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Briarcliff Mansion Project Announced

By Laura VoisinGeorge, Architectural Historian

A proposal to renovate the Briarcliff estate into the Candler Mansion boutique hotel was presented at a meeting hosted by Emory University on September 28. Father and son developers, Jerry and Rawson Daws of Republic Property of Atlanta, are working with Smith Dalia Architects (SDA) on the concept for a 54-room hotel on nine and one-half acres of the property at Briarcliff and University Drive.

The future of the mansion has concerned the Druid Hills neighborhood for some time. It was built in 1923, by prominent Atlanta architect Charles Frazier, for Asa "Buddie" Candler, Jr. on a farm property that had belonged to Buddie's father, Asa G. Candler, Sr., the founder of the Coca-Cola Company and one of the developers of Druid Hills. The three-story Georgian Revival mansion with a full-height semi-circular entry portico shows the influence of the Colonial Revival style that melded Classical elements into colonial-inspired building forms and design palettes, which was then at the height of its popularity in prosperous communities across the coun-

try. The mansion's living and hospitality rooms were on the first floor, with seven bedrooms on the second floor and a ballroom on the third floor. The ornate wood-paneled music room with a 30' ceiling (later named DeOvies Hall) was added in 1925. Four levels of terraces descended the slope below the house to a sunken garden. The estate's original 42 acres also housed a nine-hole golf course and two tennis courts, a garage with servants' quarters above the vehicle bays, two greenhouses (built about 1923 and refurbished in 1987), and Candler's private zoo. In addition, Candler built a swimming pool and bathhouse in front of the house in 1933 (opened to the neighborhood as the Briarcliff Gardens during the Depression years), as well as an electricity-generating plant and a commercial laundry facility that provided free service to military personnel stationed in Atlanta.

The Candlers sold the property to the federal government in 1948 to become the site of a Veterans Administration hospital. After

Continued on page 10

The July 4th Parade: Forty Years and Counting

By Phil Moise

The day dawned hot and muggy, perfect weather for the 40th edition of the annual Druid Hills Four of July parade. The 200+ marchers, strollers, skaters and cyclists of all ages were pleased to see that, as usual, the parade did not suffer from over-organization. Precisely at 11 a.m.—or thereabouts—at the corner of Oakdale Road and The Byway, as the gathering crowd milled around blocking traffic and greeting old friends, the Lesser Druid Hills Marching Band, seven strong this year and again led by intrepid band leader

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Druid Hills residents march in July 4 parade
Photo courtesy of Phil Moise

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President's Column

By Anne Wallace

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Druid Hills has been in the news! The Druid Hills Civic Association and the volunteers who serve on our Board and committees try to ensure that the news is "Good News"!

- *INTOWN Atlanta* published an article about our designation as a National Wildlife Community. The NWF Certificate was presented at OLPAs Road Reunion in Dellwood Park in August celebrating the 25th Anniversary of "Stop the Road" (more on p. 27).
- The *AJC* announced "Emory University has begun looking into the process of annexation into the city of Atlanta" and Charles Seabrook wrote, "Fernbank Forest restoration is on the right track."
- *Curbed Atlanta* published reports that the Briarcliff Mansion will be restored as a boutique hotel (more on p. 1).
- *Great American Country* says, "... Druid Hills has evolved into one of the city's most affluent neighbor-

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Are you interested in preserving the Druid Hills community and shaping its future? The nominating committee is now seeking candidates to serve on the 2017 Board of the Druid Hills Civic Association. For more information, please visit the Civic Association website at www.druidhills.org.

hoods while remaining a tight-knit community."

- *Decatur Living* magazine featured an annual neighborhood festival at "Open Streets Emory Village." DHCA supports this event each year with a significant donation and a tent offering information on DHCA Membership and New Resident Bags.

These articles offer a glimpse of the variety of important neighborhood issues that have kept DHCA busy the past 6 months:

Clifton Road is undergoing a redesign as it traverses the main Emory campus from N. Decatur Rd. heading north, and negotiations are continuing with MARTA regarding a light rail line from the Lindbergh Station.

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

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Published by Volunteers

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Share your thoughts and write for the DHCA news! Your articles and letters are welcome! Submit to JJRichar@bellsouth.net

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*Looking for a chair • **Looking for a co-chair

President's Column ...continued from page 3

Road Safety Audits (RSA) have been conducted on Ponce de Leon and Briarcliff Rd. by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to evaluate what can be done to accommodate the increasing volume of traffic and improve safety. DHCA's Transportation Committee and Landmark District Preservation Committee are actively involved in monitoring these studies.

DHCA partnered with Trees Atlanta again this year to participate in their NeighborWoods program, planting trees every fall in an effort to maintain our beautiful tree canopy. A new "Walk Druid Hills" group invites you to join them once a month to enjoy the trees and parks with your neighbors on a Saturday morning.

We've been working closely with our county commissioners, city council representatives, state legislators, and other civic association representatives to constantly monitor and shape comprehensive plans, proposed legislation, annexation initiatives, commercial and residential developments, and elections that could potentially affect Druid Hills. It is a daunting task and we could use your help. There are two ways you can do that:

1. Become a DHCA member. November is time for our annual Fall Membership Campaign. Every resident of Druid Hills will be receiving a letter from me in the mail asking that you join the civic association. If you are a current member, you will receive a reminder to renew via Wild Apricot, our new membership database program. If you are not yet a member and need convincing, please read my article in this issue answering the question "Why Belong?" (page 5). Dues are for the calendar year; if you join now, you are paying 2017 dues.

2. Volunteer to serve on the Board, as a Division Chair, or on a committee. DHCA needs your talent and your time. We desperately need a Communications VP on the Board and have a few other vacancies as well. Please contact me if you would like to become more active.

We welcome your ideas and participation as we work to preserve and protect our wonderful and unique neighborhood. Feel free to contact me or any DHCA board member with any questions or concerns.

Welcome Dr. Sterk: Emory's New President



Dr. Claire Sterk is Emory University's new president.

Dr. Claire Sterk, long-time Druid Hills resident, has been named the new president of Emory University. With this appointment Dr. Sterk becomes the first female president in the University's history. A native of the Netherlands, Sterk came to Atlanta to work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is internationally known in the field of public health. She later assumed faculty positions at Georgia State University, The Rollins School of Public Health and Emory University. Dr. Sterk's most recent position at Emory has been that of Provost. The Emory Board of Trustees was unanimous in its selection of Sterk as Emory's new president.

Dr. Sterk is married to Dr. Kirk Elifson, who is also her research partner. Dr. Sterk has been on the board of Southfork Conservancy

and Dr. Elifson is a past president and board member of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance.

The entire Druid Hills community congratulates Dr. Sterk on her appointment as President of Emory University and wishes her the greatest success in all her endeavors. We are proud to have you in our midst!

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DHCA 2017 Annual Meeting
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Druid Hills Civic Association – Why Belong?

By Anne H. Wallace

Around 1890, Joel Hurt purchased 1,492 acres to create “the ideal residential suburb” of parks, woods, and winding roads. Mr. Hurt summoned Frederick Law Olmsted, creator of Central Park in New York City, to Atlanta to design the picturesque Druid Hills. Long-lasting covenants were adopted by Asa Candler and his partners to maintain the natural beauty and residential character of Olmsted’s plans as they began the development of the suburb in 1905.

Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA) was founded in 1938 because of concerns about the public school, but the organization quickly became involved in planning and zoning, speeding, loitering, and the pinball machines in Emory Village. On the agenda during World War II was a problem with rats in the victory gardens and plans for a war housing project on N. Decatur Rd. From that point on, DHCA would fight to defend the covenants and design of Olmsted and to preserve the historic beauty of Druid Hills.

Today, Druid Hills is composed of almost 4,000 addresses and over 15,000 residents. There are three local governmental jurisdictions: City of Atlanta, City of Decatur, and Unincorporated DeKalb County.

DHCA operates with a Board of almost 50 volunteers. Residents share their time and professional expertise by serving on the Board in their chosen capacities.

What does DHCA do and why should you become a member?

DHCA is known for fierce advocacy. Fighting to protect the neighborhood from everything from rats to roads; continuous preservation efforts to save Callanwolde, Fernbank Forest, and Fernbank Science Center; lobbying for national historic designations and recognitions as well as local Historic Preservation Acts that provide a

means to stop unsolicited development . . . these are just some of the many significant accomplishments of the civic association.

DHCA negotiates for your neighborhood. Whether it be MARTA, GA Department of Transportation, Emory University, or a developer with grandiose designs, DHCA has a powerful voice that commands respect.

DHCA brings you opportunities. The annual “NeighborWoods” partnership with Trees Atlanta entices residents to plant trees, replacing the old ones that are lost each year and thereby helping to maintain our significant tree canopy. Neighbors worked with National Wildlife Federation to certify Druid Hills as a Wildlife Community, a tribute to our commitment to preserve the nature of our surroundings for the good of all who live here.

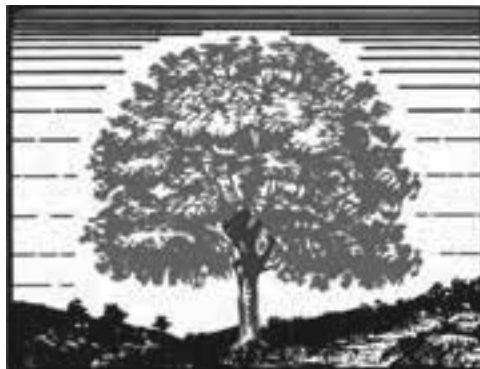
DHCA celebrates with you. The Annual Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour showcases the lifestyle of our neighborhood. In 2018, we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Tour! In 2016, we celebrated with Olmsted Linear Park Alliance the 25th Anniversary of the successful “Stop the Road” campaign that saved our beautiful linear parks. The Druid Hills 4th of July Parade has continued for 40 years with families who have grown up here welcoming new residents to our traditions and celebrating our independence.

