

CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	3
LUMINARY - BECKY EVANS	4
1609 S. PONCE REDEVELOPMENT	8
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM	9
DISAPPEARING PROTESTANT CHURCHES	11

Security Camera Pilot in Place

By Anne Wallace

Before leaving office last year, Atlanta City Councilman Alex Wan donated a portion of his remaining City Council budget to Druid Hills Civic Association for enhancing the safety of residents that he represented for many years.

To that end, DHCA has partnered with Flock Safety, an Atlanta-based company, to deploy outdoor cameras at key ingress points in Division 1. These cameras will track cars and read license plates. They are not all-purpose cameras. License plate information is the number one piece of evidence police request in the case of criminal activity like home and car break-ins. To learn more go to www.flocksafety.com

The cameras were installed the week of August 20, 2018 at eleven locations in Division 1. The cost of a two-year lease on eight of the cameras is being covered with the funds Councilman Wan donated. Three additional cameras are being provided for six months courtesy of Flock Safety.

The cameras are solar and battery-powered, motion-activated, and record footage whenever motion is detected. In addition, Flock's upcoming integration with the Atlanta Police Department's "Hot List" will alert police whenever a wanted vehicle (i.e. stolen, involved in a recent crime, etc.) enters your neighborhood. Data is stored in the Cloud and will be available for 30 days.

Residents of Division 1, who are involved in the pilot program, have been instructed to follow these procedures:

If/when an incident occurs at your residence, the first thing you **MUST** do is call 911 Emergency (or 311 for Non-Emergency in City of Atlanta). Data is not available for any other purpose than solving crimes and apprehending criminals!

Continued on page 6



Bring your family to Dellwood Park for a Sunday afternoon Picnic! There will be games for everyone, music, food tastings from area restaurants, a Volleyball Team Challenge (if you want to put together a team, please email president@druidhills.org), tour of the Cator Woolford Gardens at 3:30 pm, ice cream treats courtesy of DHCA celebrating our 80th Anniversary! Just be sure to register so we'll know you are coming!



At the 2017 picnic, DHCA Board member Steven Misner with daughter Merritt Weddie and her children Claire, James and Katharine.



REAL ESTATE WITH A TRUSTED STRATEGY



AVAILABLE

244 INMAN DRIVE
5 BR | 5.5 BA - \$1,250,000
DECATUR



UNDER CONTRACT

1090 BERKSHIRE ROAD
4 BR | 3 BA - \$1,189,000
MORNINGSIDE



AVAILABLE

471 CHELSEA CIRCLE
5 BR | 4.5 BA - \$1,049,000
DRIUD HILLS



COMING SOON

113 KATHRYN AVENUE
3 BR | 3.5 BA
DECATUR



AVAILABLE

144 MOCKINGBIRD LANE
4 BR | 3.5 BA - \$725,000
DECATUR



AVAILABLE

246 WOODVIEW DRIVE
6 BR | 5 BA - \$699,000
DECATUR



SOLD

246 WOODVIEW DRIVE
3 BR | 2.5 BA - \$580,000
DRIUD HILLS



AVAILABLE

1717 N DECATUR ROAD #T20
2 BR 2.5 BA - \$549,000
DRIUD HILLS



UNDER CONTRACT

THE CLIFTON #T20
2 BR | 2 BA - \$549,000
DRIUD HILLS

NATALIE GREGORY TEAM, Your Home Marketing Specialists
RANKED #1 SALES TEAM FOR ATLANTA BOARD OF REALTORS
DIRECT: 404-550-5113 • OFFICE: 404-564-5560 • NatalieGregorySOLD.com

kw. LUXURY HOMES
INTERNATIONAL
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
METRO ATLANTA
Each Keller Williams® Realty Office is
independently owned and operated.

Greetings from the President

By Anne H. Wallace

As President of Druid Hills Civic Association since 2016, I have the privilege of working with many neighbors who serve on the DHCA Board of Directors and others who produce the annual Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Gardens. Beyond that, I have discovered this neighborhood of almost 4,000 residences is rich with talented, generous and knowledgeable individuals who contribute as **VOLUNTEERS**. It never ceases to amaze me that whatever project, issue, or question arises, there is someone with expertise to advise or consult with me, the appropriate committee, or the full Board. We have only to ask and neighbors graciously step up to lend their talent and professional training to help make Druid Hills a great place to live!

I'd like to acknowledge some of the accomplishments over the past three years that can be credited to people willing to get involved, to pitch in, and to say "Yes" when asked to volunteer!

In 2016, **volunteers** formed a committee to achieve National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat certification. With our designation as a Historic District on the

National Register of Historic Places, Druid Hills continues with its original vision and tradition of providing habitat for wildlife in a lively urban setting.

Led by DHCA Transportation Committee Co-Chair Van Biesel, a new program called Walk Druid Hills takes neighbors on a monthly Saturday morning walk series through our neighborhood parks. As a result of the program, we now have available a wonderful printed map for self-guided walks.

Over the past four years, DHCA has partnered with Trees Atlanta to participate in their NeighborWoods program. Chris Liggett, a Board member retired from the U.S. Forestry Service, has coordinated this endeavor to restore and maintain tree canopy by offering residents an opportunity to have trees planted each fall by Trees Atlanta and neighborhood **volunteers**. DHCA has made a financial contribution for the purchase of over 250 trees.

Heaton Park was restored recently with work days that included Boy Scout & neighbor participation led by DHCA Division 9

Continued on page 7

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS - Newspaper of the Druid Hills Civic Association

P. O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363

Published by Volunteers

Editor: Jennifer J. Richardson, **Managing Editor:** Fran Putney

Writers: Angela Cassidy, Anne Dukes, Sandra Kruger, Fran Putney, Jennifer J. Richardson, Amber Rhea, Thea Roeser, Dina Shadwell, Alida Silverman and Anne Wallace

Thanks to all our writers, especially our new ones! Consider sharing your thoughts and write for the DHCA news. Deadline for the November issue is October 20. Submit to JJRichar@bellsouth.net.

