. Lieutenant

productivity. Lieutenant
Governor Burt Jones, an election
denier and former state senator, was elected
Lieutenant Governor by voters in November, and
Majority Leader Jon Burns from Effingham County
was elected House Speaker by House members
following the unexpected death of David Ralston

was elected House Speaker by House members following the unexpected death of David Ralston last fall. I remain disappointed that issues I worked on did not move forward. The Governor's vetoes of essential budget items came as a surprise in early May, 40 days after Sine Die, and are particularly painful. Please see the AJC analysis of the budget vetoes and my quotes, along with my comments on GPB Political Rewind:

AJC, May 19, 2023 – "Georgia's mental health hotline is a national leader."

GPB News Political Rewind, May 15, 2023 – "Kemp Makes Budget Cuts"

Mental Health - After the unanimous passage of HB 1013 in 2022, we held multiple hearings during the summer and fall of 2022 and prepared a comprehensive 300-page report of our findings in anticipation of needed follow-up legislation. I chaired the Workforce and Innovation Subcommittee, and our work was detailed and substantive.

The work for this Session's mental health legislation, HB 520, was an effort of leadership and advocate support as well as a model of bipartisanship. Sadly, Lieutenant Governor Jones refused to allow HB 520 a vote, and I and many others are working this summer on plans to ensure a more positive response by the Senate in the 2024 Session. There is a lot we can do before January 2024 to move mental health reform forward despite Burt Jones' opposition and Brian Kemp's budget vetoes.

Housing Issues - The work of the Development Authority Study Committee resulted in several good bills, and none of these bills were passed, again based on lack of Senate action. Also, the housing reform bill, HB 404 that I co-sponsored, named the "Safe at Home Act," did not pass in the Senate after strong House support.

Gun Safety - I co-sponsored HB 135, a gun safety measure holding gun owners responsible if their weapon is used in a crime. It was one of four bills in the House gun safety package, none of which made it to the House floor. I remain committed to a ban on assault weapons and passage of a "Red Flag" law.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Georgia Representative. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns at mmo@mmolaw. com. Most importantly, please sign up for my newsletter at marymargaretoliver.org, and follow me on Facebook. Thank you!

Rep. Becky Evans

HOUSE DISTRICT 83 WWW.BECKYEVANS.COM

Literacy Legislation - I am glad to report that HB 538, Georgia Early Literacy Act, including language from my bill HB 537, Literacy Instruction Certification, and SB 211, Georgia Council on Literacy, passed both the House and Senate and were signed by the Governor!

DeKalb Ethics Board Update - Due to recent resignations, the House and Senate delegations have been working on new appointments to the DeKalb Ethics Board. Thankfully, we received many applications from highly qualified citizens with backgrounds in Ethics, Law, Governance, and Finance. I am serving as the convener of the Appointment Committee. The House has two appointments and the Senate has three. We take our responsibility for finding the right mix of board members seriously, and we look forward to renewing a strong and independent Ethics board.

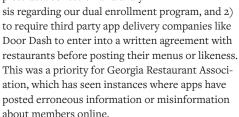
Georgia Climate Conference - I attended the GA Climate Conference at UGA May 15 - 17 and was encouraged by all the amazing researchers, advocates, local sustainability organizations and governments, and businesses who are working to help Georgia address our climate challenges. Drawdown Georgia is a state-wide, research-based initiative working to catalyze a Georgia beyond carbon. There is much work to do, but some good news is that between 2017 and 2021, our Greenhouse Gas emissions declined by 5%, the carbon

footprint of the average Georgian decreased by 8%, and our electricity emissions declined by 15% as GA retired coal plants, shifted to natural gas, and added solar.

Sen. Elena Parent

SENATE DISTRICT 42 WWW.ELENAPARENT.COM

I personally had a successful session, passing one bill - SB 55 (the Lemonade Stand Act). I worked with my Republican colleagues to attach two of my bills to theirs: 1) to require complete data collection and analy-



Education - The legislature is required to pass the budget, and I am so pleased that we secured \$3.5 million to screen K-Grade 3 kids for dyslexia, a big win in a state with an abysmal literacy rate among school age children. While we made some other progress on education by raising salaries for teachers, fully funding the HOPE scholarship formula, and forming a study committee to evaluate the results of our dual enrollment program and recommend changes, the Governor has vetoed many important line items in the budget. Colleges and universities themselves saw some budget cuts, as did Georgia Public Broadcasting, partially due to disagreements between the Senate, House and Governor, and I will work to get those restored.

But I am well aware that there was no movement on issues many of you and I care strongly about – for example, gun safety.

The Gun Plague - As you all know, our community was hit hard on May 3 by gun violence. Every time a tragedy like this occurs it hurts, as you know how much I care about this issue. Democrats called on the Governor for immediate action on the 16 gun-sense bills Democrats have filed that are languishing. While we are stymied as the minority on this issue, I will continue to work on this priority.

For a full report, you can always go to elenaparent.com to read my newsletters and subscribe.





Tired of seeing so many **DIFFERENT VENDORS**driving through our neighborhood?

How do you know which vendor is **TRUSTED**? Which is **INSURED**?

Is there a place to find out which vendors **OUR NEIGHBORS PREFER?**



Look no further!
Our Front Porch Verified
has the answers for you.

Look for the Our Front Porch Verified badge in our neighborhood newsletter



Lullwater Traffic Circle Landscaping Complete

By Pam Woodley

The Parks and Greenspace Committee of the DHCA, which was formed in 2021, has completed its first major project! You have likely all driven or walked by it and will many more times in the coming years: The traffic circle at Lullwater and North Decatur Roads, at the western entrance to Emory Village, has been replanted.

The plants, with a few exceptions, are natives. They were chosen to provide year-round color and to be pollinator friendly. They are tough, low-maintenance plants that will grow to fill out the space but not hinder driver vision.

We are also introducing yucca 'Color Guard' as a "signature plant" for the neighborhood – one that is intended to be repeated throughout other neighborhood gardening projects. The yuccas are the twelve spiky green and yellow plants in the circle and on the small greenspaces surrounding the circle. Other featured plants include Arkansas bluestar, butterfly weed, and wild indigo.