While Preservation is of utmost importance, it does not mean we oppose Progress. It does mean that DHCA must insist that progress be mindful of our values and the Historic District guidelines. DHCA is the custodian of the Druid Hills community as it evolves through the decades and as we prepare for future generations. Please join us in active participation by becoming a member today! Visit our website at <http://druidhills.org/> and click “JOIN US!”

Welcome Susan Baker, New DHCA News Managing Editor

This issue is the first DHCA News produced without the invaluable personal touch of former Managing Editor and Communication Director Claudia Keenan. After serving the DHCA in myriad ways over the years, and earning a “volunteer of the year” award, Claudia has moved back home to New York City. We wish her the greatest success in all endeavors and thank her for her service—as we continue to miss her.

Our new Managing Editor is Susan Baker. Susan has been a resident of Druid Hills for 33 years, where she raised her three adult children with the help of Fernbank School, Druid Hills High School and Chamblee Magnet School. After earning a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Susan moved to Druid Hills and worked



at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 11 years. She then became an independent consultant serving CDC and public health agencies at the local, state, national and international levels. A major part of her consulting work is translating complicated science writing into usable, digestible products for front-line public health practitioners—often in the form of guidelines, training programs, strategic plans, journal articles and analytic reports.

Susan and her husband, Rick Gilkey, like to sail and swim, and can often be seen walking Deepdene and other parks and streets in Druid Hills. We welcome Susan and thank her for her contributions to this and future issues of the DHCA News.

July 4th Parade ...continued from page 1

Mark Rosenberg, signaled the start of the parade with a rousing rendition of "America the Beautiful" or another selection from its immense five-song repertoire. Decked out in its best red, white and blue all-American attire, the crowd stepped off smartly—at least the band did; everyone else ambled, moseyed, sashayed and generally made their way around the regular parade route, saluting and waving to the applauding residents along The Byway, Springdale Road, North Decatur Road and back down Oakdale Road, led and protected by the Druid Hills Patrol car and stopping occasionally to be entertained by the Band. When asked whether the band practiced for the parade, Mark Rosenberg said, "Yes, we practice one time on the 4th of July for next year's parade."

At the end of the parade the parched paraders gathered for lemonade, watermelon, cookies and conversation on Phil and Caroline Moïse's front lawn, giving everyone a chance to see how the children had grown and the oldsters had slowed in the year since the last parade. The corps of volunteers serving the crowd included first-timers and those with years of service at many past parades. As a special treat, Station Number 1 (Clifton Road) of DeKalb County Fire Rescue provided a real-live fire engine to the delight of children of all ages.

Thanks to everyone from DHCA and beyond who helped make this year's parade one of the highlights of the neighborhood calendar.

The History of the Druid Hills Fourth of July Parade

By Claudia Edwards, as told to her by husband Louis Edwards

(Reprinted from the Druid Hills News nine years ago)

Juanita Edwards, my mother-in-law who lived in Druid Hills, started the Fourth of July Parade. In the early 1970's, Juanita had been taking her children to the WSB (Channel 2) Parade downtown and wished there was a neighborhood parade instead. In 1976, the Bicentennial year, she decided she would organize a parade. She put up a couple of signs and started the parade at The By Way and Oakdale.

At 2 p.m., on that cloudy and drizzly July 4th, the first parade had 20 participants (five of those being the Edwards family). They paraded, without a police escort, up The By Way to Oxford to N. Decatur and down Oakdale. On N. Decatur, the 20 patriotic souls just walked down the sidewalk to Oakdale since they did not have an escort. Ward Edwards and Dick Hubert played trombone. John Freeman played clarinet. Laura and Marianne Mayer played the flute and piccolo. Louis Edwards played the snare drum and did the cadences. Donald Mayer played the bass drum that Ward (Louis's dad) made from a collection barrel of a shop vac. Louis recalls it being a lot of fun and Juanita was either carrying the flag or playing a tambourine.

The next year, she put out a couple more signs and called a couple of people to increase attendance. She arranged a police escort and she

moved up the time of the parade so people who were running the Peachtree Road Race could participate. She also talked to Bucky Johnson, the band director at DHHS, who provided old band sheet music parts for patriotic songs. Juanita decided the band needed a name and she did not want to insult or compete with the DHHS band so she called this band the Lesser Druid Hills Marching Band. That year, the band had a practice and as Louis recalls, there was hardly anyone there.

When the Edwards family arrived at the parade that year, they could not believe the number of people: 75+. The following year it was much bigger and Louis does think that it grows every year. Now, Juanita's grandchildren are in the parade. Her first grandchild made her debut a decade ago at 3 months old in a Baby Bjorn (baby carrier).

Louis says that his mother thought it was a lot of fun and was happy people enjoyed it. The neighborhood parade was perfect because it was fun and involved everyone. Juanita would love the way the tradition has carried on. It is exactly what she had hoped might become of it. So, make your way to the parade next year in honor of Juanita Edwards who passed away in 1996, and as she would want—HAVE FUN!

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Multi-Use Trail Update

By Kim Storbeck for the Lullwater Preservation Coalition

As many of you know there has been discussion about the possibility of integrating a multi-use trail on Lullwater Road. A lot has transpired and this article is a brief summary.

- Last August, the Urban Land Institute, at the request of the Emory Village Alliance, presented several ideas that concerned improving the safety at various intersections along Ponce de Leon in our neighborhood. They also presented some ideas about generating more traffic for the Emory Village area. As a result of these initial conversations, the PATH Foundation began thinking about a multi-use trail down Lullwater Road.
- On March 28, 2016, a town meeting was called by the DHCA to allow PATH to introduce several “design” concepts to the community and City and DeKalb County officials.
- Although hosted by the DHCA, it is important to note that both the Emory Village Alliance and the DHCA remained neutral about any of the various concepts that were discussed.
- Some of the neighbors in the area did not react positively to the presented concepts and the Lullwater Preservation Coalition (LPC) was formed. Intended to be an organization that represents the “best interests” of the primary stakeholders, the LPC continues to meet and discuss various options.
- The LPC presented petitions and letters to the Executive Committee of the DHCA opposing the options that had been presented by PATH Foundation on March 28 at the DHCA Town Hall.
- While the DHCA decided to remain neutral about the concepts, Anne Wallace, President of the DHCA, arranged to meet with Ed McBrayer, head of the PATH Foundation. The outcome of that meeting was an acknowledgement that the options that were presented on March 28th did not meet the approval of the primary stakeholders. These options have been removed from PATH’s website and will not be pursued. It was further decided that the LPC needed to move forward itself representing the primary stakeholders in Druid Hills to the PATH foundation.
- Lisa Harper was selected to represent the LPC as a spokesperson. In that capacity, she met with Ed McBrayer in August.
- The following items are of primary concern:
 1. The city and the county continue to evaluate various “connectivity issues” within their purviews. This includes pedestrian safety, bike trails and pedestrian walkways. The LPC wants to remain “in the know”

about these various initiatives thereby retaining our leverage.

2. A large group of stakeholders do not want parking to be limited to only one side of Lullwater.
 3. The majority of the stakeholders oppose utilization of the “right of way” spaces on either side of Lullwater Road for any kind of trail, path, etc.
 4. A majority of the stakeholders are concerned about the environmental impact to the tree canopy along the street.
- Next steps: The LPC will schedule a stakeholder meeting to review all of the above. After that a meeting with PATH, their designer and various constituents will be rescheduled.

It is important that we keep the conversations going. The city, the county and GDOT have been known to move forward with their own plans. The only way we can get to a solution that works for all is to stay engaged and keep an open mind.

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United Methodist Churches Merge

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Druid Hills United Methodist Church has been a bold landmark at the corner of Ponce de Leon and Briarcliff for 61 years. On Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016, services convened for the final time in the sanctuary. The next Sunday, Easter, the congregation met in their new home: the former Epworth United Methodist Church on McLendon Avenue in Candler Park. The two churches have merged and are calling themselves “The New Church”—at least for now.

When Druid Hills Methodist was founded in 1910, its first home was close to where the Carter Center is now on the Freedom Parkway. Their second home was at the corner of Seminole and Blue Ridge Avenues. In 1952, the church acquired the former Judge Candler home and property on Ponce de Leon. Ironically, Judge Candler’s home was the first to be built in Druid Hills and the first to be demolished. The church hired the firm of Ivey and Crook to construct a new church. The design of red brick with white trim featured a two-story portico with columns and a classical steeple. The sanctuary seated 800 and the complex consisted of a Sunday school building, chapel, an area which would later become a preschool, play yard, and gym. The parsonage for the church was “Green Gables,” next door to the church. When the house ceased being used for the pastor, it became the Church’s Community Center—a place that distributed free food, clothing and other supplies to needy people.

The first service in the new church was held in 1955, with Mr. Ernest Ivey, a parishioner, leading the celebration of the opening of his beautiful design. Through the years, the church has had a series of illustrious clergy, choir masters and musicians. The church was known for its outreach and missions and, in later years, its support of the lesbian and gay communities.

In 1982, the Druid Hills Preschool was founded at the church. Classes were taught inside the building and a lovely wooded and grassy spot on the west side of the property was fenced and set aside for a playground. The laughter and shouts of children at play coming from the playground provided a refreshing treat for motorists waiting for the light to change at the intersection of Ponce and Briarcliff.

In addition to worship services, the church property was regularly used for recreation and for meetings of AA and Alanon, boy and girl scouts, and many other groups.