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

The information and advertisements contained in this Newsletter are provided for the residents of Druid Hills News 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.

Please send ads directly to KDA Communications.

KDA
communications

Contact us today for more information!
678.905.4842 • sales@kda-communications.com
www.kda-communications.com

Druid Hills Civic Association

President:
Anne Wallace
(president@druidhills.org)

First Vice President:
Andrew Keenan
(firstvp@druidhills.org)

Admin. Vice President:
Ryan Graham
(adminvp@druidhills.org)

Communications Vice President:
Fran Putney
(commvp@druidhills.org)

Treasurer:
Tom McGuigan
(treasurer@druidhills.org)

Secretary:
Ken Gibson
(secretary@druidhills.org)

DHCA Board of Directors

Class of 2018

Becky Evans
Robert Hughes
Andrew Keenan
Mike Walters
Cynthia Waterbury
Thea Roeser
Jennifer Moore

Class of 2019

Rocky Atkins
Harriet Lane
Phil Moise
Alida Silverman
David Winston

Class of 2020

Rob Benfield
Kit Esterhold
John Giegerich
Jan Jones
Chris Liggett
Sue Sullivan
Leon Van Gelderen

DHCA Standing Committees

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

Finance Committee:
Tom McGuigan
(treasurer@druidhills.org)

Governance Committee:
Open
(nominating@druidhills.org)

DeKalb Land Use & Historic Preservation Committee:
Kit Esterhold
(landuse@druidhills.org)

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

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

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

Tour of Homes & Gardens Committee:
Ryan Graham
(tour@druidhills.org)

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

DHCA Special Committees & Task Forces

Annexation Study Group:
Christopher Liggett
& Renee Nelson

Parents' Network:
Emily Franz
(parents@druidhills.org)

DHCA Divisions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Past Presidents

Justin Critz | Bruce MacGregor
Cathy Vandenberg | Richard P. Shuey

Druid Hills Luminary: Representative Becky Evans

By Fran Putney

Georgia House District 83 has a new representative, and she's well known in Druid Hills. Becky Evans is a 26-year Druid Hills resident who, along with husband David, raised the couple's three (now grown) children and has served on the DHCA Board since 2007. She will take her seat in the 2019 state legislative session after winning the May election.



Her victory was no small feat, considering she was running against a fellow Democrat (Howard Mosby) who had held the seat since 2002. More, the majority of the geographically long and narrow and socio-economically diverse district which stretches north from portions of Druid Hills to sections of south Decatur outside of I-285, has a large African-American population which did not know her.

So what was it that drew Evans to this challenge? Becky had firsthand experiences with local politics, first as re-election campaign coordinator for DeKalb Commissioner Kathie Gannon in 2012 and later advising State Senator Elena Parent on local issues for three years. In that capacity Becky attended DeKalb County House delegation meetings, which she described as "very dysfunctional" and frustrating because so little was accomplished. The presidential election in 2016 motivated her to become increasingly active, including attending the Women's March on Washington in January 2017. She began to feel like she could take on more, and when someone suggested that Mosby be challenged, Becky did her research and attended leadership trainings and began to think: "Why not me?"

"It was a very personal decision to run, and I took it seriously," said Evans. "I had to get comfortable being uncomfortable, but I didn't have anything to lose. I figured you never know unless you try."

Having made her decision, she knew she had her work cut out for her. She assembled an enthusiastic team of volunteers and advisors. Then she put on her walking shoes and set out to introduce herself to the district.

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Becky's father was a Methodist minister and social justice activist. Her dad was deeply involved in working for economic equity for African Americans in their community, she said, and Becky attended church with him. "My father and those experiences were a real inspiration to me," she says.

Evans has gone on church missions to Nicaragua and Guatemala. After the earthquake in Haiti, Evans' church group partnered with an agricultural cooperative. As a result of their efforts, they built a school that serves 172 children. Now they are working with the local Haitians to make it sustainable in the community.

Out of her 18 years volunteering for public schools, one of the

community projects of which Evans is most proud is her role in co-founding the nonprofit Druid Hills High School Athletic Association. DHAA provides funding so that all athletes have the opportunity to play sports, regardless of income or zip code. The organization recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

Evans says that her years of involvement with community organizations such as DHCA and Emory Village Alliance have given her invaluable experience with board governance and a greater understanding of how to get things done.

"I appreciate and value my experience with DHCA," said Evans. "I also learned you can't please all the people all the time, and you have to make peace with that."

Evans' vision "is for all of the neighborhoods in our community to be healthy, prosperous and thriving." She campaigned on issues such as fully funding education at the state level, increasing teacher pay, and adjusting the state funding formula to follow disadvantaged students, and to increase economic mobility and higher wages and work to end the income gap in Metro Atlanta. She won the election with 65 percent of the whole district, including sizeable percentages in areas where she was not previously known. "I feel very humbled by that," said Evans. "I feel like those statistics affirm that people are ready for change and that people are willing to support someone who looks different from them."

While she knows that much of her work in the legislature will depend on which committees she serves on, Evans hopes she'll be able to focus on her campaign issues as well as promoting safe neighborhoods. She would also like to be known as a green energy champion and advocate for changes in the juvenile justice system "so kids have a chance to turn their lives around."

Above all, Evans says she intends to be "accountable and transparent" and hopes to improve communications with her constituents. For more information or be added to her email newsletter, contact becky@beckyevans.com or visit beckyevans.com.



save money. save a pet's life.

shop. donate. volunteer.

