School Projects on Ponce  
by Ailda Silverman

Ponce de Leon within the City limits has two school projects underway; one very visible and the other in the early stages.

At South Ponce and Oakdale Road, the Paideia School’s new junior high school building is being built where early 1970’s town homes had replaced an old home with a reputedly beautiful garden. The junior high building observes all the required setbacks and its design evokes a residential structure. In addition, there is to be an extension of the existing gymnasia across the back of the corner property with a black box theater space in its front portion. A "campus green," directly in front of the black box theater and the extended and existing gym, will front South Ponce, eliminating a surface parking area.

The Atlanta Urban Design Commission issued a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) with 10 conditions for this project. Some of these conditions were requirements for additional information, e.g. that off-street parking requirements had been met. (An "underground" parking garage below the junior high building provides a net increase of 44 additional spaces. The Special Use Permit granted by the City some years ago remains in force; this permit stipulated the number of parking spaces along with a cap on enrollment.) Another condition asked for the breakdown on lot coverage here is 44.60% with structures (22.17%) and driveways/hardscapes (22.42%).

Another condition concerns the campus green: "The edges of the campus green shall be naturalized and more curvilinear in keeping with the district’s Olmsted design per Section 16-20B.003(3)e."

The over-riding issue for the Landmark District Preservation Committee (LDPC) was the crossing of the lot line with the extension of the existing gym. This element strikes at the heart of the Landmark District ordinance, whose purpose is protecting the relationships that prevail between structures and land and structures attributes that give Druid Hills its sense of place: the spatial extension of the existing gymnasium across the back of the corner lot would disappear. Only one AUDC member voted nay (with two recusing themselves on conflict of interest).

Note: demolition of the town homes was not an issue for the LDPC. The voting nay (with two recusing themselves on conflict of interest). The main issue for the LDPC has been the proposed addition's being in scale with the historic house, as seen from the street. This is the essence of the Secretary of the Interior's Standard #9: new additions will be in keeping with the scale, proportion, massing and materials of the historic structure. (We could think of this as "Love is the essence of the Secretary of the Interior's Standard #9:"

The Atlanta Urban Design Commission ruled that aggregation of the corner lot with the adjacent lot would keep with the district's Olmsted design per Section 16-20B.003(3)e.

A very old house  
on North Decatur Road  
by Joanna Stread

In this issue of the Druid Hills News you will find opportunities for volunteering to help your neighborhood in an array of different ways. SOOOO, if you'd like to be healthier, all you need to do is volunteer for one or more tasks!

From the August issue of Consumer Reports On Health – “Volunteering – In one study, adults age 55 and older who volunteered for two or more groups were 44 percent less likely to die over the five year study period than those who didn’t volunteer. Other studies base linked volunteering with reduced rates of illness and chronic pain, and increased functional ability. How easy could it be? No special diet and no extra exercise– just a bit of your time and you reap the benefits of a better neighborhood AND better health! "I'm under age 55," you say? Volunteer anyway and get a jump start! Just think what great shape you'll be in by age 55!  

Volunteer Now!  
The Druid Hills Civic Association is looking for volunteers to work on the 2008 Home and Garden Tour and Artist Market. We are looking for people to assist in showcasing our unique neighborhood and its history.

We need people to do the following:  
- Plan Tour events  
- Volunteers to work on the 2008 Home and Garden Tour and Artist Market. We are looking for people to assist in showcasing our unique neighborhood and its history.