The Committee hopes to be able to rehab our other traffic circles in future years. We believe they play an important role in creating a great impression of Druid Hills for visitors and residents alike. There are many people and companies to thank for their contributions:

- Erica Glasener -Parks Committee member and Druid Hills resident, chose and purchased the plants from local wholesale nurseries and oversaw the placement, planting, and initial watering. Erica is a horticulturist who loves plants, trees, and Druid Hills.
- Kacey Cloues Owner of Garden Hood on Boulevard Avenue, a wonderful source for unusual and native plants and great advice. Kacey referred us to Kate Bruce for assistance with the installation.
- Kate Bruce Owner of Kate's Gardens. Kate was fantastic to work with. She and her team cleared the site, prepared the soil, and assisted neighborhood volunteers on planting day.
- Emory Landscaping Crew, led by Jimmy Powell The water source in the circle is not working. While we work to resolve this, Jimmy's crew has been graciously bringing their water truck by.
- The DHCA for providing us with funding.

The Parks and Greenspace Committee welcomes comments or questions (parks@druidhills.org) and hopes you enjoy watching these natives grow and fill the space with greenery and color.



Parks & Greenspace volunteers (Alida Silverman, Pam Woodley and Mike St. Louis) work on completing the committee's first major project at the Lullwater traffic circle.



The Yucca 'Color Guard' was chosen as a signature plant for the neighborhood.

PARK VIEWS News from the DHCA Parks Committee



Twitten Tamer in the Hood!

By Pam Woodley

Twitten: Southeast English dialect for a narrow alleyway

Mark Herold and his family have lived alongside one of the Druid Hills twittens for almost 19 years, since they moved back to Atlanta from California. This move was their second stint in Atlanta, and this time he and his wife wanted to live in-town rather than in the burbs. His wife had even already decided she wanted Druid Hills as a result of attending one of our tours!

Interestingly, the 19 years on one twitten has been in two different homes. About 3.5 years ago, they moved from their home on Oakdale to the home in their backyard on Oxford.

Mark has incorporated twitten maintenance into his normal yard work, blowing off the leaves and debris and picking up trash and branches. The result, helped by the fact the cement is in relatively good shape, is a very well-used twitten.

Per Mark, DeKalb County has finally agreed that the county owns our twittens. This was left unclear in the original developer plans. "His" twitten has benefited from county repair work some years ago. Mark acknowledged that some other twittens in the neighborhood are virtually impassable and need someone to advocate for county attention.

"I consider this my small contribution to the neighborhood," said Mark. "Every twitten has four homes alongside it. If every twitten had one or more volunteers looking after it, we could get them all as well-used as the one next to my house. Some will require significant county-supported repair before the local adoption maintenance plan can be a possibility! But I am optimistic. The twittens are a very special feature of our neighborhood."

Mark Herald helps maintain the twitten between Oakdale and Oxford.

Sidewalk Strides Making a Difference

We have had a great response to the Druid Hills Sidewalk Strides program, where DHCA members can be reimbursed for up to \$500 toward sidewalk repairs on their property. It's a great way to help maintain a walkable neighborhood. We've even seen other neighborhoods start similar programs, helping more of Atlanta have great sidewalks! You may have noticed improvements in Druid Hills on Springdale and Lullwater already, with more to come over the next few months.

Are you ready for your own sidewalk improvements and want to know more? Email us at publicsafety@druidhills.org for information, or apply with your name, address, and type of repair proposed. Happy striding!





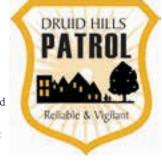
Want Peace of Mind While on Vacation? Druid Hills Patrol Can Help

By Marilyn Geewax

Have you ever left on vacation and then thought: "Hoo boy. I can't remember if I closed the garage door."

The nagging thought that your home and possessions might not be secure can cut into your relaxation time at the beach. But if you belong to the Druid Hills Patrol, you really can relax, knowing that a police officer

will check on your home - and help you if there is a security issue.



Dues-paying members can sign up for a vacation check. During your time away, officers will visit your home and alert you if they find anything amiss. The Patrol gives officers access to a secure database containing members' contact information. If an officer discovers unusual circumstances at a vacationing member's home, he or she can immediately contact the homeowner.

One officer described how he handled a recent security issue. "I was conducting a routine vacation check on Cornell Road," he said. "I was walking around the side of the home - and it happens that the garage is on a much lower level - and I noticed that the garage doors were open. They had not been open on my previous visits."

The officer went into the Patrol's database to retrieve the family's mobile phone number. "They promptly picked up when I called to inform them that the doors were open, and they were surprised," he said. "I went in (to the garage) and checked several things but there was no indication of forced entry."

The homeowners suggested the doors might have been accidentally left open by their housekeeper. They were able to remotely close the doors, using an app for that. Problem solved.

The officer said that's a good example of the Patrol's purpose: to prevent crime and provide reassurance by being alert and available to help. While Druid Hills has very little violent crime, it does have frequent problems with car break-ins and lawn-equipment theft. "These are crimes of opportunity," he said, and having a roving patrol cuts down on such opportunities.

The Patrol's Security Team offers suggestions for reducing crime during the summer vacation season.

- Have your mail held while you are away.
- Ask a trusted neighbor or family member to retrieve any packages left on your porch.
- Put lights on timers both inside and outside to give the impression that someone is home.
- Resist the urge to post your vacation photos on social media while you are away. Post photos only after you return from your trip.

To help boost the hours that the Patrol can monitor our neighborhood streets, please consider becoming a dues-paying member. Information can be found at www.druidhillspatrol.org.



Fernbank Elementary School Welcomes New Principal

Submitted by Dana Borda

Fernbank Elementary School is excited to introduce our new Principal, Mrs. Aaronlyn Wright! Mrs. Wright was selected to succeed Ms. Joan Ray as Principal in February. The transition has been smooth, as she had been our Assistant Principal since 2022. Mrs. Wright previously served as Assistant Principal of Instruction at Narvie J. Harris Theme School for four years, and she has significant experience teaching middle school as well.

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. WRIGHT:

I am extremely excited to serve as Fernbank Elementary School's next principal! With over 15 years of experience in education in both elementary and middle school settings, I have served in various capacities throughout my educational journey, with my most recent role being assistant principal at Fernbank. I was thrilled to join the Fernbank community at the beginning of this school year,

and I look forward to continuing to partner with each of you as we work together to ensure our scholars receive the best educational experience possible.