Two upscale thrift stores benefiting animal rescues

Over \$1 Million donated

1 N. & 89 N. Clarendon Ave.
Avondale Estates | Closed Mondays

secondlifeatlanta.org

Patriotic Celebration

The weather couldn't have been better for a terrific turnout of patriots for the annual Druid Hills 4th of July Parade. Young and old dressed in their red, white and blue gathered at the corner of Oakdale and The Byway for this spirited neighborhood tradition. They paraded the route on foot, in strollers or wagons, on bicycles, scooters or in vintage automobiles. Special thanks to all participants, including our one-of-a-kind marching band and Boy Scout troop 18, along with the volunteers who organized our 2018 Independence Day parade event. See you next year!



Photo credit:
Kelly Jordan



Photo credit:
Kelly Jordan

Security Camera Pilot Program In Place ...continued from cover

For DHCA reference on a data request, you will need to get the Police Report number that is created as a result of your call to 911. Next: Call, or email, your Druid Hills Flock Safety representative to request the camera footage for the date/time period that may be of assistance to the police in the apprehension of people involved in the incident at your home. Information that you will be required to provide when requesting data will include: your name, address, phone, email, and any other contact information; Police Report number and date filed; Date and time frame the incident took place.

Druid Hills' Flock Safety representative will access the data and forward to APD or homeowner.

If the police do not file an official report as a result of your call, but you believe a crime has been committed and wish to request the camera footage, please give



all the information to your Flock Safety Representative and request a waiver from DHCA Executive Committee that the information be provided to you personally.

Flock Safety is launching a new feature called the SafeList that allows residents to register vehicles with the service. In the event of a crime, footage can be accessed and shared with the police. If a neighbor's license plate is on the SafeList, any footage of their vehicle will be marked as "resident." This is just one of many new benefits Flock hopes to provide for Druid Hills over the next few months with this safety initiative. Division 1 residents may register at flocksafety.com/druidhills.

DHCA is pleased to administer this Pilot Project to reduce street crimes and other unwanted invasion and activity on our private properties. For more information, contact president@dhca.org or hello@flocksafety.com.

Teaching to the Goodness Within Every Child PreK3 - 8th Grade

The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA), nearby in Decatur, offers an exceptional academic program with individualized instruction every step of the way. Joyful learners come together in small, diverse classes where they gain the confidence to become their best selves as students and engaged citizens.

FSA is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year, class space permitting. Come learn more about the values-based education that supports student success. To schedule a tour, contact Alvanita Negron, Director of Admissions, at anegron@friendsschoolatlanta.org; 404-373-8746 x8132.



THE FRIENDS SCHOOL
OF ATLANTA

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



President's Column ...continued from page 3

Chair Steven Misner. Druid Hills has many "Pocket Parks" that are meant to be enjoyed by residents and their guests. Some are lovingly maintained with annual workdays organized by neighbors. Others are in decline and ignored. DHCA is willing to contribute funds if a group of residents will organize clean-up and work-days. Please contact your DHCA Division Chair.

The Lullwater Conservation Garden is owned and maintained by the Lullwater Garden Club. The Garden was awarded a national honor of "Old Growth Forest" on April 25, 2017 with a speech and reception at Emory University. The property is lovingly maintained by Club members who are residents of Druid Hills.

Two **volunteer** organizations - DHCA and OLPA - partnered to host the 1st Annual Picnic in the Park on a lovely fall Sunday afternoon in 2017. Over 350 neighbors came to Dellwood Park to enjoy music, games, and see old friends. Plans are underway for an even better event on September 23, 2018. The Ice Cream Truck will be giving away free ice cream treats courtesy of Druid Hills Civic Association in celebration of our 80th Anniversary! There will be music, a volleyball team challenge (let me know if you have a group that would like to participate!), lots of games for all ages, a tour of the Cator Woolford Gardens at the Frazer Center, food samples from area restaurants, and lots more! Mark your calendar and make your reservations at www.druidhills.org/events.

Even on the business side, we get advice and help from **volunteer** professionals. As an 80-year-old organization, DHCA is aware that we must stay current and our governance must reflect the times in which we live. In June we held a Board Education Session where we enlightened Directors on the functions and status of major committees such as Finance and Land Use. This year we plan to adopt a *Board Code of Conduct* and a *DHCA Process* for proposals that come before the Board requesting a public statement or Resolution. The Board has been ably advised by Phil Moise who served as Chair of our Governance Committee.

Volunteers are needed for a big project to clean up and restore the "Twittens"! DHCA will plan, organize, and direct what needs to be done, but we'll need lots of hands-on helpers to accomplish this task. We will start this fall with the group of Twittens that connect Springdale/Oxford/Oakdale. The idea is to continue until all the ByWalks/ Maids' Walks/Twittens in the university streets and Emory Grove are restored as well. If you know of Scout troops, fraternal organizations, garden clubs, or any other groups looking for community service projects, please let me know: president@druidhills.org

As President of DHCA, I want to publicly say **THANK YOU** to all the **VOLUNTEERS** who make Druid Hills a neighborhood to be proud of!



for her

for him

Four stores with on-trend and in-demand fashions and accessories for you and your home.

for home

Finders Keepers Consignments | fkconsign.com
 AVONDALE ESTATES • DECATUR

1609 S. Ponce Re-Development

By Alida C. Silverman for the Landmark District Preservation Committee

Redevelopment of 1609 South Ponce de Leon Avenue from a single family into a multi-family property received two Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs) from the Atlanta Urban Design Commission in August, 2017 and May, 2018 respectively. The property is located next to Jackson Hill Baptist Church/"Pinebloom" just east of Lullwater Creek and Freedom Park East.

The first COA approved division of the 1922 Smith & Pringle home into two condominium units as well as expansion of the carriage house as two guest suites. No external features of the house or property were to be altered except for a new shed dormer on the rear façade. The front of the lot remains the same in appearance: classic Druid Hills.

The first COA separated for another hearing the then-proposed addition of six "cottages" (almost 4500 square feet) and their garages around a motor court in the rear of the lot to be served by a new driveway accessed from Clifton Terrace. In addition, a separate COA application for a variance to reduce the setback from 168 feet to 35 feet from Clifton Terrace was denied. The Commission adopted the staff recommendation for denial because all four requirements for a variance had not been met.