If you would like to volunteer for the Tour Committee, please contact Thomas Winn at either 404-358-3548 or thomas.winn@earthlink.net or visit http://www.druidhills.org/our/getinvolved.htm
**Visualization for Burbanck Park by Kelly Gray**

In June, the Burbanck Park Committee, led by Cianmait Howett, Emperor's director of sustainability initiatives, met in Emory Village with Druid Hills community members to collect ideas for what the newest park in Druid Hills—Burbanck Park—should include. The consensus from the group was that the park site should be accessible to the public but preserved to the extent possible as a natural area with minimal new roof cover or impermeable surfaces. There should be no damage to the existing tree canopy. The community group assembled a “wish list” that included some of the following unique qualities:

- Parks designed of permeable materials
- Active forest restoration that includes invasive species removal
- Native species introduction
- Stream bank restoration
- Interpretative signage to identify trees and plants and to identify the condition of the stream banks
- Increased visibility into the park by removing the existing front hedge on Clifton Road

In 2006, Emory University purchased the 1.2-acre property and the park was dedicated on Earth Day 2007. Strategically located at the corner of Clifton and Oxford Roads, Burbanck Park was home to Drs. Madeline and William Burbanck.

Emory plans to have the non-historic home removed and the land will be restored to its natural setting. The park provides a recreational area for the community and acts as a green buffer between the residences of Druid Hills and the commercial district of Emory Village. It’s not too late to present your vision for Burbanck Park. Visit www.dhcacommunitypartnership.org and the Burbanck Park page to provide comments on the park.

**Recycle at Emory**

Emory Recycles encourages the community to use 24-hour drop off site located near the parking lot of the Lower Fields parking lot. Magazines, newspapers, white paper, tin cans, aluminum cans, plastics #1 and #2, photo books, cardboard, and green, brown and mixed glass are accepted. For more information, visit www.emory.edu/emory/Recycling/recycling.html.

**Sign up for compliments and complaints!**

Two Druid Hills Civic Association Committees need volunteers!

Community and Lifestyle

- Plan neighborhood events
- Assist with fundraising for neighborhood parks and common areas
- Create an increased sense of community in Druid Hills

To volunteer, please contact Chad and Lacy Henderson at 404-872-5964.

**Get the Most Out of Your Advertising Dollars**

The Druid Hills News is published in April, July, September and late November. It reaches thousands of people who live, shop, and work in Druid Hills. With thousands of copies of each issue distributed in the area, the publication’s advertising rates are a bargain for businesses that want to reach Druid Hills customers. For information on ad sizes and pricing: 404-523-3422 (DHCA) www.dhca.org/advertising.html email: admin@druidhills.org

**HELP WANTED**

Two: Druid Hills Civic Association Committees need volunteers!

Community and Lifestyle

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- Create an increased sense of community in Druid Hills

To volunteer, please contact Chad and Lacy Henderson at 404-872-5964.

**Membership**

- Welcome new DH residents
- Assist with administrative tasks
- Create new opportunities for residents to join DHCA

To volunteer, please contact Thea Roeser at theroeser@yahoo.com.

The DHCA is also looking for a Coordinator. To volunteer, please contact Thomas Wynn at 371-0670 or email admninfo@druidhills.org.
**President's Column**

by Bruce MacGregor

**THE PASSAGE OF TIME**

Many of us consider Druid Hills a “cultured environment in the woods.” It has been thus since the original Olmsted Plan was implemented. Initial residents were the business elite of Atlanta. They were later supplemented by academic, medical, legal, and other professionals as the neighborhood expanded and after Emory moved their main campus from Oxford. However, both the intellectual culture and the physical environment have remained remarkably consistent for almost 100 years. Increased development over the years has been ameliorated by maintaining the forest canopy of this part of the Southern Piedmont. We are also located in the upper reaches of the Peachtree Creek watershed, resulting in numerous tributary streams throughout the neighborhood. Druid Hills has been an unabashedly suburban development since the forest and cotton fields were converted to residential use.

From an early date, we were served with mass transit to the city, first with the trolley line along Ponce de Leon, and rail passenger service to Emory, and later with several bus routes. At the end of the nineteenth century, Joel Hurt (developer of Druid Hills) entered a lawsuit against a railroad to locate a railroad on the edge rather than through the middle of Druid Hills. At the end of the twentieth century, our civic association successfully lobbied to locate a passenger rail line along the edge rather than through Druid Hills.