Learn, Grow, SOAR Aaronlyn Wright

New Fernbank Principal Mrs. Aarolyn Wright



Emory Village's Vibrant Music Scene

By Sarah Banick

While everyone knows Athens once turned out popular music acts like REM and the B-52s, many people don't know that Emory Village once had its own vibrant music scene. It was centered around The Dugout, a bar and restaurant owned by the Landau family in the late 1980s. That property now houses Chase Bank, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Chipotle. (Older folks will remember when the same spot was the popular five-and-dime Horton's.)

A number of nationally known Atlanta acts got their start or played at the Dugout, including Michelle Malone, who with her band Canyonland, just performed at the Coca-Cola Clean Up the Creek concert on April 22. Malone has toured Europe and America, and shared the stage in her hometown with Gregg Allman, Chuck Leavell, Randall Bramblett, the Atlanta Symphony and Atlanta Pops Orchestras, Drivin' n' Cryin', Indigo Girls, and Kristian Bush.

The Indigo Girls played the Dugout weekly when Emily Saliers and Amy Ray were students across the street at Emory University. The duo is best known for folk-rock songs such as "Closer to Fine" and "Galileo." Then known as Mr. Crowe's Garden, the Black Crowe's were a regular presence. They later went on to have rock hits like "Hard to Handle" and "She Talks to Angels."

Drivin' n' Cryin' was another rock act performing at the Dugout, and sometimes lead single Kevin Kinney played on his own. They are best remembered for "Fly Me Courageous" and "Honeysuckle Blue." Internationally known rhythm and blues guitarist Tinsley Ellis also played the Dugout with his previous band, the Heartfixers, which featured Chicago Bob Nelson on vocals and harmonica.

After Horton's and before becoming the Dugout, Doodah's Records and Tapes briefly occupied the same space. A young Peter Buck worked there before leaving for Athens and forming REM with his bandmates. The original Doodah's stood near Domino's Pizza before burning down.

Emory Village is also home to RailroadEarth, a recording studio and art venue run by Neil Fried. Michelle Malone recorded there in 2000 with her then-lead guitarist John Mayer, who went on to fame and has had multiple hits. The Indigo Girls also recorded at RailroadEarth with folk singer Gerald McGugh, as did classical musician Andrew Bird. Internationally known electronic music composer and performer Pauline Oliveros worked on several projects with Neil Fried at RailroadEarth.

SFC Welcomes Spring with Thousands of New Plants

By Dorothy Sussman

Everywhere you look in Atlanta, it's obvious that spring has arrived. People want to be outdoors enjoying the trees and plants that green the land. The South Fork Conservancy (SFC) shares their enthusiasm. This spring, we've been ushering in the season as we plant and plan for the future. In one month alone, we installed native plants along Peavine Creek in Druid Hills and the Confluence Trail, which hugs Peachtree Creek's South Fork in the Buckhead area. In fact, during the last 15 years, we've built a 5.5 -mile green ribbon of trails through the heart of Atlanta. And we've pulled out a mountain of invasive species and trash to open the creek for everyone to enjoy.

At Peavine Creek, a tributary of South Fork, we worked with the Friends of Peavine and Emory student volunteers to haul out tons of junk, including eyesores like trashed bathtubs, that littered the land. That preparation made it easier for people, including children, to access the trail and walk along the creek, where recently they learned about the birds that call this place home, either permanently, or as a critical stop on their migration route. Adults and children planted native violets, lobelia, and red cardinal flowers at the rain garden along the trail. The flashy cardinal flowers attract hummingbirds, which burrow into the flowers for a quick meal and in the process spread pollen from one flower to the next.

With Atlanta's increased growth around the South Fork, people treated the creek like a dump or sewer, not a place anyone would want to walk, hike, or bike. A simple but tidy trail along the stream changed that dynamic. In 2021, South Fork opened the Confluence Bridge, the magnificent \$2.5 million Corten-steel structure that spans the creek and reveals the beauty of an area once out of reach for most people. In early May 2023, a blue sea of volunteers, most from Cox Communications, spent two days helping SFC install 1,200 native plants and grasses near the base of the bridge's ramp system. Armed with a planting plan designed by landscape architect Nicole Day, they tilled and muscled their way through tough soil with pick-axes and shovels to dig holes for each pollinator plant. Getting the plants safely in the ground and watering them was a communal effort, one that reinforced the value of the connecting work SFC undertakes.

And then there's DeKalb County's Zonolite Park. This 13-acre tract was transformed from a brownfield contaminated by asbestos to a gorgeous park, alive with native plants and a pollinator garden, SFC trails, and a community garden. It, too, boasts a friends group that helps to keep watch over this invaluable community asset. It's also the scene of SFC's annual Creek Rising celebration, held this year on September 14. People come here to connect to nature and each other, to walk the trails, and to enjoy the exquisite beauty of the land, a gift for all.

Revealing the creek, restoring the land, connecting people, and providing a way to get outdoors whatever the season, is SFC's mission. In the months and years ahead, we'll continue to pursue these goals. We welcome all who want to help us with this vital, soul-filling work.



Volunteers plant near the beautiful Confluence Bridge in May.



Before and after scenes at Zonolite Park in DeKalb County.

SAVE THE DATE!

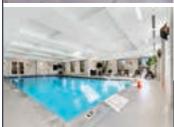
DON'T MISS SOUTH FORK CONSERVANCY'S CREEK RISING THIS FALL

The South Fork Conservancy invites you to join friends and neighbors for Creek Rising 2023 at Zonolite Park in Atlanta. Our big bash is set for Thursday, September 14, from 5 -7:30 pm. Celebrate with food and drink in the meadow, raise your paddle during our first-ever live auction, stroll the park and trails, browse and bid on fabulous nature-themed quilts made by local quilters, watch plein air painters at work, win a raffle prize, and cheer our rubber ducks to victory as they bob toward the finish line in the South Fork "rapids." Save the date now. Look for more information soon at southforkconservancy.org. You won't want to miss this!











ACTIVE ADULT LIVING

- 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments
- Three Restaurants: Zinnia Café & Market, Socialite and Maverick Bar
- Full Service Spa, Hair & Nail Salon
- Fitness Center, Indoor Saltwater Pool
- Lifestyle Activities Galore and much more!