The second COA approved an amended proposal: four "cottages" and parking arbors in a different configuration, though architectural features were to be altered in order to look more like appropriate secondary structures to the main house. A "native garden" in the rear yard was included to further that rear yard goal. This time a variance for a 100-foot setback was recommended and approved.

The Landmark District Preservation Committee held several on-site visits in the course of this redevelopment's application process. Per its mission, the Committee's focus was on upholding the Druid Hills Landmark District ordinance. The Committee supported the staff's recommendations on the first (revised) COA application. (Initially, the application proposed enclosing the porte-cochere and routing the driveway around to the rear. This destruction of the historic circulation system could not be supported.).

The Committee could not support the second COA application because the historic circulation system was being altered in an inappropriate, incompatible manner. No Druid Hills lots in the Landmark District have a driveway from the rear serving homes. The effect was one of a de facto cul-de-sac subdivision dividing the lot cross-wise. Only an extended walkway from the rear of the main house connects to the rear. However, the staff report made no mention of the driveway from the rear. All three multi-family redevelopments granted COAs have maintained the historic circulation system: Paradiso, The Adair Estate, and 1200 Ponce. The Committee continued to oppose the variance application even at the revised 100 feet.

Adjacent neighbors opposed both applications and had an attorney speak for them at the May hearing in addition to a neighbor-spokesperson. Per LDPC practice, adjacent neighbors are included in on-site visits.



Patillo Woolford House, Photo credit: Compliments of Dr. Robert M. Craig from his book The Architecture of Francis Palmer Smith.



Note: Ponce de Leon Avenue – north side and South Ponce – has a wider range of uses than the "side streets" of Fairview, Springdale, Oakdale, and Lullwater Roads and Lullwater Parkway. There was a trade-off at the time of development of the Druid Hills ordinance in order to keep the so-called side streets single-family only. North side of Ponce lots are wider and often larger, and beginning after World War II the area experienced decline. The ordinance clearly protects the layout, spatial relationships, and environmental character of the Olmsted design, but provides for other-than residential uses within a framework of density controls.

Neighborhood Watch Program

By Thea Roeser

The Druid Hills Civic Association has reactivated the Neighborhood Watch program and is currently soliciting Neighborhood Watch Street Captains.

The National Neighborhood Watch, a division of the National Sheriffs' Association, offers the following description of this much-proven crime prevention program on their website.

"Since its beginnings, Neighborhood Watch has grown from an extra 'eyes and ears' approach to crime prevention to a much more proactive, community-oriented endeavor providing a unique infrastructure that brings together local officials, law enforcement, and citizens for the protection of their communities. Law enforcement has uncovered an important reality: the communities in which citizens have observed and reported suspicious activity have enjoyed lower crime rates."

The duties of a Neighborhood Watch Street Captains are: 1) to maintain a contact list for every house on their street. The list is shared only with others on the street list and only used for the purpose of Neighborhood Watch; 2) to forward email alerts and crime prevention tips from the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator to their list. Street captains are communicators only. If a crime does occur, the victim calls the police and notifies their street captain (who will contact the other residents on the street as well as the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator).

The Neighborhood Watch Coordinators send out crime reports about every two weeks to their street captains. These reports are meticulously compiled by our Coordinators, using crimemapping.com. The DeKalb County Police verify the reports and add descriptions. (Note, currently Atlanta's crime reporting system is down.) These crime reports not only help our community to remain vigilant, but pinpoint streets that might be experiencing an increase in crime, especially car break-ins, our top crime problem. "If you leave it, they'll retrieve it".

To become a Neighborhood Watch Street Captain, you don't have to belong to the DHCA or the Druid Hills Patrol. However, membership in both organizations helps to protect our great community.



We currently have Street Captains for 21 streets and condo communities.

So please consider becoming a Neighborhood Watch Street Captain. Contact us and we'll help you get started. Let's all have the peace of mind that neighbors are watching out for each other.

Contact information: Neighborhood Watch Coordinators, Ellen Meshnick (DeKalb) and Jennifer Moore (City of Atlanta), neighborhoodwatch@druidhills.org. Public Safety Committee, Thea Roeser, publicsafety@druidhills.org

It takes a community to care for our homeless and death row dogs & cats!

PLEASE HELP SAVE A LIFE TODAY!

Donate
(Tax deductible: Monetary or Supplies)

Foster or Adopt

Check us out online to view our "Pet of the week" and all our awesome dogs and cats listed on PetFinder.com looking for a forever or a loving foster home! Dates available on our website for PetSmart adoption days.

 www.GreenPetsAmerica.org • [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GreenPetsAmerica) /GreenPetsAmerica

GPAA is a non-profit 501(c)(3). We rely solely on the contributions of donors.



**Bye-bye, chore.
Hello, bliss!**

- * Your home cleaning on a regular schedule
- * Licensed, insured & bonded
- * No tie-down contracts

Get acquainted with us at
ilovehomecleanhome.com
770-450-5955
Home Clean Home, LLC | 3904 N. Druid Hills Rd. #322 | Decatur, GA 30033

Druid Hills Luminaries: *Rev. Dr. James L. Waits and Fentress Waits*

By Jennifer J. Richardson

When Jim Waits was a teenager, he wanted to attend Georgia Tech and become an architect. His life took a different turn, but he still became one of several architects who helped shape the Candler School of Theology at Emory.

Born in Ellisville, Miss. in 1935, Jim was active in the Methodist Church and its youth groups growing up. One week in 1957, Jim's youth group decided to meet with a similar organization at a black church in Hattiesburg, Miss. At this meeting, Jim answered the call for full-time Christian service as a minister.