Over the years, Druid Hills residents have maintained a keen sense of nature. One of the region's first ecologists, Dr. Robert Platt, lived on Peavine Creek on East Clifton Rd. In addition to teaching and writing, he helped to preserve Fernbank Forest. Jamie MacKay, founder of the Georgia Conservancy and a member of Congress, lived on Clifton Rd. Dr. William and Madeline Burbank, pioneers of aquatic biology, lived on Peavine Creek at the corner of Clifton and Oxford. The Burbancks and their neighbors, the Manns, were the original “keepers” of Peavine Creek. Sara Mann died August 15. Sara and her late husband Louie lived on Peavine Creek at Vickers Dr. They were guardians of both the neighborhood creeks and the neighborhood children (many of whom had a close relationship with Peavine Creek).

Earlier this year, Sally Daniel, long time resident of Ridgwood (and Peavine Creek) died. Her late husband Emory was a noted attorney and DHCA board member. Their heirs have indicated their potential interest in converting the Daniel’s two acres on Ridgwood to a local park. Dr. Woodfin (Woody) Cobb lived on Clifton Rd on the Fernbank Branch of Peavine. Among other things, he worked mightily to keep Druid Hills free of expressways (including those disguised as parkways). Sherry Fort and her husband Randall lived on East Clifton on a Peavine tributary, which they successfully preserved. David Oiler lived near the Decatur branch of Peavine Creek on Durand Falls Dr. He was an environmentalist and writer who wrote many articles for the Druid Hills News under the pen-name “Drew Ed Hills.” His memorial service was held at Manuel’s Tavern in August.

When the 1970’s nomination of Druid Hills to the National Register of Historic Places was prepared, the initial draft was rejected by the rediscoverable Adlerian Hogan (DHCA’s long term leader, Colonial Hogan’). The author was instructed to rewrite the nomination to give the naturalized planning weight equal to that given to the buildings’ architecture. Thirty years later, DHCA is in the process of developing a “character area” within the DeKalb portion of the Druid Hills Historic District, to protect the land and trees of Chelsea Heights, while allowing changes to the buildings. All of the people named above are dead. We are the beneficiaries of their work and their care for our neighborhood’s natural environment. It is now our watch. Will we leave this place better than we found it, as they did? Let’s hope so.

**Current Challenges:**

The current fashion in land development is urban and mixed use. How can this mesh with our history and our market? The current fashion for “urban density” is more accurately described as ‘overdoing.’ Market success is not the totality of the worth of an idea, or a real estate project. Money may be needed to either deterouise and infect the larger area, nor should they be allowed to grow to the point that they overwhelm the larger area.

Provide for diversity, while maintaining scale and balance. A variety of life cycle housing and other uses can stabilize an area. However, there is no need, nor is it possible to replicate the entire urban society within this small area. Over the past 15 years, our overall housing density has doubled, and the housing variety has increased. This will be further increased with the addition of housing planned on Clifton Rd, Emory Village and the Sage Hill area. Retail support is located at numerous locations around and near the edges. Sage Hill and North Decatur/Clairmont are on the edge, while Virginia-Highlands and Decatur are nearby. Additional retail hotel space is planned for Clifton Rd near CDC. Maintaining scale and a balance between land use and transportation is an especial challenge. Avoid the “anything worth doing is worth overdoing” mentality. Market success is not the totality of the worth of an idea, or a real estate project. Money may be necessary but is not sufficient for happiness in individuals or in a community.

Provide a balanced transportation system. Interconnected streets are a great benefit to our area, while the increase of employment related travel along those streets poses challenges.

Maintain Druid Hills leadership in local environmental and land efforts. In recent years, the development and enactment of the DeKalb County Tree Protection Ordinance, Stream Buffer Ordinance and Noise Ordinance were led by Druid Hills residents. The breadth and depth of Druid Hills collective knowledge must be focused on achieving the greater good (from whom much is given, much is expected).