Tour us today to see how our residents are living their best life! 404-496-6794 | www.holbrooklife.com





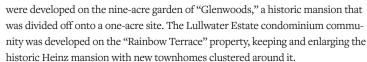
Welcome Protection

By Alida Silverman

Before 1982, Ponce de Leon Avenue in Druid Hills in the City of Atlanta was zoned Apartment-Limited (A-L). That zoning allowed greater density and height than existed when Druid Hills was developed following the Olmsted plan.

For example, before 1982 the Lions Gate condominium community was developed on the site of George Adair's "Villa" (that had become the Lullwater Home for Young Business

Women). The Dorchester Apartments (now Lullwater Parc condominium community)



On South Ponce both the Devonshire and the Chimneys condo communities were developed on sites where private homes had been. Lots further east were subdivided for homes to be built on the back portions. Druid Hills was entering a period of decline after World War II: large mansions had become respectable rooming houses for the families of soldiers and some continued after the war with a changing clientele; the trolley was discontinued and Ponce de Leon Parkway became the four-lane avenue we know today. The first iteration of the Stone Mountain Tollway plans included Ponce de Leon Avenue.

These developments spurred the Druid Hills Civic Association to seek protection: first, listing on the National Register of Historic Places and then local designation by the City of Atlanta. "National Identifies; Local Protects." City designation as a Historic and Cultural Conservation (HCC) District came in 1982, but work began in the late 1970s with the careful crafting of an ordinance that would take the place of the zoning classification for Druid Hills in the City.

The 1982 ordinance covered Ponce de Leon and Fairview Road. (Fairview Road was seeing a number of homes turned into multi-family or rooming houses.) The 1982 ordinance struck a deal of sorts: Ponce would have greater flexibility and Fairview would be single-family only. Ponce already had churches and schools and the Golf Club as well as multi-family developments. However, density control was built into the new ordinance and setbacks were stipulated to maintain the existing spatial relationships and 'look' of Druid Hills. No front yard parking preserved the lawns sweeping into the linear park.



With the Druid Hills ordinance in place, proposals for changes to structures and property required a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. Although our ordinance remains partly aspirational, for the most part changes have honored the essential features that make Druid Hills what it is. The Landmark District Preservation Committee and responsible enlightened owners have been key.

It took almost 20 years for Springdale, Oakdale, and Lullwater Roads and Lullwater Parkway to become part of the 1982 ordinance with those sub-areas mirroring the Fairview regulations. (The name Landmark District replaced HCC in 1989 when the Comprehensive Atlanta Historic Preservation Act was adopted.) Briarcliff Road in Druid Hills did not get the same attention – but that is another story. DeKalb County acted to protect its historic resources in the mid-1990s – also another story.

If "before 1982" had continued into today, it is not hard to imagine what Ponce would look like. The Road Fight of the 1970s and '80s provides a major clue. That Road would have meant the end of Druid Hills as we know it. A truncated linear park would probably never have been restored. Frederick Law Olmsted's 'last suburb' and major part of Georgia's Olmsted legacy would be gone.

Thomas Jefferson said long ago that "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Turns out that is the price of lots of good things including preservation – saving the places that matter to us. More recently a president of The Nature Conservancy said, "In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create but by what we refuse to destroy."



Jazz on the Lawn at Callanwolde

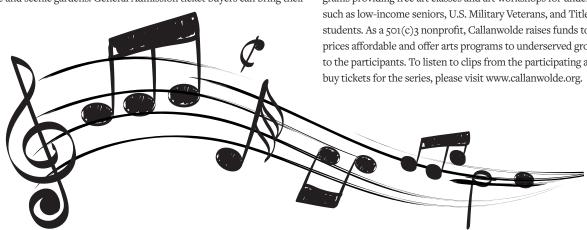
By Lily Vann-Womack

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center is pleased to announce the lineup for our 24th annual Jazz on the Lawn concert series! Join us this fall at the Callanwolde Amphitheater to experience a delightful evening of music under the stars. This concert series provides Druid Hills residents with the opportunity to experience a truly unique evening of regionally and nationally acclaimed musical artists without having to leave the neighborhood.

Bring your own picnic dinner and drinks and enjoy the historic Candler estate and scenic gardens. General Admission ticket buyers can bring their

own chairs and blankets, while VIP ticket buyers can enjoy a reserved table near the front of the stage. Mark your calendars because tickets go on sale for the general public starting June 9. Visit www.callanwolde.org/events for more details about ticket levels and release dates.

This concert series is just one part of Callanwolde's programming. Classes for painting, drawing, ceramics, textiles, dance, and more are open to the public. Callanwolde also provides community engagement programs providing free art classes and art workshops for underserved groups such as low-income seniors, U.S. Military Veterans, and Title I & III school students. 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. To listen to clips from the participating artists and to buy tickets for the series, please visit www.callanwolde.org.





Paideia students write essays for Dickens Day of Writing.

Paideia Students Participate in Dickens Day of Writing

Submitted by Grace Garrett

What sort of birthday party would you throw for one of Britain's most acclaimed novelists? In February, High School students from the Paideia School joined the Dickens Project from the University of California Santa Cruz for their interpretation of a literary birthday celebration.

This is the second year high school students from across the country have had the opportunity to participate in the Dickens Day of Writing. The competition and retreat held on Charles Dickens' birthday is intended to promote Victorian texts while strengthening students' literary analysis, critical thinking and time management through essay writing. This year, students dissected Dickens' essay, "Night Walks" in which an insomniatic Dickens roams the streets of London into the early morning hours, pondering its unfamiliar nature.

Paideia English teacher Clark Cloyd and his students were invited to participate in the competition by Dickens Project Director John Jordan. On February 7, 2023, 27 Paideia students from grades nine through12 gathered in the High School library for a 90-minute writing session. Before the competition officially began, students joined their fellow participants from high schools in Santa Cruz and Palo Alto, California and Cleveland, Ohio virtually for a brief chat over Zoom. Students produced analytical and imaginative examinations of Dickens' work, observing connections between the 19th and 21st century, such as housing insecurity.