"When word got out about what had happened," Jim recalled, "my home church called a meeting to 'discuss things because white kids had gone to a black church.'" As a result of this experience, Jim began to think about racial inclusiveness—which did not exist in the churches of his home state. So instead of Tech, he attended Millsaps College, a small Methodist college in Jackson, Miss. followed by Yale University in 1961 and University of Chicago in 1967. He decided to return to Mississippi to begin his ministry because of the racial issues facing his state.

James Waits accepted a job as Director of Youth Work for the Methodist Conference in Mississippi in 1961, and a young woman sitting across from him at his office was the editor of *Quest*, a publication for Mississippi Methodist youth. Thus did Jim meet his future wife, Fentress, and the couple married in 1965.

Jim's next move was to Epworth Methodist Church in Biloxi, Miss. Moved by James Meredith's struggles to enter the University of Mississippi, James helped draft "The Born of Convictions Statement," a document denouncing the inequality of segregated schools in Mississippi and signed by 28 young Methodist preachers. The first sentence of this document reads as follows: "Confronted with the grave crises precipitated by racial discord within our state in recent months, and the genuine dilemma facing persons of Christian conscience, we are compelled to voice publicly our convictions."

The document was published in both the *Mississippi Methodist Advocate* newspaper and the *New York Times* where it achieved nationwide attention. The signers experienced backlash by some Mississippi racists. Aside from rude remarks, Jim did not have rocks thrown at his home or receive threats, but some of the 28 signers left Mississippi because of the ugliness they endured. In a fascinating history about the courage of these individuals, Joseph T. Reiff, a professor and chair of the department of Emory and Henry College meticulously researched and wrote about the Born of Conviction document in his book *Born of Conviction: White Methodists and Mississippi's Closed Society* (2015, Oxford University Press).



George and Fentress Waits

When Dr. Laney was named President of Emory University, Jim was appointed the sixth ever Dean of Candler School of Theology, where he served for 13 years. Waits also became involved in the accreditation of theology schools throughout the United States. When he retired as Dean, Waits became Executive Director of the Association of Theological Schools.

While Dean of Candler, Waits made significant contributions. He supported diversity in theological education; advocated for the rights of minorities and women; appointed the first woman faculty member to a tenure-track position, and he increased diversity in both the faculty and student body. He realized the construction of Cannon Chapel on the Emory Campus, which was dedicated in 1981. Inside the new chapel, creative worship, dance, and concerts were presented, thus setting the stage for Cannon's future as a place for innovative and cutting edge worship and performances. Jim actively recruited dynamic and inventive faculty for Candler and renewed a scholarship fund originally founded by Dr. Benjamin Mays in order to attract minority students and women. He pursued rigorous development plans to acquire donations for Candler. During this period, Waits also served as the founding director of the Carter Center for two years.

Throughout his professional career, his wife, Fentress, stood by his side and supported him. But she did far more than that, according to Jim Waits. "I was stimulated and challenged by Fentress Waits," said Jim. He related a story about when the couple first came to DeKalb County and Fentress went to register to vote. "They would register her as Mrs. James L. Waits, but not as Fentress Waits," he said with a smile. "Fentress was wearing a red dress, and when she heard she could not register under her own name, her face turned as red as that dress!" But Fentress Waits stood her ground. With help from the League of Women Voters and other groups, she was finally allowed to register as herself. "My support for feminism stems from this event," said Jim. Jim and Fentress have been married for 53 years and are parents to Jon Waits and Anita Akella, and Lauren Waits and Art Gambrell, and the grandparents of grandsons Harper, 19 and Crispin, 17 and Granddaughter Amelia, 13.

Jim has not really retired. The couple continues their work throughout the world, works with Habitat for Humanity, and both have served on the OLPA board—just to name a few things this remarkable couple has accomplished.

One wonders what Candler School of Theology might be like today without the guidance, leadership and architecture of Dean James Waits—and of course his wife Fentress—both Druid Hills Luminaries.

Disappearing Protestant Churches in Druid Hills/Emory Area

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Druid Hills, Emory, Candler Park and Lake Claire are filled with the magnificent structures used for mainline Protestant Christian worship. Today, many of the buildings remain, but the congregations have vanished and their buildings have been re-purposed.

Emory Baptist Church on North Decatur road was purchased by Emory University for a music studio and performance space after the congregation there merged with other Baptists and sold the property. Lake Claire Baptist on McLendon Avenue was closed, sold, and turned into condominiums.

Druid Hills Baptist Church facing Ponce de Leon was once the largest Baptist congregation in the Alliance of Baptists (now Southern Baptist Mission Board) and was home to "Mr. Baptist" pastor Louis Newton. Newton was a charismatic leader and writer; the church had a thriving music program; and in the early days famous gospel singer Hovie Lister was a regular performer. This church, founded in 1914 and designed by Edward Dougherty, sold property to its south for condominiums and has become "The Church at Ponce and Highland" affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists.

Jackson Hill Baptist Church, located on the Pinebloom Estate on South Ponce de Leon was established in 1895 and moved to its current location in the late 1950s. The property was donated to the Georgia Baptist Mission Board around 20 years ago. There are fewer than 25 members of Jackson Hill and the property is in the process of being sold and turned into condominiums and a residential community in the rear of the church. Though in North Decatur, the Scott Boulevard Baptist Church, once an icon at the corner of North Decatur Road and Scott Boulevard, has been demolished and "The Point on Scott" condominiums replace it. Apparently Druid Hills Presbyterian church has also suffered a decline in membership, according to a source there.

Druid Hills United Methodist Church moved to the corner of Briarcliff and Ponce de Leon in the 1950s. The church was founded more than 100 years ago. Because of a reduction in membership and an inability to fully maintain such large buildings, the church merged with Epworth United Methodist on McLendon in Candler Park two years ago. The church buildings and property have been sold to a company called Minerva, and the buildings, including the sanctuary designed by architects Ivey & Crook, will be repurposed into condominiums. Epworth Church, with whom Druid Hills merged, was also experiencing a decline in membership and struggled with maintaining its physical plant. Now re-named "The Community Church," it's still affiliated with the United Methodist Church and is meeting for worship at Mary Lin School while its buildings are being renovated.