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**DHCA Board Meeting Highlights**

Dick Sheuy, secretary

**Highlights of the April 11, May 16, and June 20, 2007 Board Meetings**

**Nominating Committee**

**Nominations approved**

April: Board members to serve on the Executive Committee: Rob Benfeld, Rolf Grun, Chad Polazko, Joanna Stroud, and Judy Yates.

May: Chris Leefe to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2008.

Appointments: Lynda Moser, Co-chair Division 8; Thea Roese, Chair Membership Committee; Jim Heerin, NPDC-JS representative.

June: recommended an ad hoc committee develop policies governing Board and officers and form an advisory committee of young neighbors. A By-Laws and Policy Review Committee was appointed to address these recommendations and possible term limits for Board members.

**Howard School**

April: Various representatives of Atlanta Public Schools briefed the Board on acquisition of the Howard School for a new public elementary school with 25 classrooms for 450 students.

May and June: Landmark District process is followed; an application was submitted to demolish and replace the current addition to the original house.

**Emory Village**

Developments reported at April, May and June meeting. The Board of Commissioners’ vote in May to adopt the zoning overlay opposed by the DHCA.

**Briarcliff Apartments (near Sage Hill)**

April: The Board of Zoning Appeals approved variances for Emory’s proposed foreign graduate student apartments. DHCA opposed to variances, will seek Emory’s agreement to no net loss of tree canopy.

**DeKalb County Comprehensive Development Plan**

May: The new plan passed by BOC represents a major change in land use classification by DeKalb County, to be followed by a new zoning ordinance. Impact and ramifications are unknown at this time. For more details, see full minutes at above address.

**Private Streets Ordinance**

June: The proposed ordinance allows private streets and gated communities in new and existing areas. DHCA opposes it as bad public policy hindering interconnectivity and possibly permitting density increases.

**Chelsea Heights**

April: No new COA applications filed. Three developer lawsuits challenge the DeKalb Historic District. DHCA later may need to file an amicus brief. A special character area for Chelsea Heights is being drafted to present to the Historic Preservation Commission.

**Briarcliff Mansion (Emory’s West Campus)**

June: Concern was expressed for the building’s condition (boarded, broken windows) and prospects for its future. A guest from the HPC asked if this might be a case of demolitions-by-neglect, suggesting the issue be taken up with the owner.

**Clifton Road Mixed Use Project**

May: The project will comprise 875 residential units, 250 hotel rooms and retail establishments. Issues include public vs. private parking and Emory’s recommendations for intersection and road widening in the campus vicinity.

June: DHCA, generally supportive, supports Harwood concern’s concerns on the Houston Mill side of the project. Commissioner Jeff Rader said this is the first project of its kind in DeKalb County, and they want to get it right. He acknowledged that the primary impact of the neighborhood will be increased traffic, with longer traffic jams and occurring at different times of the day. The objective is to reduce work hour traffic.

**Emory Bookstore**

May: Emory seeks a setback variance from 50 feet to 15 feet for its proposed bookstore on Oxford Road. The Executive Committee recommended the DHCA seek denial.

June: The Board of Zoning Appeals approved the variance with the condition that the half building be moved to a 20 foot setback.

**continued on page 9**
Briarcliff by J.J. Williams

Briarcliff Farm, located in Druid Hills on what was Williams Mill Road, was the home of Asa G. Candler, Jr. (known as "Buddie") and his family. He moved to a rambling farmhouse located on the 42-acre property in 1910 from his home in Inman Park.

Buddie oversaw a huge farming operation at Briarcliff. The farm was both self-sufficient and provided fresh produce and meats to local stores. He raised produce and cows, sheep, pigs and chickens. At one point during World War I, he had a contract to supply Fort Gordon with milk from his dairy.