Three students from each competing school were awarded a cash prize for their essays. In March, Annabeth Meeks '25, Asha Ahn '23 and Megan Walter '23 were named first, second and third place respectively with each student winning between \$500 and \$1000. Paideia students look forward to celebrating Dickens through their writing again when birthday #212 rolls around.

Fernbank is Where the Wild Things Are

With a range of animal-themed exhibits, films and events, it's needless to say that this summer, Fernbank is where the wild things are.

This summer's highlight at Fernbank is the new special exhibit, "Survival of the Slowest," which runs in partnership with Little Ray's Nature Centres from June 10 - Sept. 4. This live animal exhibit will shine a spotlight on animals that have often been overlooked as slow, small or weak and explain how these perceived disadvantages can prove to be beneficial against faster, larger and stronger predators.

"We invite Atlantans of all ages to get to know our animal ambassadors and all the surprisingly slow ways they survive in our fast-paced world," said Emmi Saunders, executive director of Little Ray's Nature Centres.





From "Survival of the Slowest" exhibition. Photos courtesy of Fernbank Museum

"Survival of the Slowest"

focuses on the important biological and individual traits of animals, and how these traits determine their survival strategy. Guests will have the opportunity to explore these traits and note the similarities and differences between species.

"This exciting new exhibit allows visitors to come face to face with some of nature's most 'counterintuitively' biologically fit creatures and explore the amazing adaptations that help them survive and thrive," said Fernbank educator and volunteer manager, Miranda Shealy.

"Survival of the Slowest" will offer daily live animal presentations led by wildlife educators and animal care staff so guests can get an up-close understanding of how these animals continue to outsmart their predators and adapt. There will also be a Discovery Day on June 10 to celebrate the grand opening of "Survival of the Slowest" called "Ready, Set... Slow!" This event will offer a wide range of crafts and activities that's related to the exhibit and its animals.

In addition to "Survival of the Slowest," Fernbank is bringing wild to the Giant Screen with the film "Serengeti: Journey to the Heart of Africa." This 25-minute film invites audiences to travel to East Africa and witness the annual wildebeest migration. This migration happens in accordance with Africa's rainy seasons and impacts the animals throughout the Serengeti, including elephants, lions, hippopotamuses, cheetahs, crocodiles and more.

Then, dive in with world's largest mammal in the film "Blue Whales: Return of the Giants." Narrated by actor Andy Serkis, this 45-minute film immerses viewers into two different scientific expeditions — one off the coast of the Seychelles Islands and the other in the Gulf of California — to track the nearly extinct blue whale population and health.

For more information on exhibits, films and more, please visit FernbankMuse-um.org.

A True Treasure in Peavine Creek

By Kit Eisterhold

"Look Daddy... There's treasure in the water!
People lost their treasure in here a long, long time ago..."

It was April of 2015, springtime in Druid Hills, and my daughter and I were spending some quality time together in what was our favorite place in the whole world: a little beach on a bend of Peavine Creek just a stone's throw from our house on Harvard.

We had moved to Druid Hills just a few years earlier, when she was just a toddler. I had instantly fallen in love with our house, a little brick fourquare at the corner of Harvard and Emory Rd., and the neighborhood as well, especially its natural setting, including the woods which

sleep. It was magic. The kind you cannot put a price on. It is one of my most cherished memories.

Over the years she has grown to a young woman, and we visit the creek less and less often together. I still go down there by myself on occasion. When I've had a rough day and am beset with anxieties I like to go there and sit next to the waterfall and lose myself for a few moments in the motion of the water, and the sounds of tricking and gurgling as it spills over the rocks.

It always makes me feel better. It is a treasure beyond measure....

surrounded us, and the walking trail along Peavine Creek.

We discovered many things on our walks together in those early days in the neighborhood, but perhaps our greatest discovery was the sandy beach we found along a bend in Peavine Creek one sunny day all those years ago, with a little waterfall that trickled and gurgled and filled the little hollow with sound, and a log felled across the creek which connected both banks, and which she would learn to master like a gymnast on a balance beam; a feat which she was rightly proud of.

We would return there regularly throughout her childhood, to take our dogs there and let them splash around in the water while we picnicked, and built sand castles, and daydreamed on our blankets staring up at the sky.

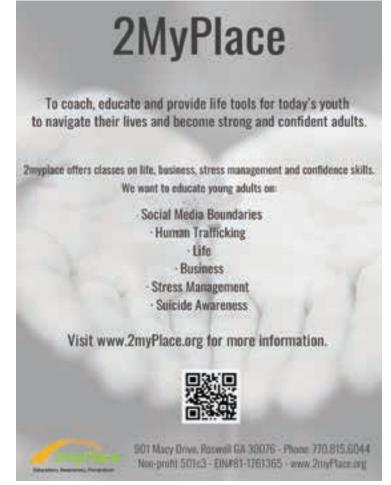
One day, shortly after her 5th birthday, she was poking around in the creek and saw something sparkling in the water. She reached down and picked it up. It was a smooth, clear blue gemstone that sparkled in the sunlight. She was ecstatic.

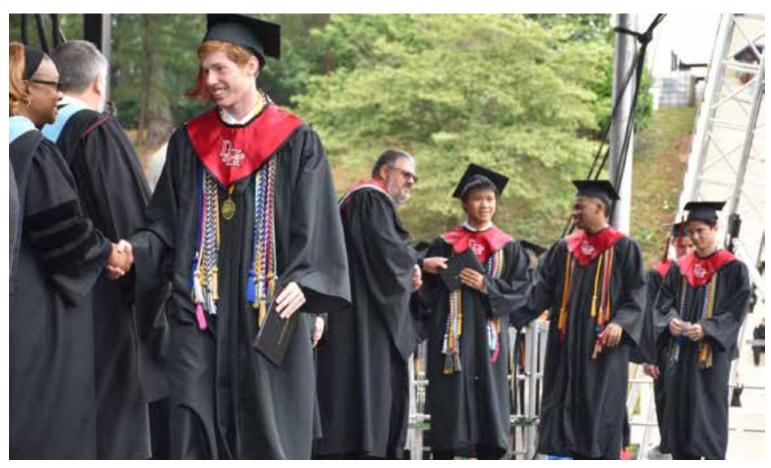
"Look Daddy!" she exclaimed, "A Sa-sa-Fire!" I was excited as she was. "Let me see it!"