Recently, a committee examined the feasibility of continuing to maintain such a large church when only 80 people were attending services regularly. The church decided to sell the property, and initially tried to market it to other churches and religious institutions. They also approached the North Georgia Conference of United Methodists about relocating to the site after their former headquarters at Simpsonwood Retreat Center was closed. Little interest was generated. Ultimately, the church property was listed on the open market, and several developers showed interest. Many of the smaller historic objects in the church were removed by members; those too big to move were donated to the Pitts Theology Library at Emory University. Though under separate



The Druid Hills United Methodist Church has been on the corner of Ponce de Leon and Briarcliff for over 50 years.

ownership, Green Gables, one of Atlanta’s most important two-story Craftsman homes, is also for sale.

In March 2016, Druid Hills United Methodist officially merged with Epworth United Methodist. Both congregations will now meet at Epworth, located at the corner of Mell Avenue and McLendon Avenue, right across from Candler Park Golf Course. A new pastor will serve “The New Church” after the merger.

What will become of the former Druid Hills United Methodist Church property? The land on which the church buildings sit is a large plat and the corner is a gateway into Druid Hills. Like everything along Ponce in the city of Atlanta, the church property is a Landmark District Preservation area. The district is governed by strict regulations and anything built there must receive a review by the Druid Hills

Landmark District Preservation Committee (LDPC) and a certificate of appropriateness from the Urban Design Commission of Atlanta. There is one important caveat: the church and buildings, constructed in 1955, are non-contributing to the Landmark District because the last date of the historic period is 1941. So even though the church was designed by one of the premier architectural firms (Ivey and Crook), it’s not protected from eventual demolition should the land be developed. The LDPC advocated for adaptive re-use of the church and buildings (for example, as condominiums inside the current Sunday school building and sanctuary). Green Gables, on the other hand, is protected and cannot be demolished; the home was built in 1910 and is contributing to the Landmark District in the historic time frame.

This story has a happy ending. Minerva-USA, a development company that has maintained a presence in Atlanta for over 30 years, currently has a contract to purchase the church property. Brian Davison, a managing partner and Druid Hills resident, has worked closely with the Civic Association and with LDPC to create plans that will not only save the church and educational building, but will also be in keeping with Landmark District Guidelines. Minerva-USA has hired the firm of Surber Barber Choate & Hertlein Architects to create designs for the new project. Members of the LDPC will continue to work with Minerva as design plans and landscape designs are finalized. The new development will have approximately 50 units with two parking spots for each unit. Units will be flats—all on one floor—with elevators used for floor access. A third story will be added to the educational building; condos will be constructed inside the existing sanctuary and the church steeple will remain. The gym in the rear of the property will be demolished and new housing built there. What is now a parking lot between the church and Green Gables will be removed, thus reducing the amount of asphalt at the site. Green Gables is not a part of this sale or development at this point.

While it’s sad to see Druid Hills United Methodist move from our midst, it’s gratifying from a historic preservation viewpoint that the important structures on the site will be maintained and repurposed for housing.

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Briarcliff Mansion Project ...continued from page 1



Birds-eye illustration of proposed Candler Mansion project, facing northwest. Photo courtesy of Republic Property

Buddie Candler's death in 1953, the site was acquired by the state; 32 acres were used to build the Georgia Mental Health Institute (GMHI) in 1965. The mansion itself housed the DeKalb Addiction Center's counseling and rehabilitation program in the 1970s, and many of its interior spaces were adapted into office and meeting rooms. The GMHI was closed in 1997 and the property was subsequently sold to Emory University. At the turn of the 21st century, a bio-tech start-up was launched in modular buildings adjacent to the mansion's greenhouse. This effort faltered, and another proposal for a Ronald McDonald House-type operation for medical patients and their families at the mansion did not come to fruition. In 2015, a library archival facility for the libraries of Emory University and Georgia Tech was built on the west side of the property, while the mansion slumbered behind boarded-up windows except when serving occasionally as a location for film and television productions.

The inspiration for the re-use of the mansion as a boutique hotel started with Rawson Daws. The younger Daws is a native of Atlanta who grew up in Brookhaven. While traveling in Europe and Asia, Rawson noticed that local hotels served as a gathering space for the community—and wondered why there were so few such spaces in the U.S., and almost none in Atlanta. When he saw an article about the Briarcliff Mansion in *Creative Loafing* magazine, Rawson was intrigued with the possibility of reviving the mansion and creating a hotel unlike any other in Atlanta—one that could provide an intimate experience with a connection to the legacy of the Clanders, while creating a gathering place for the community.

Republic Property has considerable hotel experience through Jerry Daws' participation in the development of Ritz Carlton hotels in Buckhead, Boston, Naples (FL) and Laguna Niguel (CA). Rawson and Jerry Daws brought their idea for the Briarcliff Mansion to Smith Dalia Architects—whose previous preservation and adaptive reuse projects have included Greystone at Piedmont Park and the King Plow redevelopment in West Midtown. The concept for the rehabilitated mansion they presented at the September 28 public meeting showed public spaces on the first floor, with a restaurant in the solarium, and the mansion's unique music room restored as a multi-purpose space for small concerts or special events. There will be 15 guest rooms on the upper floors. Additional hotel rooms will be located in six cottages around the property and a new pool house building adjacent to an event lawn on the site of the Briarcliff Pool, which will again serve the community as a location for graduation gatherings, receptions, and other special events. The design for a two-story structure adjacent to the event lawn echoes the estate's original pool house. The plans include the reuse of one of the mansion's Lord & Burnham greenhouses as well as restoration of the estate's original fountain and outer granite walls along Briarcliff and University. Rawson also envisions a gathering space for the community in the porte cochere/summer porch with views across the property.

In addition to giving their clientele a sense of being guests of the Clanders, the proposed hotel was described as an urban version

Continued on page 11

Briarcliff Mansion Project ...continued from page 10

of the Blackberry Farm in Tennessee. Jerry Daws connected Asa Candler's interest in providing vegetables and dairy products to the local community and to the Briarcliff Hotel on Ponce, to the new hotel's expected contribution to Atlanta's booming restaurant and culinary scene—through the hotel restaurant's offerings, guest chefs and specialty purveyors, and farm-to-table events. The project would be developed on a long-term lease from Emory, and the hotel's opening is projected to be in late 2018. The project is slated to be presented to the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission in the next couple of months.

The Briarcliff Mansion's National Register nomination, written in 1988, noted that although the ballroom had been converted into meeting rooms and offices for the treatment center, the gold-leaf finish of its walls still shone through cracks in the paint that covered them. Jerry Daws envisions returning the mansion to its original luster, and the community looks forward to seeing it shine once again.



Interior of Briarcliff Mansion's music room. Photo courtesy of National Register of Historic Places, 1987



South side of the Briarcliff Mansion soon after its construction with servants' quarters behind the house, terraces, greenhouses and sunken garden. Photo courtesy of Charlie Paine

Burned Home on Lullwater



The Handley family in front of their front door, which is under renovation. The home burned to the ground and is being completely restored using original plans. Left to right: Falyn, Fiona, and Fern. Rear: Dan

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Recycling with CHARM

By Boyd Baker

Does recycling matter? Can't we just throw everything away and consider our job done? The answer is yes and yes—but such an approach is neither responsible nor conscientious. Recycling does more good than you may realize. The CHARM center, just a few blocks from the Atlanta Zoo, knows this well.

CHARM stands for Center for HARD to Recycle Materials. It is our local partner with the City of Atlanta recycling program but goes a step farther. Where the City accepts newspaper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic, glass and steel, CHARM takes those and more. Why? Because Peggy Whitlow Ratcliffe realized our City's citizens could do more. She's opened an incredible facility that serves us all.

Paint, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, styrofoam, carpeting, televisions, mattresses, tires, light bulbs, batteries, electronics and textiles were being thrown away in huge numbers.

Why does this matter? Because these are not healthy items that biodegrade. Instead, they leach various chemicals and elements into our ground water that can be harmful.

Imagine those folks who pour cleaning products, medicines and paints down the drains at their homes! These products go right into our water system and then require extra chemicals and processing to make the water usable again. Then *those* items have to be recycled also.

CHARM doesn't accept everything that's not biodegradable but it takes a great deal. This 501(c)3 organization is approved by the City of Atlanta and, if Ratcliffe's vision is realized, CHARM will expand to have locations in all quadrants of the City. In 2016 alone, CHARM has collected over:

4,080 gallons of paint
16,233 gallons of chemicals
75,987 pounds of electronics
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7,300 tires
7,123 pounds of batteries.

Visit CHARM's website at www.live-thrive.org and find out how you can recycle some of those "awkward" items that you know shouldn't go in your trash. We all can do much to improve our city and environment.

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Druid Hills
Tour Of Homes & Gardens

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*Full Details In Spring Issue Of
Druid Hills Civic Association News*

School News

Fernbank Elementary School

It has been a year full of exciting change at Fernbank Elementary, an International Baccalaureate neighborhood public school.

A new principal. We have a new principal this year, Joan Ray. She was appointed to the role after many years of leadership at Fernbank. She served as assistant principal in 2015-2016. Prior to that, Ms. Ray held the role of ESOL teacher, EIP teacher, and teacher liaison for our school to the county. In addition, both of Ms. Ray's sons attended Fernbank. Our parents, teachers and students are very happy to have her!

A new school building. Our original school building from 1958 was demolished and rebuilt over the last few years. During this time, Fernbank was temporarily housed in Avondale Estates. We moved back to our original location last November, so we are coming up on our one-year anniversary in our beautiful new building!

Temporary redistricting. As you may know, some districts within the DeKalb County School System are very overcrowded. In order to address the issue, Dr. Green (the DCSS Superintendent) temporarily

redistricted several students this year. Fernbank, with its new building and more seats than students, welcomed many families from Montclair Elementary School. It has been a great opportunity for our students, new and old, to make new friends, learn about each other's cultures, and truly live the International Baccalaureate mission: "to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect."