In 1916, Buddie hired architects C.E. Frazier of Columbia, South Carolina, and Dan Boden of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to design a grand new home. “Briarcliff” was completed in 1920. It was a 22-room ante-bellum home with a ballroom on the third floor. The exterior was made of buff colored bricks, with carved stone quoins at each corner sitting on rough granite bases. The interior had beautiful carvings and woodwork throughout, pegged wooden floors and massive fireplaces carved of Georgia and European marble. Elaborate greenhouses were constructed in the rear of the house so that Buddie and his wife, Helen, could pursue their hobbies of growing exotic orchids and unusual roses.

Inside, Briarcliff consisted of a large foyer, a paneled library, living room, and a music room added to the first floor after the house had been completed. The oak-paneled room was three stories tall, and originally contained a pipe organ. The kitchen was large enough to contain commercial restaurant equipment, needed for the grand dinners and parties held at the mansion. The dining room was paneled and had carved ceilings and moldings. The dining room fireplace held at the mansion. The dining room was paneled and had carved ceilings and moldings. The dining room fireplace was of carved white marble, imported from Europe.

The DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission began the 30-day period in the demolition-by-negotiate process for the Briarcliff Mansion at its meeting August 20. Emory University, owner of the mansion, will receive notification that it has 30 days to take corrective action. Although the owner was notified of this agenda item for the HPC meeting, there had been no response as of the meeting and no one representing the owner was present to speak to the matter. The HPC is responsible for monitoring upkeep and preservation of historic structures and acting in the case of failure.

The Historic Preservation Commission received a letter from Emory University subsequent to their monthly meeting stating that all necessary repairs would be made beginning immediately.

The estate included the main house, servants’ quarters, tennis courts, horse stables, greenhouses, a laundry, the zoo buildings and a community pool. At the time Buddie installed the community pool, there was no public swimming pool for the children of Druid Hills. (The Druid Hills Golf Club had a pool, but it was private.) When completed, the pool was known as the Briarcliff Zoological Gardens and boasted a neon light fountain that came on after dark. The pool area was landscaped with gorgeous flowers and shrubs. Admission to the pool was 25 cents. The pool also had a pavilion where visitors could buy snacks and Coca Cola. Another building housed a locker room where swimmers could change and store their street clothing. There was a private pool in the rear of the property for the family.

The Candler’s sold Briarcliff in 1948 to the General Services Administration but the planned Veteran’s Hospital was never built there. The State Alcohol Commission then purchased the property to be used as a treatment facility for alcoholism. “The Georgian Clinic,” as it was known, opened in 1953 as the first and only facility in Georgia for alcohol treatment. The Georgian Clinic continued to use the public swimming pool as a recreation area for its patients until the late 1950s, when it closed due to lack of funds for maintenance.

In 1965, The Georgian Mental Health Institute was located to the left of Briarcliff House on part of the 42 acres. It contained a large multi-story tower surrounded by smaller cottages. It was the northern DeKalb regional mental health treatment center until it closed.

Buddie Candler sold Briarcliff in 1949 and moved with his second wife, Florence, into the top floor of the Briarcliff Hotel, which was owned by the family. He died there of cancer in January of 1955.

The once grand Briarcliff mansion is now boarded up and owned by Emory University.

Hopping back by popular demand September 19!*
A Thriving Garden Despite the Drought
by Jennifer Richardson, Georgia Master Gardener, DeKalb County

Blame it on La Niña. According to weather forecasters, La Niña is a distinct weather pattern and is the reason Georgia is currently in drought. Drought—long periods of time without rain—is considered ‘extreme’ in Georgia. And, forecasters say, the drought is expected to continue throughout the summer and early fall unless a hurricane moves across the state, and becomes stationary for long enough to saturate the ground.

The home gardener has options. Even the most stringent water restrictions allow a homeowner to water vegetable gardens for home use. Those shrubs, trees and perennial is another matter. Following are some county water restrictions, and incorporate many of the suggestions listed below to help you save water and your garden.