It was, of course, just a piece of glass, likely from a broken bottle that had been casually dumped in the creek a long time ago, and subsequently worn down over the years by the motion of the water and the grit of the sand and the rocks, eventually rounded and polished to a high sheen.

"There's treasure in the water!" she told me excitedly, "People lost their treasure in here a long, long time ago!" She immediately ran into the water to look for more. Soon enough the Creek surrendered its secrets to her. She would soon discover all manner of treasure: Diamonds, Emeralds, and even the occasional Ruby, all sparkling in the sunlight as she fished them out of the water and laid them in the sand along the creek. She was rich beyond measure.

When we returned home in the evening we laid them out on her nightstand by the edge of her bed so she could admire her discoveries as she drifted off to





Druid Hills High School

Submitted by Odette Diaz Schuler

Druid Hills High School wrapped up the 2022-23 school year with a bang! Seniors were the celebrated guests at a beautiful pre-commencement ceremony at Glenn Memorial Auditorium on Sunday, May 21. State Rep. Becky Evans sent them off with a rousing speech. Many photos were taken and hugs shared. Graduation took place at the James R. Halford Stadium on Tuesday, May 23. Thomas Wainwright is our Valedictorian and Sunney Gao is our Salutatorian.

The PTO organized our yearly Teacher Appreciation Week, which culminated with a Cinco de Mayo fiesta for all of our faculty and staff. Ms. Rebecca Valdez was announced as the 2022-23 Teacher of Excellence, chosen by school community nominations. Mr. Brett Flater received the Family Favorite Award, Ms. Shamara Williams received the Star Performer Award, and Mr. Eric Winchester received the Bolt of Energy Award.

The Junior-Senior Prom was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. The DHAA held its second-annual ESPYs Awards to recognize our student athletes. Elections for Student Government, club officers, and volunteer organizations are done. Finals, AP exams, and IB exams are all behind us. We have three students attending the prestigious Governor's Honors Program this summer -- Andrea Brinson (Mathematics major), Shanti Rodriguez (French major), and Ellis Schroeder (French major). Hank Harris (Social Studies major) was also chosen as an alternate for GHP.

The Druid Hills Educational Foundation closed out the year having raised over \$165,000 to support DHHS. And the RFP for DHHS Modernization design has been published! The process has begun!

Keep up with modernization and school news via www.dhhspto.org and follow us on Instagram and Facebook @dhhspto.



Ben Franklin Academy Wraps Up '22-'23 School Year

Submitted by Angela Cassidy

Ben Franklin Academy had a very active Spring! The annual William H. Izlar, Jr. Poetry Contest, funded by the Mary Ryan and Henry G. Kuhrt Foundation in memory of BFA's longtime friend and Overseer Bill Izlar, was held in April. This year's winners are: 1st - Freddie Simon, "The Song of the First Foremother; 2nd - Sabrina Noussair, "Picture"; 3rd - Martin Sack-Nador, "Unfitting In"; and 4th - Candler Evans, "Wanderlust."

Gabriel Troiano, class of 2015, read from his newly published book of poetry, "Inner Worlds." He currently lives in London where he works and recently completed his M.A. in Creative Writing and Education at Goldsmiths, University of London. Gabe received his B.A. from Furman University.

BFA Junior, Aila Cason, was selected as a 2023 National Gold Medal winner in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for her digital photography portrait. This program is the nation's longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. The National Awards Ceremony will be held in June at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

BFA's Arts and Crafts Club created a garden for a STEAM project, and the Philanthropy Club sponsored a book drive which donated over 100 books to The Boyce L. Ansley School for the children of families who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2023 were held in late May at the



The BFA Philanthropy Club sponsored a book drive which donated over 100 books to The Boyce L. Ansley School

Glenn Memorial Methodist Church on the Emory University campus. These graduates have been accepted to The Ohio State University; Georgia Tech, Honors College; New York University; University of Colorado, Boulder; and many more. Raymond King, CEO of Zoo Atlanta, was the commencement speaker. Ella Greenbaum was the Valedictorian, and Pranay Pingali the Salutatorian. Ella will attend Notre Dame in the fall, and Pranay will attend Reed College.





fternoon "pop up" thunderstorms are common this time of year, courtesy of our area's warm and humid conditions.

But sometimes, these pop up storms can be strong enough to produce wind damage -- including downed trees and

powerlines. Some of the worst weather of the year can occur in the late spring and summer months as these storms produce torrential downpours as well as frequent lightning, and winds strong enough to topple trees.

But what makes a storm strong enough to be considered "severe"?

SEVERE STORM CRITERIA

A "bad storm" can be rather intense to drive through, and the thunder can be rather loud, but a thunderstorm is considered "severe" if it produces any of the following:

- ▶ Wind gusts 58 mph or greater (Why 58 mph? Because the traditional wind speed unit is knots, and 50 knots converts to 58 mph.)
- ▶ Hail that is 1 inch in diameter or greater (the size of a U.S. quarter)
- ► Tornado(es)

What are the main impacts from severe thunderstorms?

Lightning: While lightning is not a criterion for classifying a storm as severe, a "lightning jump" or large increase of lightning strikes in a short amount of time can signify a rapidly strengthening thunderstorm. These thunderstorms contain strong updrafts, or upward moving winds, that push water droplets and ice crystals higher in the atmosphere. Along the way, friction between the rain drops and ice crystals produce different static charges in the cloud, and lightning discharges the static electrical build up within the storm cloud. The more lightning strikes within a storm, the stronger the updrafts and more than likely the stronger the winds associated with the storm.

Wind Damage: High winds are the main impacts from severe thunderstorms. Wind gusts as high as 58 mph or greater have the potential to knock down and uproot trees, down power lines, and cause structural damage to homes and buildings.

Often, in the late spring and summer, damaging winds within a thunderstorm are due to downbursts, which are rapidly-moving downward columns of rain-cooled air.





When your family just can't wait it's time to call Shumate!

678 - SHUMATE 24/7/365









PEST CONTROL



TERMITES



WILDLIFE



MOSQUITOES

One of the most destructive pests Georgia
homeowners will encounter is TERMITES.
Breda Pest Management uses industry-leading
technology to locate and eradicate termites from
your property, and with BREDA's termite guarantee,
you never have to worry with termites and the
extensive damage they cause ever again.





armer temperatures mean summer fun, but they also bring pests to the garden and landscape. Fortunately, gardeners and homeowners spend more time outside tending to things this time of year and are able to spot some of these common pests before they become a major issue! Here are just a few to defend against.