For more information about Fernbank, please visit our website www.fernbankelementary.com.

The Paideia School

Students recognized by National Merit Program. Twenty-six Paideia seniors have been selected for National Merit program semifinals and commendations. The students recognized as semifinalists for the National Merit scholarship program as a result of their performance on the PSAT last year are: Logan Casey, Stuart Duffield, Daniel Fridkin, Lynn Jacobs, Mira Kaufman, Lucas Mavromatis, Ryan Radulovacki, Bess

Renjilian, Owen Ribes, Lincoln Sorscher, and Emma Tucker.

In addition to the semifinalists, fifteen students were commended by the National Merit Program. They are: Emma Alexandrov, Adair Garrett, Niki Hunt, Nathan Karnik, Bronwyn Katz, Allison Levitas, Parker Lunsford, Nell Mermin-Bunnell, Hannah Neiditz, Pearl Sullivan, Ling Tham, Kaylin Woodward, Kaya Wurtzel, Jacob Zeldin and Jane Zen.

Students advance toward All-State Jazz Band. Two Paideia students have passed the first audition for the All-State Jazz Band chosen by the Georgia Music Educators Association and will head to the final audition in December. Senior Lucas Mavromatis plays tenor saxophone and junior Alex Walker plays guitar. The final audition is at North Georgia College and State University.

Paideia is a nonsectarian school located at 1509 Ponce De Leon Avenue, Atlanta, Ga. 30307, serving students ages three to 12th grade.

For more information, contact Jennifer Hill, hill.jennifer@paideiaschool.org and 404-270-2339

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It's Official! Druid Hills Is a Certified Wildlife Habitat Community

By M. Catherine McCabe

What could have been foreseen as a long and winding road to habitat certification turned out to be a short and direct shot. Recently, Patrick Fitzgerald, from the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) headquarters, announced that Druid Hills has reached its certification goal and is now officially a certified wildlife habitat community. By gaining this national certification, Druid Hills joins Chamblee, Johns Creek, Milton and Roswell as NWF certified habitat communities in the Atlanta metropolitan area and also some 88 certified habitat communities nationwide.

It was just last year that the Druid Hills Civic Association announced its efforts towards gaining this certification for the neighborhood. Through the efforts of its NWF Habitat Certification Steering Committee and many volunteers from among Druid Hills homeowners, this goal has come to a successful conclusion.

Fernbank School, along with several Druid Hills parks and many a Druid Hills household, were already enjoying certification when this effort began. Upon the launch of the campaign, several more parks were added to the roster. Some of the original parks and schools updated their certifications, and currently more than 125 Druid Hills homeowners are enjoying the benefits of their certified backyard habitats.

During this process, seven (yes, that's 7!) pocket parks came to the attention of the Steering Committee, one being Heaton Park, a bird sanctuary located square in the middle of the Druid Hills neighborhood. Some DH neighbors, along with the tree company ArborGuard, are generously giving of their time, expertise and manual labor to restore this park. Once this work has been completed, its quiet stream and abundant flora will enjoy the benefits of new life and offer respite to both fauna and the many DH homeowners who live within the park's vicinity.

The excitement over the discovery of these unheralded pocket parks brought together even more DH neighbors who



The group that made Community Wildlife Certification a reality (from left): Julie Abston, Anne Wallace (DHCA President), Crystal Jennings (NWF), Cathy McCabe, and Pam Woodley

have been busy developing a walking tour. This tour, presented on the DHCA website, will offer both new and long-standing DH residents the opportunity to learn about the parks and their surrounding areas.

With the NWF Community Habitat Certification and its 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 and also with honoring Frederick Law Olmsted's vision of Druid Hills as an area "well shaded by handsome, umbrageous, permanently thrifty trees" in a neighborhood with a "pleasing rural, or, at least, semi-rural, character of scenery. . . ."



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Warner McConaughey, founder and owner of HammerSmith, is a long-term Druid Hills resident and proud sponsor of the Druid Hills Tour of Homes.

Druid Hills Landmark District and City Tree Ordinance:

What You Should Know

By Alida Silverman, for the Landmark District Preservation Committee

Druid Hills (City portion) is one of Atlanta's 13 designated neighborhood landmark and historic districts. The respective district regulations protect the features that make the districts worthy of designation. For Druid Hills, the Landmark Designation included tree protection provisions. Since that time, a city-wide tree ordinance was adopted as well. To simplify a few areas of confusion, a Text Amendment to our City Landmark District ordinance was recently adopted, referencing the City Tree ordinance for the following specific situations:

1. *Dead, dying, hazardous (DDH) trees* – No Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for removal of dead, dying or



hazardous trees. Simply follow the process as described on the Arborist division website for a permit: <http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=339>

2. *Tree(s) with a diameter (at breast height) of less than 6 inches* – No COA required.

3. *Tree(s) with a diameter (at breast height) of 6 inches or greater* – Type II COA required for clearance/removal of such trees. As a practical matter, removal of such trees is usually part of a larger project like an addition to a home so that removal of the tree(s) is part of the COA process for the project.

4. *Replacement of tree(s)* – Tree(s) removed are to be replaced with trees of a minimum caliper of two and one-half inches. Appropriate choices for Druid Hills can easily be found in the Planting List in the Druid Hills Local DeKalb Historic District Design Manual, available on the Druid Hills Civic Association website. (The Tree ordinance lists unsuitable trees.)

Preserving Our Ideals and Heritage in a Changing World

Lullwater Garden Club 2016-2017

Lullwater Garden Club kicked off its 2016-17 year by meeting at the home of Laura Murphy, where President Jennie Richardson introduced the theme for the year. "Conserve and Beautify" was the original Garden Club of Georgia's theme when it was chartered in 1928. The Lullwater Club's theme will be similar this year: "Preserving our Ideals and Heritage in a Changing World."

Given that new development, trails, light rail, and additional turn lanes on Ponce de Leon have been discussed, the question for the Club becomes one of supporting preservation of all parks and green spaces in the midst of changing times. The Club's historic Conservation Garden, located between Lullwater Road and Lullwater Parkway, is an old growth forest with six Champion Trees and one State Champion. The Club owns and maintains the 6.5 acre garden, which is open to the public during daylight hours. The Club hopes to balance complete protection, with no encroachment into this important green space, with the desire by the PATH Foundation and Emory University for greater "connectivity" between Emory Village and the Freedom Park trail. Another group, the Lullwater Preservation Coalition, is spearheading discussions between Lullwater Road residents (and the Garden Club) and the PATH Foundation.

This year, we have a series of interesting programs planned. There will be several work days scheduled in the Conservation Garden to tidy it up and continue to remove non-native invasive plants. Our festive holiday party will be held at the home of Dr. Ann Critz. Next year, the Lullwater Garden Club will hold its plant sale in conjunction with the Druid Hills Tour of Homes. Finally, we are hoping to schedule an acoustic music



Volunteers work in the Lullwater Conservation Garden in the 1980s. Do you recognize anyone?

Photo courtesy of Emory Woodruff Library Collection

event in the garden, which will be open to the community.

Please come take a walk and enjoy the garden! If you see a problem (such as a dead tree, illegal dumping of yard waste, or cars parked in the garden), please notify Jennie Richardson at JJRichar@bellsouth.net. The Club wants to make sure the garden is a safe and pleasant place to visit.

Finally, if you're interested in joining us; holding a tour, event, wedding or program in the garden for your group; or just have questions about the Garden Club or Conservation Garden; contact Jennie Richardson at the above e-mail.

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Honoring the Life of Jim Jackson

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Soon after Jimmy Lee “Jim” Jackson was born in 1948, he moved with his parents into a large home on Ponce de Leon Avenue in Druid Hills. Jim continued living there until his recent death on April 25, 2016—making him the longest living resident on Ponce de Leon. Jim’s father, Robert Jackson, owned and operated a candy company in Atlanta. He met his wife, Nina Burnham Jackson, at the company after she got a job putting the stripes on candy canes.

The elder Jacksons wanted Jim and his brother, Randy, to enjoy farm and outdoor living beyond Druid Hills, so they purchased 1,300 acres in Clayton County near the Flint River in 1946. As a result, Jim learned to love the land, became an environmentalist and was staunchly protective of the Flint River. Jim and Randy supported their mother’s donation of 47 acres of land to the Clayton Greenspace Trust Program in honor of her 80th birthday. At the time, Mrs. Jackson said, “I don’t let people cut down trees or anything that grows on the land. I’m just an old crazy swamp woman who likes to leave the land the way the Lord made it as much as possible.” Thanks to the Jackson family’s gift, the land will be preserved and undisturbed.

Jim was also a caretaker. During his mother’s declining health, he took care of her and allowed her to stay in her beloved Ponce de Leon home surrounded by lovely antiques. And he loved his animals—the latest being Honeycat and Princess, who will be taken in and cared for by Jim’s longtime secretary.

Jim had an astounding memory, with deep knowledge of Atlanta history. He knew where and what “everything used to be”—from the Pig ‘N Whistle Restaurant on Ponce (where the Krispy Kreme is now), to the original names of

neighborhood streets, to what businesses were torn down to build something new (and what was there before the demolished business was even built). He remembered when Druid Hills Methodist Church was built in the early 1950s, and attended Sunday school and scouting events there before becoming a lifetime member. He recalled going to the Atlanta Crackers Baseball Team games at Cracker Stadium across from the old Sears & Roebuck Building (now Ponce City Market). He had vivid memories of the swings and monkey bars that used to be in Springdale Park.

Jim participated in the Shriners and many other civic and political groups. He had served for the past several years as a member of the Landmark District Preservation Committee in Druid Hills. Those of us on the Committee relied on Jim for his knowledge about the ins and outs of development, especially how trees and watersheds could be preserved. He knew how things should be done on a rehabilitation project, and knew which products and materials would be appropriate for the Landmark District.