1. One good soak every 10 days is actually better than a daily sprinkle. This is because watering too much causes plants to keep their root systems near the surface, instead of digging deep into the earth.

2. Try ‘hand watering’ instead of a sprinkler system. When you hand water, you can get beneath leaves and blooms to the base of the plant. Water that hits the plant’s foliage usually evaporates rapidly.

3. Water in the very early morning (6 a.m. to 10 a.m.) and in the late evening (after midnight) when risk of evaporation is the slightest, and you may also capitalize on some dew that remains, or is forming, on your plants.

4. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, set the timer to go off in the early morning and late evening. Do not water all night!

5. What are three defenses against drought? Mulch. Mulch. Mulch. You can purchase mulch at the garden or hardware store, or make your own. Mulching helps keep whatever water is in the soil from evaporating. A good combination is to lay wet newspapers around your bed or tree, and put attractive mulch over the papers. A bonus is that this method also keeps down those pesky weeds.

6. Harvest rainwater. Remember the old rain barrel? Ever wonder how much water runs off your roof, into your gutters and into the storm sewer or street? Answer: a lot. You can create ways of capturing rain water at each of your gutter downsputs.

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7. Use grey water on your landscape. Collect shower and sink water in buckets and distribute the water on your yard. A licensed plumber can install a system whereby all your grey water goes into a tank instead of down the drain.

8. Install eco-bags or gator bags around your trees. For smaller plants, create your own slow watering system. Take an empty gallon milk or juice jug, leave the cap on, and punch a few small holes close to the cap on the shoulder of the container. Fill it with water on your outdoor watering day and tip it upside down beside your plants. Making sure the holes in the container are under the soil line. Voilà! You have a slow (but unsightly) water system. If the milk carton bothers you, remember how sad a dying or dead plant looks.

9. Start a compost pile using kitchen and yard waste and mulch around your plants with compost. Homemade compost holds moisture better than store-bought mulch.

10. Plant drought-resistant plants and shrubs when possible. Consult your garden store for the names of plants that do well without regular deluges.
NATALIE GREGORY
Welcome to Your New Home

476 EMORY CIRCLE, DRUID HILLS

Just a short stroll to Emory, this impeccable six-bedroom, five-bath traditional home is a rare find. Nestled on a quiet, sidewalk-lined street in the heart of Druid Hills, this home combines the best of new construction with the feel of an older home. Features include an open yet intimate floorplan with large screened-in porch, gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, high ceilings, distinctive fireplace in the expansive great room, formal dining room, library and a double attached garage hidden from the street. This home boasts a fabulous owner suite with a private deck overlooking the backyard, as well as a walk-in closet off its bathroom. Full finished basement with separate entrance. Simply beautiful. $969,000

228 CHELSEA DRIVE, DECATUR

This five-bedroom, three-bath home confidently combines old world charm with modern conveniences and flair. The new construction features a professionally designed kitchen for entertaining, an attached two-car garage, and a gorgeous master suite. Arts and crafts workmanship, pocket doors, period detail and trim, and ebonized hardwood floors. Offers lovely living room, dining room, great room, deck, finished basement with office and recreation room, and level backyard. Incredible storage. Extras include wine cellar closet, pantry, mud room, energy efficient systems. Featured in magazines, it’s a perfect ten on the style scale. Unbeatable location in City of Decatur, one mile from Square, Emory and COC. $735,000

1738 COVENTRY ROAD, DRUID HILLS

Featured on the cover of Better Homes and Gardens, this three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath tin-roof cottage brings the flavor of Key West to its convenient location near Emory. Light streams in from multiple sets of French doors in the spacious central hall. The double garage is connected to the house by a covered breezeway through the charming gardens, complete with pergola, stone patio and fountain pond. The third floor's bonus loft space is ideal for a children’s playroom or home office. Nestled on a corner lot, the home also features a formal dining room, skylights and a basement with separate exterior entrance. Enjoy fires in the living room fireplace or wood-burning stove in the eat-in kitchen. $499,000