I asked Rev. Dr. James Waits, Retired Dean of Candler School of Theology, what was going on.

"We've had a general loss of church membership in this country in the last twenty or so years," he said. "A number of churches have failed, and we're seeing a decline in church affiliation. There has been a general and definite change in religious life. For awhile evangelicals

survived this decline. But due to the secularization in the country, and of church and religious life, now even the Evangelicals are declining."

But, why? That 'why' is still being studied. Waits points to a 2016 article by the Pew Charitable Trust titled, "The Factors Driving the Growth of Religious 'Nones' in the U.S." " 'Nones' are persons who are not affiliated with a denomination and have a decline of interest in religion and commitment to its structures," according to Waits. "You often hear people say they are spiritual but not religious," added Waits. "What this means," he continued. "Is that secularism and secular values have displaced religious values and that has had its effect on institutional religious groups. All mainline denominations have declined." What is the future of Christianity? "The biggest growth in church membership and Christian belief is coming from Africa right now," said Waits.

For more information on this subject, you can do a search on the Religious Landscape Survey published by the Pew Charitable Trust, or click on the link below to read about 'Nones'.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/09/14/the-factors-driving-the-growth-of-religious-nones-in-the-u-s/>

.....

ENGEL & VÖLKERS
Intown Atlanta
real estate advisor

Kit Eisterhold 404-874-6357

Upcoming Events at the Olmsted Linear Park

Saturday, October 13 - 10:00 am

Talk in the Park

Please join Jennie Richardson for the "Talk in the Park" Series on Saturday, October 13 at 10:00 am. A Talk in the Park is a guided tour of the first four segments of Olmsted Linear Park: Springdale, Virgilee, Oak Grove and Shady Side and includes history of Olmsted's work, development of the park and Druid Hills, stories of the prominent families that lived along the park, founding of the Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta and the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, history of the "Presidential Parkway" expressway and some flora and fauna.

The tour will begin at the corner of South Ponce de Leon Avenue and Springdale Road. Wear seasonal clothing and sensible shoes for walking. Bring optional items such as water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, camera, wildflower or tree guides. The



leader will have a first aid kit and cell phone for emergencies. If you bring your personal electronic devices, please mute them or turn them off. Tours will be rescheduled in case of rain or inclement weather. RSVP at atlantaolmstedpark@gmail.com

Saturday, October 20 - 9:00 am

Master Naturalist and Director of EcoAddendum, Kaythrn Kolb will lead a tour through Deepdene. For more information visit: <http://www.ecoaddendum.org/event/autumn-forest-walk-at-deepdene/> RSVP at atlantaolmstedpark@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Party for the Park on Ponce Gala Benefit Celebrates 15 Years; Sunday, February 24 at 6:30 pm, Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Help us celebrate the beautiful Olmsted Linear Park!



Emory Village

Save the Date: 6th Annual Open Streets Emory Village

Sunday, October 28, 2 to 6pm

Walk, bike, or roll into Emory Village for family friendly, car-free fun! Halloween parade, dog costume contest, local entertainment, puppet factory, climbing wall, circus performers and more! Mark your calendars now to be in Emory Village Sunday, October 28 from 2 until 6pm!

Interested in helping plan, sponsor, Or provide an activity? Please contact us: Shane Mixon, shane@saba-restaurant.com, (770-906-0070) or Becky Evans, becky@beckyevans.com (678-613-8942).

WHEN IT COMES TO ADVERTISING

BIGGER IS BETTER

Retractable **BANNER SALE**

\$90.00

GET 2 FOR **\$160.00**

The Natural Root
www.thenaturalroot.com
Perfect Balance between Health & Beauty

Decatur Atlanta Printing
205 Swanton Way
Decatur, GA 30030
404.378.4231
www.decaturatlantaprinting.com

STANDARD SIZE 33.5x65.7 INCLUDES CARRYING CASE

Partnerships and Volunteers Vital in Preserving Frazer Forest

By Dina Shadwell

Thanks to the beautiful landscape design of the Druid Hills neighborhood along the Ponce de Leon corridor, many people drive right by the Frazer Center without even realizing it, thus its reputation as a “hidden gem.” Now approaching its 70th anniversary, the Frazer Center is a non-profit that fosters inclusive communities for children and adults with and without disabilities. Its 39-acre campus, just off of South Ponce, includes the historic Cator Woolford Gardens, a social enterprise for Frazer that has been the site of countless weddings and events over the years. The remainder of the acreage is filled by an old-growth forest with a creek and walking trails that connect the Olmsted Linear Park (Dellwood section) to the Lake Claire neighborhood.

Frazer Forest is maintained by the Frazer Center, but since the Frazer Forest receives no city or county funding, Frazer Center depends on community partnerships for forestry maintenance. One such partnership is with Trees Atlanta, a nationally-recognized non-profit that protects and improves Atlanta’s urban forest by planting, conserving and educating. Frazer and Trees Atlanta are now entering the final phase of a 3-year forest restoration project. Frazer Center CEO Paige McKay Kubik says, “Frazer Center’s expertise is inclusion for people with disabilities, not forestry. That’s why we’re so thrilled and grateful to partner with Trees Atlanta to build a plan and a cadre of volunteers to preserve the wonderful Frazer Forest.”

The Friends of Frazer Forest is a volunteer group comprised mostly of neighbors who enjoy the forest and are dedicated to becoming stewards of the land. Trees Atlanta staff gather with volunteers during quarterly work days. They provide training to identify for removal any trees that pose a safety risk, as well as invasive plants that are harmful to the ecosystem. Trees Atlanta staff also visit the forest between these quarterly workdays. Posts are set up in various places throughout the forest so growth can be photographically monitored.