But Jim had some secrets he didn’t share broadly. He was passionate about cars, motorcycles and boats—often driving too fast on his own motorcycle and riding in his boat, which he kept in Chattanooga. He loved being on his family’s farm in Clayton County and adored animals. He loved the arts and for a number of years was part of the social scene revolving around the opera, symphony and ballet.

He was active in politics and became a close friend David Scott and his family. When Congressman Scott was running for office, Jim accompanied him on a door-to-door campaign in his district. Jim, a larger than life



Jim Jackson

white male, didn’t see racial or ethnic differences and welcomed each person he met with a smile and kind words. He paved the way for David Scott to win his election and represent his district in Washington, DC. Congressman Scott and his wife both gave moving tributes at Jim’s service of remembrance.

In Jim the historian, I found a kindred spirit. I knew that Jim could answer most any question I asked about Atlanta history. Sadly, I can now think of thousands of questions to ask Jim—and he can no longer answer.

Many of you may recall the two huge rocking chairs that sat on Jim’s front porch. He saw some like them at a county fair and had replicas made—just so people would come up and sit in them. Passers-by did just that over the years, and some are lucky enough to have had their picture taken while visiting. Jim had friends from all walks of life. He was a “character” in the best sense of the word—an original, the real deal. He cast a giant shadow over Ponce de Leon and will be sorely missed.

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Druid Hills' Own Maven of Historic Preservation:

Wilma Stone 1928-2016

By Jennifer J. Richardson

For long-term residents of Druid Hills and other intown neighborhoods, Wilma Stone's "The Wrecking Bar" was the place to go for architectural antiques and salvaged house parts. Mrs. Stone founded the Wrecking Bar in 1970. I discovered it—and her—in 1972, when I sought a glass doorknob to restore my 1926 Leila Ross Wilburn bungalow on Hardendorf Avenue in Lake Claire Community. I was able to walk in the front door, but the rest of my visit to the Wrecking Bar was spent squeezing through a remarkable assemblage of wonderful architectural treasures in multiple rooms on two floors. Not to worry: Mrs. Stone knew exactly where everything in her remarkable store was located. I soon found my crystal doorknob and was a repeat customer until the Wrecking Bar closed.

I later learned that Mrs. Stone did not just salvage architectural elements; she also saved the historic Victor H. Kriegshaber Beaux Arts mansion from demolition, purchased the property and started her business there. The circa 1900 Kriegshaber house, located at 292 Moreland Avenue in Little Five Points, is currently listed on the National Register. It's significant because it represents the many "lost" mansions of New South entrepreneurs that were cleared for development; and because its architect, Willis F. Denny, II, also designed the Inman Park and St. Mark Methodist Churches and

Rhodes Hall. After Stone sold The Wrecking Bar, the property was further rehabilitated and became the popular Wrecking Bar Brew Pub.

In the course of operating her business, Mrs. Stone traveled the world, bringing back salvaged antiques from buildings that were being demolished or re-purposed. At the Wrecking Bar, Stone's inventory ranged from small (and cheap) handmade nails to very expensive carved pocket doors, rich walnut paneling from castles and Gilded Age mirrors. If Stone didn't have what you wanted, she'd seek it out and call you when she found it.

I had the good fortune to interview Mrs. Stone for a Druid Hills Luminary article in this paper. We met at her stately Neel Reid home on Fairview Road, where she greeted me with a silver tray of cookies and a crystal glass of iced tea. I was not surprised to find Stone's house packed to the gills with the finest architectural salvage and antiques inherited from family or selected from the treasures she found throughout the world. Again, she knew exactly where everything was. She was a collector of collections and her prizes were displayed throughout her magnificent home. As she showed me around the main floor, she mentioned that her Neel Reid home had been slated for conversion in the late 1960's into multiple apartments or a boarding house. Upon hearing about the plan, she promptly purchased the home and contin-



Wilma Stone

ued to keep it single family until her move to a retirement facility.

Wilma Stone was the proverbial "Southern Lady"—always perfectly and formally attired, wearing exquisite jewelry and with impeccable taste. She was kind, generous and charming. She was an expert in architectural salvage and antiques, and embraced historic preservation. Most of all, she liked sharing what she knew and what she had collected.

Wilma Stone died on July 1, 2016, at the age of 87. Her exquisite footprint can be found in the interior furnishings of many Druid Hills homes.

Remembering Merl E. Reed, Former DHCA President

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Dr. Merl Reed (1925-2016) died at his home in DeKalb County on July 26, 2016.

Dr. Reed was born in Syracuse, New York, to Earl and Maude Reed, and raised on a farm outside of Baldwinsville, New York. After serving in World War II, Reed returned to New York, where he received two degrees from Syracuse University. He later earned a doctorate in American History from Louisiana State University. Reed taught history at Texas Women's University and Ball State University in Indiana. In 1965, he joined the faculty of Georgia State College (which became Georgia State University [GSU] in 1969) and continued to teach at GSU until his retirement in 1994. During his tenure at GSU, Reed authored or co-authored many articles and books. Most notable are: *Seedtime for the Modern Civil Rights Movement*; *Educating the Urban New South: Atlanta and the Rise of Georgia State*

University, 1913-1969; *New Orleans and the Railroads: The Struggle for Commercial Empire 1830-1860*; and *Race, Class and Community in Southern Labor History*.

Dr. Reed was a scholar and founder of the Southern Labor History archives at the GSU Library. The Merl E. Reed and Gary Fink Fellowship in Southern Labor History was established in 2000 to honor their work in education and labor history. Reed also helped found the GSU Credit Union.

In the 1980s, during the midst of the "Presidential Parkway" expressway controversy, Reed served two terms as the president of the Druid Hills Civic Association. He worked diligently to stop the proposed highway through Druid Hills and other intown neighborhoods; the fact that the road was defeated is a lasting tribute to him.

Dr. Reed is survived by his wife, Germaine



Merl Reed

Reed, one son and one daughter and their spouses, and one grandchild. History was Dr. Reed's life's work, and now he joins the other champions of Druid Hills in forever being a part of that history.

World Class Public Health Museum in Our Midst

Part of the Hidden Treasures of Druid Hills Series

By Jennifer J. Richardson

What do the 9/11 terrorist attacks, poliomyelitis, the eruption of Mount St. Helens, HIV, obesity, guinea worms, salmonella, and smoking cessation have in common? The one and only Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) played a major role in each... and many more!

Regularly passing CDC Parkway off Clifton Road, it never occurred to me that there was anything down that road but laboratories and offices. The huge CDC compound has always seemed mysterious and formidable—in spite of the agency's frequent news coverage and global reputation. I decided to investigate and was delighted to discover the David J. Sencer CDC Museum on the CDC campus at 1600 Clifton Road. The museum, which celebrated its 20-year anniversary this year, is named to honor the life and work of David Sencer, MD, MPH. Dr. Sencer was a trusted advisor and mentor to CDC workers. He initiated programs at CDC on malaria and disaster relief, smoking cessation, and reproductive health. In addition, he led the first eradication of a disease in the world: that of smallpox. Dr. Sencer was the longest-serving director of the CDC (1966-77) and a devoted historian and collector of public health memorabilia.

Judy M. Gantt, the director of the museum, came as a volunteer one summer after her school teaching year was over. She loved it so much, she stayed. After 37 years of working at CDC, Ms. Gantt is an enthusiastic champion of the agency. Mary Hilpertshauser has a similar story, having worked in another field before coming to CDC as Historic Collections Manager for the museum. She's a walking encyclopedia of CDC history. Both women agreed to share with me the history behind the David J. Sencer CDC Museum.

The 19,000-square-foot museum is housed in a sunny modernist building located on two floors and is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution. Permanent exhibits provide an introduction to the concept of public health—disease prevention, research and control. As visitors walk a circular route, the story of the CDC and its involvement in numerous public health issues is displayed. Films and exhibits take the visitor from malaria to Zika with forays into tobacco addiction, clean drinking water, the Three-Mile Island Nuclear accident, foodborne illness and workplace hazards, toxic shock syndrome and Legionnaires' disease.

The displays at the David J. Sencer CDC Museum are professional, informative and eye-catching. Lab equipment belonging to Dr. Joseph Mountin, the founder of CDC, is on display. Bio-hazard suits, masks, and gloves are exhibited, as are volcanic rock and ash spewed from Mount St. Helens after the volcano erupted. View an iron lung and an electron microscope; learn how AIDS was first identified and the role CDC played in both prevention and treatment. Who knew that CDC provided isolation chambers for some of the Apollo astronauts in case they might bring anything toxic back from the moon? Or that CDC's involvement in 9/11 includes monitoring air quality and keeping records of the health of first responders at the World Trade Site?

The second floor of the museum houses exhibits that change throughout the year. During my visit, a dramatic and poignant display of photographs detailed "Where Children Sleep." Photographer James

Mollison captured children from throughout the world along with pictures of their bedrooms. A small biography of each child was included, offering a personal window into each child's soul.

The museum is free and open to the public on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except for Federal holidays. Hours are extended to 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. It is accessed from CDC Parkway right across from the Emory Point CVS and is located in building 45. No reservation is needed but, since the campus is Federal property, a valid driver's license or passport is required for entry and vehicles may be searched or inspected for reasons of safety. You must also pass through an airport-type metal detector at the entry of the museum. Wheelchairs are available to those who need them. Guided tours are available for groups of 10-30 persons. For more information on tours, call 404-639-0830 or visit the website at museum@cdc.gov.

During my visit, groups of school children, senior citizens who came on retirement home busses, and visitors throughout the world were present and engaged. But when I mentioned the museum to many of my neighbors, few knew about it. We have a world-class museum in our midst and a hidden treasure of Druid Hills. Take the time to visit and see for yourself!