THE ARTISAN #617, DECATUR

This two-bedroom, two-bath condo with study conveniently located in the Artisan, in the heart of Decatur features ten-foot ceilings, two balconies and an open floorplan. State-of-the-art kitchen includes Bosch stainless appliances, granite countertops and Shaker-style maple cabinets. An oversized master bath offers garden tub, separate tiled shower and double vanities. Brazilian cherry hardwood floors throughout the living areas and neutral Bayberries in the bedrooms. The home also includes an entrance foyer, oversized windows, secure separate storage unit and two assigned parking places. Property amenities include a rooftop pool, clubroom and fitness room and daytime concierge. Walk to all of Decatur’s shops, galleries, and restaurants! $469,000 NEW PRICE!

735 AVERY STREET, DECATUR

Walk one block to Winnona Park Elementary from this spacious light-filled five-bedroom, three-bath renovated home. The house features a master suite on the main floor, complete with double vanities, spa tub and separate shower, as well as a sitting area, ideal for a home office. Two upstairs bedrooms include a Jack and Jill bathroom and spacious California Closets. Enjoy coffee on the charming wrap around brick porch just steps away from the kitchen, remodeled with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Charming breakfast area, separate dining room, living room with fireplace and two additional bedrooms on main add to the appeal. Hardwood floors throughout, fully fenced back and side yards and fantastic open floor plan. $695,000

325 LOCKWOOD TERRACE, DECATUR

Better than new! This traditional two-story home offers three-bedrooms, two-and-a-half bathrooms and an attached two-car garage. 345 Lockwood is located just a short stroll to Decatur Square in the desirable Sycamore Ridge subdivision. House features a spacious owner suite with sitting area and bathroom, complete with double vanities, spa-tub and separate shower. Two additional upstairs bedrooms include a Jack and Jill bathroom with separate vanities. Open floor plan is perfect for entertaining with casual dining area that opens to a two-story living room with fireplace. French doors off of kitchen open to a deck with a private, fenced backyard. Separate dining room and hardwood floors throughout are a plus! $365,000

NATALIE GREGORY, Your Home Marketing Specialist
404 550 5113 direct • 404 564 5560 office
Natalie@NatalieGregorySOLD.com • NatalieGregorySOLD.com
125 Clairemont Avenue, Suite 500, Decatur, Georgia 30030

KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY ATLANTA
If you are a member of the DHCA, you can become a DHPN (Druid Hills Parents Network) member. Go to www.dhcausa.org or for more information.

Who: If you are a member of the DHCA, you can automatically become a DHPN (Druid Hills Parents Network) member.

What: Get to know other parents in the neighborhood; ask/get info on schools, babysitters, toys, playgroups, events and more.

When: The DHPN is up and running with more than 100 members.

Where: Be a part of the discussion forum by going to www.dhcausa.org. By giving your email, you will be a private list serve full of information.

Why: Because the Druid Hills Parents Network wants to bring families together in the area. We have a great neighborhood but so few parents know each other.

UPCOMING EVENT
Halloween Get Together—Place: TBD, but we will send out information about getting our families together on Wednesday, Oct. 31, prior to Trick-or-Treating, with food and drinks available.

Claudia Edwards, DHPN Committee Member

Mary Lin Elementary
Mary Lin Elementary got a makeover this summer. A new HVAC system was installed and all the ceiling tiles were replaced. The surfaces in the bathrooms and kitchen were professionally deep-cleaned and the whole building was repainted.

One of the Mary Lin PTA’s big fundraisers is coming up October 13 and 14 when it puts on the Children’s Activity Area at the Candler Park Fall Festival.