Frazer Forest is open to the public from sunup to sundown as long as there is not an event happening on the grounds, in which case, closed signs are posted at each trailhead. Leashed dogs are most welcome. If you would like to have a closer relationship with your neighborhood forest, please consider joining the Friends of Frazer Forest. Sign up at www.frazercenter.org/frazerforestfriends/ to be notified of the next work day with Trees Atlanta; or sign up for the Frazer Center newsletter by visiting www.frazercenter.org and clicking the Newsletter Signup button; or for more information, contact Dina Shadwell, Communications and Development Coordinator, at d.shadwell@frazercenter.org.

Website: www.frazercenter.org



School News

Both public and independent schools in Druid Hills were just welcoming students back when we reached out for School News, so many were unable to provide information for our early August deadline. Look for more complete news of our neighborhood schools in the November.

Ben Franklin Academy

Ben Franklin Academy began its 31st year on Monday, August 6. BFA is expanding its STEAM offerings this year to include a new Engineering course and enhancements to Environmental Science, Anatomy, and Biology courses as well as expanding offerings in Russian and Business/Marketing.

Congratulations to BFA students who have been recognized as College Board AP Scholars. AP Scholar with Distinction (students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, AND scores of three or higher on five or more of these exams): **Jonas Iskander, Harriet Mycroft, Isabelle Namnoum and Alex Warren.** The following students were recognized as AP Scholars (students who receive scores of three or higher on three or more AP exams): **Carole Anne Block, Adele McLees, Nina Plotko and Emma Tracy.**

On behalf of the school, BFA Head of School Dr. Martha Burdette received a copy of the AGC (Association of General Contractors) Award given to Emery and Associates, the construction company for

the recent expansion to Junior House. The project placed first in the category of expansions under \$5 million.

Paideia School

Izzy Pitman '18 was named a 2018 Georgia Positive Athlete of the Year for alternative sports. Izzy played varsity ultimate for Paideia for four years. Paideia was named most Positive School in the state.

The Paideia varsity boys' soccer team won first place in the 1A division and the varsity girls' ultimate team won the state championship. **Griffin McCauley '18** was named state champion in the 1600-meter competition for the second year in a row.

Paideia students placed in the United Nations International School Haiku Contest. **Amit Kamma** won first place, middle school; **Philip Salzinger**, second place, middle school; **Rohan Chanani**, third place, middle school, and **Emma Jones**, first place, high school.

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., appointed Paideia senior **Yani Alexander Assikis** to participate in the U.S. Senate Page Program in Washington, D.C. Assikis served as a Senate page from July 9 until August 3, 2018. In a statement, Isakson praised Yani's strong interest in politics and the legislative branch.



Looking for a new dentist in your neighborhood who:

- Is detailed and quality focused
- Teaches other dentists about cosmetics and implants
- Has 30 years of dental experience
- Has cosmetic, implant and restorative all under one roof
- Accepts all types of insurance
- Provides an uninsured dental benefits discount program

Look no further!

Ask about our lifetime guarantee

Dr. Peter V. Vanstrom

Comprehensive Dentist



Office 404-325-2905

2296 Henderson Mill Road
Suite 108
Atlanta, GA 30345

Email smile@vanstrom.com
www.artisticdentistryofatlanta.com

*Complimentary consult and 2nd opinion
Complimentary whitening for all
New Patients!*

TRINITY

NO. 116

MERCANTILE & DESIGN C2

ANNIVERSARY SALE

SEPTEMBER 15th - 29th



20% OFF

All Special Orders

25% OFF

Everything In Store

75% OFF

Select Items



DOWNTOWN DECATUR
116 East Trinity Place
trinity-decatour.com • (404) 378-0197



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Live Brilliantly



HammerSmith



404.377.1021

HammerSmith.net

Founded in 1991
by Warner McCaughey

**TECH
HAPPY**

PROFESSIONAL, POLITE ASSISTANCE
WITH YOUR TECHNOLOGY

SHE'S WIRED | WWW.SHESWIRED.COM
WE CAN HELP@SHESWIRED.COM | 404.935.9614

Painted Brick: What's the Big Deal?

By Amber Rhea

As a member of the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), I see many recurring issues and questions presented each month. One of the most common is the question of painting previously unpainted brick. Recently, the HPC approved minor modifications to the 1997 Druid Hills Local Historic District Design Manual, to rework wording that was unclear regarding the painting of previously unpainted brick. The updated wording clarifies the steps property owners must follow when considering painting brick; but is also crucial to understand why painted brick is such an important issue in the fields of architecture and historic preservation.

Much like in medicine, one of the cardinal rules of historic preservation is, "First, do no harm." Unfortunately, many people do not realize that painting previously unpainted brick is one of the most harmful things that can be done to a historic building. Brick is by its nature a porous material. Historic brick (that is, brick that is 50 years old or older) tends to be softer and slightly more porous than modern brick, due to changes in the manufacturing process. In order to maintain its strength and stability, brick needs to breathe. Like other materials, it will expand and contract with temperature and humidity. Brick's porous nature means that water absorbed will go through a natural freeze/thaw cycle that causes no damage to the structure. When properly maintained, brick will last for hundreds of years.

However, coating a brick structure with latex paint is akin to wrapping it in plastic. The paint fills and saturates the pores, and moisture will become trapped behind an impervious layer. Unable to continue the natural freeze/thaw cycle, the trapped moisture will cause the bricks to crack and spall ("spalling" occurs when the face of the brick, which is typically harder than the inside, crumbles or pops off). Ultimately, the brick will fail, resulting in structural damage. This is a fact based upon decades of sound research, observation, and preservation technology.

Another reason to avoid painting previously unpainted brick is that it creates a maintenance issue where none previously existed. Painted exteriors need to be repainted regularly, in contrast with the low-maintenance nature of unpainted brick.