Nothing is more heart breaking than tending to summer vegetable plants and then having them ravaged in just a matter of days. While humidity in the South is inviting for many

diseases, especially on tomato plants, one thing gardeners can control is the **tomato** hornworm. This fat, green worm looks like something out of Alice in Wonderland, and it is anything but cute. Just one or two per tomato plant can strip it of its leaves in a matter of days. Rather than using a chemical, these guys can be plucked right off the plant by hand and then left for the birds to enjoy. Other than humans, some natural enemies to tomato hornworm are wasps and praying mantis, so you can often depend on nature to take its course.

To prevent damage by tomato hornworm, gardeners must scout plants carefully every few days, as the pest's green color blends right in with leaves. A full sized tomato hornworm is typically an inch and a half to two inches long. If infestations are great, Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) sprays are acceptable for organic control.

A favorite plant for Japanese beetles are roses, but this pest will feed on many ornamental plants and even trees throughout the summer. They're easily identified by their iridescent green color, and the damage they cause is hard to ignore. They eat leaves down to just the veins, leaving them looking skeletonized. The effectiveness of using the yellow Japanese beetle traps is debated because, while trapping some, it may also draw a large, unwanted population to the landscape. Place the traps away from susceptible plants, and remove the trap once it's got activity on it. Chemical control is

possible to suppress them, but elimination is difficult. Read and follow pesticide labels for application amounts and timing to mitigate the risk to other, desirable insects.

Noticing yellow or browning in spots of the lawn, or perhaps soft, spongy spots? This can be damage by chipmunks, birds, and especially moles, which feed on earthworms

underground. Most creatures dig up spots in the grass, but moles tunneling underneath certainly affect larger areas in the lawn by pushing soil up! Their tunnels can span an entire yard. Reducing watering and stomping the tunnels down to redirect moles are often effective methods, but are ones that need constant attention. Traps are available to stop them from tunneling, but caution must be used and the homeowner educated so as to not harm or injure the wrong animal.

April and May brought thousands of questions into county extension offices statewide about strange, toothpick-like growths coming out of the trunks of many trees-commonly figs, crape myrtles and maples. Ambrosia beetle bores into unhealthy, often weakened and thin-barked trees around the turn of spring, and what is seen along the trunk is the sawdust kicked out of the holes they've bored. Over the summer, a second generation will emerge from affected tree trunks to scout out more trees to continue their lifecycle. Once this damage is spotted, it is important to cut away the affected limbs or trunks and remove and either bag or burn them. Proper tree care, health, and maintenance are the best defenses against problems like this. Certified arborists can also be consulted about preventative sprays for vulnerable trees.

And finally, there's not a person on this planet who cares **formosquitoes** as they try and enjoy summer fun! Keys to reducing mosquitoes are eliminating standing water in common areas and in clogged gutters and using Mosquito Dunks in desired water, like ponds and birdbaths. They're deemed safe for birds and fish. Consider an oscillating fan while relaxing outdoors. And rather than treating your entire outdoor area, treat yourself with repellents like Off, Deet or Skin So Soft. Lastly, make some adjustments to how you get dressed! Avoid dark clothing and strongly scented soaps. Apparently that's what they're most attracted to. Who knew?!



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



0% for 6 months with no payments converted to 120 months at 5.99%

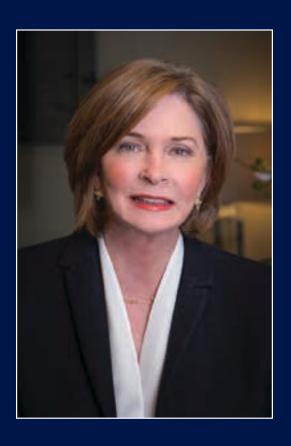
Sponsors eager for your business!

The following are sponsors* in other community newsletters, published by Our Front Porch. BOLD LISTINGS have an advertisement in this