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A 70-Year-Old Giant on Clifton Road

The CDC: 1946-2016

By Jennifer J. Richardson

MCWA, the original acronym for what became the CDC, stood for Malaria Control in War Areas. The MCWA was established during World War II to control malaria on U.S. military bases. It was located in Atlanta because the southern states had the most cases of malaria due to the favorable climate.

Dr. Joseph W. Mountin is considered the founder of CDC. He worked for the U.S. Public Health Service and saw a need for an agency that could support local health departments by investigating and controlling communicable diseases. Thus came the famous initials “CDC,” which at the time stood for “Communicable Disease Center.” The CDC is a Federal agency and branch of the U.S. Public Health Service, funded by Congress.

In July of 1946, the new CDC moved into the offices of the MCWA, located in the Volunteer Building on Peachtree Street downtown. A satellite campus was located in Chamblee at the site of an old military hospital and remains part of the CDC to this day. While first concentrating on malaria, typhus and other infectious diseases, the CDC expanded and broadened its focus into many other fields. At the Volunteer Building, the CDC had a tiny budget and fewer than 400 employees. As CDC grew, it purchased land in 1947, for a new headquarters building at what is now 1600 Clifton Road. Coca-Cola Company magnate Robert Woodruff, who had experienced malaria among employees on his South Georgia farm, along with a group of Emory physicians, encouraged Emory University to sell 15 acres of land to CDC for the token price of \$10. CDC’s employees chipped in to amass the \$10 for the sale. The Public Health Service transferred its plague lab to CDC as its Epidemiology Division in 1947, and a Veterinary Disease (such as Rabies) division was started in the same year. In 1951, the Epidemic Intelligence Service was begun. From 1957 to 1963, divisions of sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and immunization were added.

The first CDC offices on Clifton were not built on the site until 1960. Dubbed “Building One,” the tan brick edifice was definitely more institutional and utilitarian than beautiful . . . but it was a start. Newer buildings on the campus are considerably more attractive.

In the 1950s, two public health crises brought increased attention and credibility to the CDC: poliomyelitis and influenza. Effective vaccines were discovered for both and, with data collected through the years, the CDC helped establish national guidelines for vaccination. In 1961, CDC began publishing the MMWR—which stands for Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The MMWR is an epidemiological digest for the United States. It contains public health data collected by state and local health departments and sent to CDC for analysis. Of note is the MMWR’s reporting on June 5, 1981, of five reported cases of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia—documenting the first mention of what would be known as AIDS in the medical literature.

Many other programs came to or emerged at CDC through the years: the Foreign Quarantine Service; occupational safety and health; immunization for measles and rubella control; fam-



The original Communicable Disease Center (Now Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Building One located at 1600 Clifton Road.

Photo courtesy of David J. Sencer CDC Museum

ily planning; and surveillance of chronic diseases. Perhaps one of the agency’s greatest triumphs was the 15-year effort to vaccinate against deadly smallpox. As a result of CDC’s work with its partners throughout the world, the global eradication of smallpox was achieved in 1977.

As times and diseases change, the CDC continues to broaden its focus to include environmental hazards, terrorism preparedness, chronic diseases, birth defects, obesity, emerging infectious diseases, and injury and disability prevention. As new diseases emerge, the CDC is there to study and help prevent or control them. CDC was prominently featured in the news when anthrax was mailed to prominent leaders; when Ebola spread; and when the Zika virus emerged, transmitted by infected mosquitoes.

With an expanded agenda, the CDC has also had several name changes. In 1970, it became the Center for Disease Control; in 1981, an “s” was added to make it the Centers for Disease Control. In 1992, the name changed to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though an act of Congress was necessary to add “and Prevention,” Congress also directed that the acronym “CDC” be retained because of its worldwide recognition.

The original 1960 Building One at CDC was demolished in 2011 for construction of new facilities. Today the CDC has a campus on Clifton Road of 45 acres and 54 buildings, and several additional buildings in Chamblee and other cities. Its Biosafety Level Four labs are among just a few in the entire world. Today, as CDC celebrates its 70th birthday, its annual budget tops seven billion dollars and its employees are tens of thousands strong. As the leader in disease control and prevention, it has played a mammoth role in making the world a safer and healthier place. Its global influence on the lives of people everywhere cannot be underestimated. It truly is a giant on Clifton Road.

Druid Hills Craftsman Michael Purser and the Rosebud Company

Druid Hills Luminaries Series

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Michael Purser has the hands of a craftsman: they are rough. You don't get hands like his from office work; you get them by being "hands on" with tools, wood and flooring.

Purser grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, where his father, W.B. Purser, started a wood flooring business in 1946. He and his two brothers worked in the business learning the techniques of the trade. Purser left his father's business to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he earned a degree in economics in 1969.



Michael Purser

In 1973, Purser founded the Rosebud Company in Inman Park—Atlanta's first suburb—which is filled with Victorian homes and hardwood floors. Through many years of preserving hardwood floors, Purser invented a technique he calls "Passive Refinishing®". Purser's process safely and environmentally removes all surface accumulation on old wood floors without sanding. Because floors are the largest antique in most old homes, they need special care and protection. Wooden floors lose more original material than any other surface during a renovation. They also deteriorate just from walking on them—wear and tear caused by your wing tips, stilettos, and even the claws of your dog and cat. Ultraviolet rays from sunlight can also damage wood floors. But the biggest offenders are likely well-intentioned homeowners who use the wrong products to clean and protect flooring, and contractors who bring in giant sanding machines.

Purser's process has been perfected through 40 years of renovation, working with 100-year-old floors and thousands of owners. Perhaps his greatest recommendation comes from the many historic properties he has improved. These include the Wren's Nest and Rhodes Hall in Atlanta; Hay House in Macon; The Stan Hywet House in Akron Ohio; the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Florida; and Dolley and James Madison's Montpelier, Virginia.

Not too long ago, Purser attended a meeting at the headquarters of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) in a 1913 home known as the McClatchey House, which is leased to OLPA by Fernbank. Of course, Purser found himself looking at the floors.

"I was sitting in the dining room looking at a very ugly wooden floor when the proverbial light bulb went on," said Purser. Purser approached Fernbank with his plan: If he could bring in apprentices and video crews for training and education, Rosebud would refinish all the floors for free. Both sides saw the advantages and quickly came to an agreement.

"The dining room floors are the narrow decorative oak with mahogany Greek keys around the edges. Passive Refinishing® worked flawlessly," stated Purser. Purser soon discovered that the floors in the living room had never been refinished and still had hand scraping marks. Adds Purser, "Finding hand scraping is very rare and I'm proud to say that after our restoration, those hand scrape marks are

still there, undisturbed and intact because our process only removes the old finish and no wood is lost."

Purser was recently contracted to restore the floors at Fair Lane, the palatial Dearborn, Michigan home of Clara and Henry Ford. This 31,000-square-foot mansion situated on the Rouge River was a fitting residence for Henry Ford, one of America's foremost industrialists and the founder and president of Ford Motor Company. Henry Ford lived in the home from 1915 until his death in 1947. Work began on the first floor formal areas in August of 2016. Other artisans and trade workers will also be tackling projects in the mansion with a proposed completion date of July 2017, making this one of the most prominent restoration projects in the country. You can follow the progress of the restoration at Rosebudfloors.com and on Facebook.

Michael is active with the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and has been a frequent speaker for preservation and industry groups. His love for his craft is evident in all he does. Can you guess why Purser named his business "Rosebud"? Think of that huge mansion owned by Charles Foster Kane in the 1941 movie, and recall the little sled that was Kane's toy when he was a boy.

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OLPA Needs Your Help to Care for Our Old-Growth Trees

By Sandy Kruger, OLPA Executive Director

A quarter century ago, we joined forces to stop an expressway from cutting through the heart of our neighborhoods and our historic Olmsted Linear Park. Now we need to pull together to protect and sustain our old growth trees and beautiful landscapes, designed by the father of American landscape architecture—Frederick Law Olmsted.

During the last 20 years, the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) and its supporters have raised and invested more than \$10 million to rehabilitate the rolling pastoral scenes and the tranquil, old-growth forest. Today, the park is healthy and vibrant—an ideal spot for daily exercise and play.

Unfortunately, the ongoing maintenance of the park is extensive. While DeKalb County and the City of Atlanta mow the grass and remove downed trees, it is OLPA Park Director, George Ickes, and his crew who maintain the five park segments. We employ professional experts to prune shrubs and treat old-growth trees.

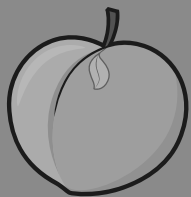


Deepdene photo courtesy of Marc del Santro

But, we can't sustain 45 acres of historic parkland alone! That's why we ask you, the community living along this wonderful park, to help us support its maintenance with your gifts to OLPA. Your support ensures that OLPA can continue to enhance and preserve the beauty and tranquility you deserve.

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of OLPA's conservation and stewardship of this neighborhood gem, we are planning a celebration at our Party for the Parks on Ponce Benefit Gala on Sunday, February 12, 2017, at Fernbank Museum of Natural History. It will be a grand affair and we invite you to join us! More details about the gala will be announced soon.

In the meantime, it's annual campaign time! OLPA and the parks would appreciate your generous support. Please visit www.atlantaolmstedpark.org to find out how you can help. Thanks and we look forward to seeing you in the park and at the gala!