What do you do if your historic structure was previously painted, but you would like to prevent further damage by removing the paint? It can be done! In accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, removal of paint should be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting is never recommended, as it will cause irreparable damage to historic brick. Safe options for removal include allowing the paint to deteriorate naturally; gently scraping off the paint by hand; or using a gel-based paint remover. Always consult a qualified historic preservation professional when planning to remove paint from historic brick, and have the paint tested for lead prior to beginning work.

What if you would like the look of painted brick without the damage that comes with it? First, consider the age, type, and style

of your property. Depending on its architectural features, altering its exterior in this way may not be historically appropriate. For example, one of the character-defining features of mid-20th century ranch houses is a red brick exterior. If this type of change is appropriate for your property, you can achieve the same look with stain or limewash. Both are safe treatments for exterior masonry that will not cause damage, as they allow brick to maintain its porousness and continue to release moisture. Limewash in particular may be a suitable choice for many houses in Druid Hills, depending on their architecture as it has been used as a surface treatment for thousands of years and is an affordable and environmentally friendly choice.

As a historic preservation professional, I believe that property owners are entitled to receive the most accurate information on how best to protect one of the soundest investments anyone can make – a historic home! So if you've ever wondered why the DeKalb County HPC and historic preservation professionals in general are so adamantly opposed to painting brick, now you know why. The unique character of Druid Hills is a non-renewable resource that deserves to be protected – and by avoiding damaging treatments such as painted brick, we can ensure that this beautiful historic district will maintain its integrity for generations to come.

References and further reading:

Grimmer, Anne E. "Preservation Brief 6: Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings," 1979.

Maick, Robert C. "Preservation Brief 1: The Cleaning and Waterproof Coating of Masonry Buildings," 1975.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Department of Interior regulations, 36 CFR 67).

Weaver, Martin. *Conserving Buildings*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997.

Young, Robert E. *Historic Preservation Technology*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2008.

KDA
communications

**Get noticed. Advertise.
Contact us Today!**

3300 Highlands Pkwy • Ste 100 | Smyrna, GA 30082
678.905.4842 | www.kda-communications.com



ATLANTA'S PREMIER SOD SUPPLY & INSTALLATION COMPANY

- ✓ No job too big or too small
- ✓ Residential & Commercial
- ✓ Free Estimates

Atlanta Sod
COMPANY

Bermuda • Zoysia • St. Augustine • Fescue

770-648-6004
atlantasodcompany.com



HEIRLOOM
DESIGN BUILD



Intown's local choice for:

- Design
- Renovations
- New Homes



...AS SEEN ON



CONTACT US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

(404) 537-1827

WWW.HEIRLOOMDESIGNBUILD.COM

PRESENTS
**The 6th Annual
Atlanta Kosher BBQ Festival**

October 21st
 11/AM-3:00 PM

1 Galambos Way
 Sandy Springs

CITY SPRINGS

Kids' Zone!
 Live Music!
 Kosher Vendors!

FAMOUS KOSHER BBQ COMPETITION!

AtlantaKosherBBQFestival
 @atikosherbbq

www.theatlantakosherbbq.com



Desta
Ethiopian
Kitchen

NOW OPEN!

LOCATED NEXT TO FRESH TO ORDER

1520 AVENUE PLACE SUITE B140, ATLANTA, GA 30329



  @EmoryPoint
Emory-Point.com

   @DestaEthiopian
DestaEthiopianKitchen.com



1 IN 3 DRUID HILLS HOUSES
were SOLD by Peggy Hibbert in 2017

PEOPLE TRUST PEGGY HIBBERT,
a 30-year Druid Hills resident and an Atlanta native, to sell their homes.

20

Average Days on the
Market when Listed By
Peggy Hibbert

98%

Sold-Price to List-Price
Ratio when Listed by
Peggy Hibbert



Do you want to know how much your property is worth?
Contact your Neighborhood Expert with Global Connections.

Proud Sponsor Druid Hills Tour of Homes and Olmsted Plein Air Art Invitational

PEGGY HIBBERT

#1 REALTOR®, DeKalb Board of REALTORS®
c. 404.444.0192 o. 404.874.0300
peggy@atlantafinehomes.com

Atlanta Fine
Homes

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

©MMXXVIII Sotheby's International Realty. Each Office Is Independently
Owned And Operated. Equal Housing Opportunity.



Mon.-Thur. 10-6 • Fri. 10-8
Sat. 10-6 • Sunday 12-5



2755 LaVista Road
Decatur, GA 30033
404-670-2226

Find us on 



www.queeniesconsignment.com

NOW ACCEPTING

Consignments of Designer's Women's
Clothing and Home Furnishings

SOLD!

by Bonnie Wolf

Better days ahead for...

1763 S. PONCE DE LEON AVENUE



Be on the look out for the Restoration and Renovation of 1763 S. Ponce De Leon Ave.

We applaud **Jonathan Rich, of POP Shop, LLC**, for his vision and efforts that will bring this abandoned house on 1.6 acres on Dellwood Park back to life as a single family residence.

Great news for S. Ponce and Druid Hills!
Stay tuned for progress updates.



BONNIE WOLF

C: 404-216-9296 | O: 404-255-9900

Bonnie.Wolf@HarryNorman.com

Bonnie.Wolf.HarryNorman.com



5290 Roswell Rd, Atlanta, GA 30342 HarryNorman.com

Information believed accurate, but not warranted. Offer subject to errors, changes, omissions, and withdrawal.



Listed at
\$650,000



1147 CLIFTON ROAD NE in Druid Hills

5 bedrooms | 3 full baths | Lush Gardens



5290 Roswell Rd, Atlanta, GA 30342 HarryNorman.com

Information believed accurate, but not warranted. Offer subject to errors, changes, omissions, and withdrawal.

PAM HUGHES

C: 404-626-3604

O: 404-250-9900

Pam.Hughes@HarryNorman.com