DH29N | TA

A/C 9 Hanting		W	
A/C & Heating Anytime Heating & Cooling, Inc	678-606-9020	Kitchen Housley Enterprises, Inc	670 646 2276
Dayco Systems		Landscaping	076-546-2276
Jape Services		Stone Edge Landscapes	678-421-4763
JF Maxwell Heating & Air		Medical Clinic	
Neese Heating and Cooling		Prestige Medical Group	706-692-9768
Shumate Air Conditioning & Heating		Mortgages	
Zen Air	··· 678-883-7868	Movement Mortgage	··404-394-6738
Accountants Signature Accounting Services, LLC	770 075 1600	Nursery	
Active Adult Community	/ / 0-9/ 5- 1609	Autumn Hill Nursery	770-442-3901
Holbrook/Dogwood Forest	404-445-7777	Painting	
Assisted Living		360 Painting	
Camellia Place	··· 770-876-3039	Benjamin Moore Paint Store-Alpharetta Chris Brown Painting & Home Repair	
Manor Lake BridgeMill		Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	
Varenita of West Cobb	···· 470-750-3500	Red Oak Painting	
Attorney		Superior Pro Exteriors	
Daryl L Kidd P.C.	···· 770-499-1274	Verge Painting and Siding	
Auto Detailing Polished Peach Car Wash	770_502_8102	Pest Control	
Banking	/ / 0-392-0102	Breda Pest Management	·· 770-466-6700
American Commerce Bank	470-422-1200	Legacy Pest Control	·· 770-423-0160
Credit Union of Georgia		Windward Pest Services	·· 404-545-1651
Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling		Pet Services	
InDesign Kitchen & Bath	··· 770-865-3632	Soothing Streams Pet Cremation	··404-482-1441
Cabinetry		Plumbing Prop Plumbing Sondoon	770 000 5077
Cabinet Buyers Outlet	···· 706-972-4480	Bryan Plumbing Services	
Cleaning Services		Mr. Rooter of Atlanta	
House Cleaning Specialist, Inc	···· 770-975-4995	Serv'all Plumbing & Rooter Service	
Advance Concrete Lifting & Leveling	679 200 2420	Shumate Plumbing Services	
Advance Concrete Lifting & Leveling Consignment	···· 010-208-3426	The Plumbers Guild	
Finders Keepers	404-377-1944	Pre-Schools & Kindergarten	404 004 0120
Uptown Cheapskate-Cumming		Omega Learning Center-Acworth	770-792-7431
Uptown Cheapskate-East Cobb		Primrose School of Acworth Bentwater	
Uptown Cheapskate-Johns Creek		Primrose School of Harmony on the Lakes	
Dance Studio		Propane Service	
CK DanceWorks, Inc. & CK Yoga	770-975-7298	Gas Incorporated	·· 770-720-1378
Dentist		Real Estate	
Acworth Dental		Ansley Atlanta Real Estate-Jody Tirone	·· 404-451-3125
BridgeMill Dentistry (Scott Merritt, DMD)		Atlanta Communities-Carl Hawthorne	··404-403-1789
Distinctive Dentistry		Atlanta Communities-Elizabeth Martin	
Esthetic Dental Solutions		Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates	
Family Dentistry at Seven Hills		Atlanta Communities-Steele	770-337-9529
Northpoint Dental Roswell Dental Care		Coldwell Banker-Sherry Warner	
Swords & Phelps Dentistry		Compass Realty-Gipson and Co.	
Design & Build Services	770 470 0710	Compass Realty-Natalie Gregory Team	
HammerSmith, Inc.	··· 404-377-1021	Cory & Co. Realty	
Doors		David Cooke-Martin Lake Group at KW	
EntryPoint Doors & Windows	··· 770-904-0094	Georgia Real Estate Depot-Nix	
Park Avenue Entries	···· 770-622-0554	Harry Norman Realtors-Pam Hughes Keller Williams Realty-Cynthia Baer	
Electrical Service		Keller Williams Susan Stanford	
Arc Angel Electric Corp		Keller Williams-Linda Jacobs	
Mr. Electric of Atlanta-Mr. Rooter		Keller Williams-Williams	
Mr. Electric of Canton		Park Realty-John Morgan & Drew Jackson	
Rocket Electric		Remax Around Atlanta-Falkin	
ServiceWise Electric, LLC		Remax-Heerema	
Shumate Electrical Services Eye Care	678-384-0880	Robin Martin and Associates	678-665-0202
Georgia Eye Partners/OPAL Aesthetics	404-383-0956	Remodeling	
Funeral Homes	.0. 000 0000	Daniel's Home Services	···770-598-1379
In Their Honor of Jasper Funerals &	706-253-5060	GCI Basements	
·		Serv'all Plumbing-Remodeling	···770-917-1852
Garage Doors Platinum Overhead Door	670 200 0400	Restaurants	
	678-329-3100	Luna Maya	
Golf Equipment & Supplies Golf Cars of Canton	679 990 1156	Norsan Restaurant Group	···678-878-2513
LSV of Alpharetta		Roofing	
Government	070-003-3123	Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
DeKalb County Board of Commissioners-	404-371-2899	Schools-Private	070 404 0400
Handyman		Atlanta Academy McGinnis Woods Country Day School	
Happy Handyman LLC	···· 770-685-8421	The Friends School of Atlanta	
Shumate Handyman Services		Security Systems	
Home Furnishings		Classic Entry Systems	678-330-1111
ARIANA Home Furnishings & Design	678-807-7422	Skin Care	3.0 300 1111
Home Improvements		The Beauty Barn	678-824-5466
GHIR Construction		Spa	
Lighthouse Marine Solutions	···· 678-450-4212	Reve Aesthetics Medspa	···678-447-0801
Hospital		Tree Service	
Northeast Georgia Medical Center	···· 770-214-4492	Gordon Pro Tree Service, LLC	···770-282-1616
Insurance	10.1 155	Water Heaters	
Allstate Insurance Nancy Wells		Serv'all Plumbing-Water Heaters	···770-917-1852
State Farm-Matt Cresap		Window Replacement	
The Upton Agency	/ / U-361-65/0	EntryPoint Doors & Windows	
		Visionaire Windows	
		Window Traditions of Georgia	070 070 1111

Window Traditions of Georgia ------678-672-1963



Your Neighbors Trust Peggy Hibbert

When Selling Their Homes

#1 Agent in Druid Hills #1 Intown Brokerage

ATLANTA NATIVE & 30-YEAR DRUID HILLS RESIDENT

Peggy Hibbert

c. 404.444.0192 o. 404.874.0300 peggy@atlantafinehomes.com

PEGGYHIBBERT.COM

15
Average Days on the Market

99.5 Average List Price to Sales Price Ratio

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

Atlanta Fine | Sotheby's | Homes | International Realty

Sotheby's International Realty. Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated. Equal Housing Opportunity. MLS. January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 for Druid Hills. All Property Types; All Price Points.

HARRY NORMAN, REALTORS®

ATLANTA'S FIRST IN LUXURY -





BONNIE WOLF, REALTOR® Native Atlantan, Druid Hills Resident & Trusted Real Estate Advisor

bringing you 5 star service every time!

RATES ARE COOLING DOWN READY TO MAKE A SPASW IN THE MARKET?

Atlanta is ranked as the #1 best city to buy a home in 2023.

It's great to have real estate in the ATL Call me when you're ready to make a move!

RECENTLY SOLD



DECATUR 1107 SCOTT BOULEVARD

Sold for 104% of list price in 4 days! 2 BED | 2 FULL BATH | 1 HALF BATH



CARROLLTON 105 SOUTH STREET

3 BED | 2 FULL BATH | 1 HALF BATH

C: 404-216-9296 | O: 404-897-5558 Bonnie.Wolf@HarryNorman.com



PAM HUGHES, REALTOR®

EXPERIENCE ISN'T EXPENSIVE, IT'S PRICELESS.

It takes more than a sign in the yard to sell a home in today's market. It takes a plan and a team and an agent who knows and understands the market. Both of these homes sold quickly because of planning and preparation.

If you are thinking of selling your home, Call Pam today and get your plan started.

RECENTLY SOLD



DRUID HILLS 1043 CLIFTON ROAD NE

5 BED | 3 FULL BATH | 1 HALF BATH



345 DURAND FALLS DRIVE

5 BED | 3 BATH

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