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Druid Hills Heights: The Unique Villas that Brought Affordability to the Artistic Home

By *Charlie Paine and Hunter Macdonald*

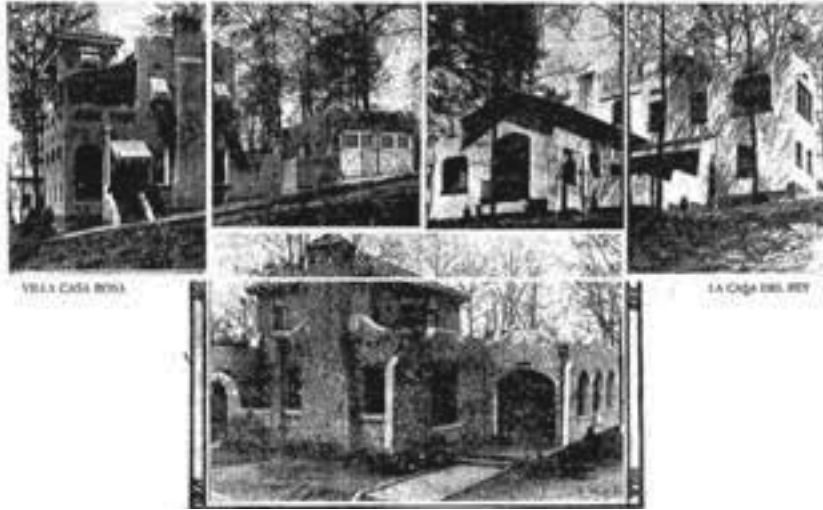
Druid Hills Heights developer James Lawrence Turner and fellow Atlantans watched a new age in architecture emerge in the early 1920s. Homes of the most modern styles broke ground and began to flourish in the Olmsted-designed Druid Hills neighborhood—including the Italian Renaissance transplants of Neel Reid, Atlanta's premier architect at the time. Strongly influenced by Reid's European designs, Turner embarked on a journey that would ensure his place among Atlanta's elite.

Around 1923, Turner and architect Henry Hunter Jordan set off on a Grand Tour that would encompass not only Classical Greece and the Italian Peninsula, but also the lesser-studied regions of coastal France, Spain and Morocco. The gentlemen studied the “best features of the various types of residential architecture along the shores of the great azure sea.” They hoped to introduce a unique interpretation of the Mediterranean revival style to Atlanta Society through their Druid Hills Heights Villas. This was their first opportunity in an elite arena to showcase a transformation of their skills into reality.

Knowing that their partnership was futile in comparison to their colleagues, some of the South's greatest architects, Turner and Jordan took a risk and advertised their development to the under-estimated middle class. During a 1925 AJC interview, Turner exclaimed that he “strove to make it possible for the man of moderate means to have an enduring home.” Hardly able to contend with the elite architects of Atlanta, Turner and Jordan hoped it would be their unconventional market that would bring them notoriety and favorable press.

With budget in mind for their great endeavor, Jordan and Turner decided to experiment with a cheaper construction material that was used as fireproofing in commercial skyscrapers at the time: Hollow Tile. Used as exterior walls, Hollow Tile can constitute a wall that can hold immense amounts of weight and insulate well against extreme temperatures. By using this form of construction, Turner could build villas that withstood Georgia's intense fluctuating climate in a matter of months. The process was simple: build foundation, stack the tile and then layer the exterior stucco directly onto the factory-grooved tile. This method of residential construction was new to the South, but it had been used before in homes scattered throughout the Northeast.

Jordan and Turner designed several unique homes for the Druid Hills Heights Neighborhood, platted by Atlanta's first native Land-



Some of the existing villas in Druid Hills Heights as they appeared in 1925.

Photo courtesy of Charlie Paine and the AJC

scape Architect O.F. Kauffman, “to contain every modern luxury and convenience and to gain the approval of the artist” while also using an extremely budget friendly and quick method of construction. These “Mediterranean Composite Type” Villas blended the traditions of Southern Spanish homes, the picturesque hillside villas of Tuscany and elements of Moorish design, particularly in the gardens—breaking away from the typical characteristics of Druid Hills homes.

The first and largest of Henry Jordan's masterpieces,

Villa Miraflores, opened to the public on July 5, 1925. Miraflores, Turner's personal home, was finished with cypress woodwork, painted panels and a symmetrical Palladian floorplan. The highly artistic landmark dominates the landscape, perched atop the hillside with little regard to the natural setting, whereas the other villas are integrated and appear to be fluid with the terrain. The homes were open daily, except Sunday, for all Atlantans to enjoy. Thousands of visitors flocked to see the impressive works created by the partnership of James Turner and Henry Jordan in Druid Hills Heights, the block encompassed between Villa Drive and North Decatur Road.

The revolutionary mass market to the working class, Mediterranean designs and speed of development created a new chapter in Atlanta's architectural narrative. On the coattails of their success, the partnership created a handful of villas across the metro area. Their focus shifted in 1928, when Turner sold Miraflores and moved to Miami. Developing many Mediterranean structures throughout Miami and Coral Gables, Jordan and Turner played an iconic part in what morphed into a regional revival style that trickled into many aspects of Miami culture.

When we think of historic Atlanta, we tend to focus on the works of those such as Neel Reid and Phillip Shutze. Turner's “Moorish Castle,” Villa Miraflores, and the villas of James Turner and Henry Jordan are noteworthy in their significance to the history of our city and the regional development of Mediterranean revival Architecture in the Southeast; however, they are currently under recognized as historic structures. In June of 2016, Villa Miraflores was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and, in the near future, the entire series, mostly uninterrupted by modern developments, will be nominated for inclusion in the Druid Hills Historic District.

As We Go to Print:

1. Red signs at the Druid Hills Golf Club advertise an upcoming hearing before the Urban Design Commission. The Golf Club wants to make some changes to their pool house. The Landmark District Preservation Committee has met with the Club and found the changes to be appropriate for the Landmark District.
2. Work continues on the "J Wing" of Emory University Hospital and changes to Clifton Road. For current information, visit www.CCTMA.org.
3. Discussions continue on the Light Rail plans. For more information, visit www.itsmarta.com/Clifton-Corr.aspx.
4. Emory University announced that they will seek annexation into the city of Atlanta. For more information, visit www.Emorywheel.com/Emory-to-seek/.
5. Georgia Department of Transportation continues planning to improve several intersections on Ponce de Leon. For updates, visit www.druidhills.org/Ponce-Corridor.



The new bridge connecting Emory University Hospital to the new 'J' Wing on Clifton Road is two stories. One level will be for hospital personnel and inpatients and the other level for visitors. The bridge was built on the ground and lifted by crane into place. The old one-story bridge (in background) will be removed after completion of the new bridge.

6. If you are planning an addition or renovation to your historic property, visit the DHCA web site for information on the Landmark District (Atlanta) and the DeKalb Historic District (DeKalb County).

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT DHCA NEWS IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017.

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We Stopped the Road!

By Cathy Bradshaw and Jennifer J. Richardson

Has it really been 25 years since the Honorable Judge Clarence Seeliger issued an order requiring mediation to end the Presidential Parkway dispute? For many of us, it seems like only yesterday.

For those of you who don't know, the road we stopped was put on the Department of Transportation's plans in 1939, and formalized when the General Assembly of the State of Georgia created the Stone Mountain Memorial Highway. In 1949, Interstates 85, 75, 20, 285 and 485 were added to highway maps. The planned new highway, which bisected intown neighborhoods, went through several name changes: Stone Mountain Tollway, Stone Mountain Expressway, Presidential Parkway and Freedom Parkway. Its purpose was to connect national Highway 78 at the foot of Stone Mountain to the Boulevard-Glen Iris "stub" downtown at Interstate 75/85. It was to be a four-lane commuter road with elevated bridges, high speed traffic and 42 cul-de-sacs, to parallel Scott Boulevard and Ponce de Leon Avenues and bisect many intown historic neighborhoods including Old Fourth Ward, Poncey-Highland, Inman Park, Candler Park, Lake Claire and Druid Hills. Through the efforts of groups such as CAUTION (Citizens Against Unnecessary Thoroughfares in Older Neighborhoods), Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta and Roadbusters, along with local civic and neighborhood associations, more than 10 years of rallies, fundraisers, meetings, political campaigns, parades, protests, hearings, arrests and hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on one goal: Stop The Road! This unprecedented battle succeeded against the formidable efforts of former President Jimmy Carter to build his presidential library on free land that had been cleared of over 500 homes in the 1960's, former United Nations Ambassador and Atlanta Mayor Andy Young, the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Constitution and most of the Atlanta business community.

A 25th anniversary reunion and celebration of the end of the road fight was held in Dellwood Park on August 7, 2016. Dellwood is one of five segments of the Olmsted Linear Park in Druid Hills that would have been destroyed had the road been constructed.

The celebration included BBQ and all the fixin's, cool drinks, musicians who led some of the original road protest songs, Roadbuster and CAUTION veterans, politicians, neighbors, as well as representatives from Freedom Park Conservancy, Candler Park Conservancy and Olmsted Linear Park Alliance. A special panel presented various narratives about what it was like "back then"—no internet or e-mail—just phone trees, leaflets, going from door to door, marches, protests and peaceful non-cooperation with the DOT's bulldozers. CAUTION, the umbrella organization that brought all elements of the road fight together, raised considerable amounts of money and recruited an impressive team of lawyers to challenge the DOT in the local, state and federal court systems.

An early rain on August 7th failed to dampen the spirits of those coming to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of "No Road." As more than 300 visitors gathered, the rain stopped, the air cooled and the festivities began. There was a special message from a local hero, former Atlanta City Council Member and U.S. Congressman John Lewis, who helped so much in keeping the road out of intown neighborhoods. Lewis was the honorary chairman of the event.

A "timeline" of events and news, assembled by a group of road fight veterans, was displayed on "Memory Boards." Visitors could walk along the posters, clipped to an overhead clothesline and learn the history of the actions, events and protests that ultimately caused the demise of the highway.

In addition to the multiple activities, the day served as a "reunion" of neighbors who had played a significant role in defeating the road. Emotions showed on faces as friends saw each other for the first time in years—some not recognizing the changes that 25 years had brought and others resuming old friendships as if no time had elapsed.

It was a glorious celebration and a coming together of friends who fought the battle 25 years ago, and those who wanted to learn about the history of the Road Fight. Most of all, it was a gathering of many intown neighborhoods who stood up for each other to fight a destructive and unnecessary intrusion, and who won an astounding and historic battle against an expressway.



Former CAUTION President Cathy Bradshaw, OLPA Board Member Kevin Steward, and OLPA Director Sandra Kruger all helped make the event a success.



Guests examine a timeline of Stop the Road exhibits that documented 25 years of protest.

Hasselback Potatoes with Bacon

Ingredients:

6 pieces of thick cut bacon, cut into pieces about an inch thick
8 Yukon gold potatoes, peeled
1 stick butter, divided

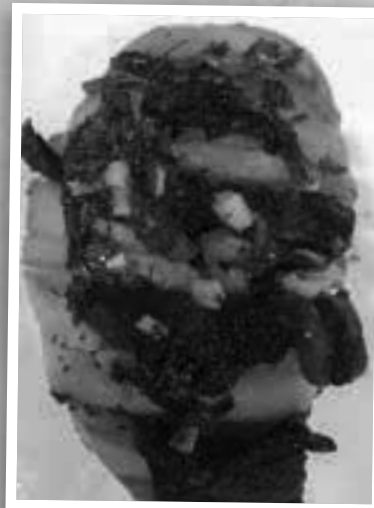
Kosher salt and ground pepper
2 T. flat leaf parsley, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

Preparation:

Put the bacon pieces on a baking sheet and freeze for about 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees while also bringing a large pot of salted water to a boil. Using a sharp knife, make horizontal slits in each potato, about 1/8 inch apart and making sure you do not cut all the way through the potato. Gently place the potatoes in the boiling water and cook for about 4-5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove the potatoes and place on a baking sheet. Pat the potatoes dry. Insert 3-4 pieces of bacon in the cuts of each potato, trying to space the bacon evenly (the bacon will poke out of the top of the slits). Melt half of the butter and brush generously over the potatoes. Reserve any extra butter for basting. Season the potatoes with salt and pepper. Place the potatoes in the oven and cook for 1½ - 2 hours or until the outside of the potatoes start to brown. Make sure you baste with the reserved melted butter halfway through cooking. Right before you take the potatoes out of the oven, melt the other half of the butter. Mix in the parsley and garlic. After the potatoes are done and on a serving tray, spoon the butter mixture over the potatoes. Serve hot!!

Recipe of the Month

Courtesy of McNack's Kitchen
mcnackskitchen.com



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Getting Plastered

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Twenty-five years ago, after a lovely dinner out on a rainy night, I approached my house to find a crowd in the front yard. That's never a good sign. Someone said, "We think a tree fell on your house." From the front yard, the house looked fine. I went inside, only to find tree limbs pressed against all the back windows on the first floor. Upstairs, rain water ran through all the bedroom and bathroom ceilings and was streaming down the walls of the stair hall. It was not "a tree" but three trees. A giant water oak had split; one half of it fell on two other trees and all of them landed on the roof and back of my house. There were numerous smaller holes in the tile roof, but the biggest one, and the one where the supporting roof timbers had crashed to the floor, was big enough to drive a bus through. Every available pan and dish was used to collect the rainwater dripping in through the holes in the roof. That night, pings of rain hitting the metal containers resounded throughout the house, causing it to sound like living inside a huge xylophone. The plaster ceilings were wet, but I assumed they would dry. I thought we'd fix the smashed timbers, tarpaper the roof until the new tiles could be installed, and move on. Wrong. Wet plaster ceilings do dry . . . then they fall.

Which brings me to the lost art of genuine plastering. Today, sheetrock is standard for home construction. Sheetrock is gypsum sandwiched between cardboard sheets screwed or nailed to the studs of the house. Tape is applied to the seams and fasteners, and the whole thing is treated to a skim coat of plaster. It's cheap and fast. Lath and plaster is expensive, more labor intensive, and requires a special skill set. Being a devotee of history, I wanted genuine plaster to replace the ceilings of plaster that were destroyed. I wanted my 1917 house to be back the way it was before the trees toppled. Real plaster is harder, more durable, more fire resistant and a better sound barrier, and it can last centuries unless it gets wet. In fact, there is extant plaster from 7,500 years ago in the country of Jordan, where plaster was used for walls, ceilings, and floors.

In the old days, wooden lath—narrow strips of smooth-grained wood about one-inch wide—was handmade and nailed between the studs. Thicker lath is used in ceilings. Three or four coats are applied in the plastering process. The original plaster sequence is two courses of rough plaster, and two coats of finish plaster. The first coat—called the scratch coat—is 1/2 to 3/4 inches thick and contains lime or gypsum, aggregate (usually sand), fiber (usually horse hair), and limestone from crushed oyster shells. Once plaster is applied, it's combed or scratched so that the next layer will adhere and then it must cure or dry. The second coat is the brown coat. It has the same mix as the scratch coat but is only 3/8 inch thick and is not scored. It, too, has to dry. The finish coats are very smooth, with no hair or aggregate in them. A dollop of finish coat looks like gray whipped cream. It's applied with trowels and dries so quickly that plasterers often spray the wall with water as

they work. If the plaster dries too quickly, cracks can develop. The second finish coat is extremely smooth and free of imperfections. Floats—basically sponges—are used to create the smooth finish. Once the final coat dries, it's ready for paint or wallpaper.

Genuine plasterers are hard to find in Atlanta; it's nearly a lost art. If you search on the internet, you'll typically find "dry wall contractors" (sheetrock installers) and some companies that say they "repair plaster." Repairing plaster is not the same as installing new plaster. Some of the rules of plastering have changed since the old days. Today, horsehair has been replaced by fiberglass resin; and lath has been replaced by wire or "blueboard" that looks like sheetrock but is able to withstand higher levels of moisture. The process of applying the layers of plaster remains the same.

Back in the early 1970s, I bought a Leila Ross Wilburn designed bungalow built in 1923—also with plaster walls. One of my first tasks was to repair to a hole in the kitchen wall that looked like it had been hit with a cast iron frying pan. The repairman told me that "The Original Atkinson Brothers" did most of the plaster work in Druid Hills, Inman Park and Candler Park. I set out on a research mission and discovered two brothers, John Lloyd Atkinson and George Atkinson, who worked from the late 19th century into the 1960s. They worked for Charles Atkinson's business—Atkinson Brothers Plastering Company. Later, the two brothers made plaster ornaments for the Reliable Plastering Company. One reference stated that the Atkinson brothers did all the ornamental plaster work in the Fox Theatre in the 1920s and were the "only African-Americans working on the Fox Theatre in that capacity." Another reference said that many African-American workers from the Atkinson Brothers' Company worked on "a huge house in Buckhead." The house turned out to be the new Governor's Mansion and its first inhabitant ironically was Segregationist Lester Maddox. Were these two the "original Atkinson brothers?" I can't be certain but my investigation did not uncover any other Atkinsons who did plaster work back then.

Bill Wade, the man who did my repairs after the tree disaster, died in 2015. For another plasterer recommendation, I called my friend, Dr. Robert Craig, a retired architectural historian who taught at Georgia Tech for many years. Robert has lovingly restored the Smith-Benning house on Oakdale over the past 30 years, and used Clarence Stovall of Stovall Plastering in Kirkwood for his plaster renovation (678-358-8022).

Genuine plaster work is expensive and time consuming. Not everyone has the resources to pay the bill, nor the time and patience to wait through several drying periods. There are days of disruption, big dollops of plaster falling from workers' trowels to the plastic-covered floors. But if you want to restore your historic Druid Hills home to its original state, plaster is the only way to go.

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It's that time again!

It's hard to believe that the holidays are here again! If you are like many people with busy lives, you find the holidays to be very stressful. The planning, cooking and getting the house ready is enough to send the most organized and calm person over the edge. If you want to have a stress-free holiday season and have as much fun as the rest of your guests, you just need to follow these simple steps.

Plan, plan, plan – Planning is not just deciding on a menu. It's the first step, but that's not all. After you've decided what you're going to serve, you need to make a few more lists to keep yourself organized and stress-free. You should create lists for each store required for the meal. You also need a basic "to do" for all of the other tasks you need to accomplish before guests arrive (house cleaning, decorations, yard work, etc). As your lists get smaller, your stress level will also lower!!

Stick with what you know – This is not the time to go crazy and try a bunch of recipes you have never used before, unless you are very seasoned cook and it will not stress you out. Traditions are part of the reason why people love the holidays, and that includes the meal!!!

Color, Color Everywhere – If you look at your table and realize it's very monochromatic, throw in a splash of color where you can. For example, add a shake or two of paprika to a bowl of hummus or line a platter with romaine lettuce. You can never go wrong with having some parsley on hand to sprinkle around the edge of a platter!

Last Minute Preparations – Right before your guests are expected to arrive, do a quick check of the house. Make sure the bathroom trash is empty, the entry walkway is clear, there is a place for purses and coats and a candle is lit for ambiance. Take out any food that needs to be at room temperature, and preheat ovens and grills. Don't forget a last minute "self-check". Put on some lipstick, use the restroom and pour a glass of wine!

Expect the Unexpected – You should always expect something to go wrong. You will be hard pressed to find someone who entertains who has not had some sort of kitchen disaster. The important thing is not to freak out. Just about everything can be fixed or adjustments can be made. Chances are, most people won't even know anything went wrong!

For more tips on entertaining and great recipes, visit our website at www.mcnaackskitchen.com. You can also like us on Facebook.



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