DruD High School
A new fundraising organization has been formed to benefit athletic programs at Druid Hills High School. The DHHS Athletic Foundation is hoping to raise an initial $40,000 to replace strength training equipment used by training athletes, injured athletes and students in fitness classes, and to pay a necessary portion of the salary of an athletic trainer provided to DHHS by Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. The officers of the new foundation are Becky Evans, Jim McGuire, Jeff Cromwell and Sherley Agbayo. Carolyn and Bob Riordan offered their Druid Hills home for a summer campaign kick-off party. With a mission to address the shared needs of all neighborhood schools, visit their websites, listed below:

Mary Lin Elementary School: www.marylinelementary.com
Fernbank Elementary School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/fernbank
Shamrock Middle School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/fernbank
Druid Hills High School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/druidhills
Briar Vista Elementary: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/briarvista

For more information on what’s happening in our neighborhood schools, visit their websites listed below:

Briar Vista Elementary: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/briarvista
Druid Hills High School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/druidhills
Fernbank Elementary School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/fernbank
Mary Lin Elementary School: www.marylinelementary.com
Paideia School: www.paideiaschool.org
Shamrock Middle School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/shamrock

Shamrock Middle School
September is the month for Shamrock Middle School’s big fundraiser. Students will be selling magazine subscriptions. Last year, students raised $12,000 for Shamrock. money that was spent for math tools, school beautification, a good student recognition program and start-up support for the drama club. Anyone wishing to purchase or renew a subscription and help Shamrock in their Druid Hills home where she has lived for 11 years. You may contact the club at doulme@bellsouth.net or 404-373-6662.

Fernbank Elementary
Fernbank Elementary’s Jason Marshall made a list of “High Performance Principals,” compiled by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Good news, bad news. The distinction makes him eligible for an annual bonus of $15,000 for up to three years if he chooses to accept a position at a “Nexed Improvement” school. Fernbank opens for the 2007-2008 academic year with Mr. Marshall remaining at the helm.

Right inside the front door at Fernbank are collection containers for anyone wishing to recycle ink cartridges or Box Tops for Education. Box Tops, worth just 10 cents apiece, netted the Fernbank PTA more than $500 last academic year.

Paideia School
Paideia School reports that 80% of the waste from the demolition this summer of the townhouses at Oakdale and South Ponce de Leon was diverted from landfills. Metal, brick, asphalt, concrete and unpainted wood were instead transported to off-site facilities for recycling. As reported here last issue, three new Paideia buildings are replacing the town homes.

For more information on what’s happening in our neighborhood schools, visit their websites, listed below:

Briar Vista Elementary: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/briarvista
Druid Hills High School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/druidhills
Fernbank Elementary School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/fernbank
Mary Lin Elementary School: www.marylinelementary.com
Paideia School: www.paideiaschool.org
Shamrock Middle School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/shamrock

Suzan Merritt Jordan does freelance writing and editing from her Druid Hills home where she has lived for 11 years. You may contact the club at doulme@bellsouth.net or 404-373-6662.

Mary Angela Whyte
Well, OK, more like herons, turkeys, and owls, with recent coyote sightings thrown in, but considering we can stand at Clifton and Houston Mill for a good view of Atlanta’s skyline, that’s still impressive. I asked neighbors for other critter stories after our turkey Henry became famous in the AJC, and here are a few responses.

“There was a plentiful woodpecker in my backyard last week. A magnificent bird! Don’t know if anyone else has seen it, but it’s the first time in my life that I have, and I had a fit when it landed on the white oak beside my deck—while I was sitting there.”

“We hear owls at night; although I haven’t seen one, my daughter did. I love hearing them.”

—Dee Daly

“We have a lot pond in our backyard. On many occasions we have seen a great form swooping up from our yard. It is the heron that lives in the area. She is beautiful, appears to stand about 6 feet tall, and apparently loves the menu selection in our pond. This morning our cat was transfixed by a tree in the yard next door. With binoculars, we saw the heron on the highest branch of the tree, next to what appears to be a big nest. We think it’s a female with babies to feed. If anyone wants to check this out, our house with the pond is 973 Clifton Road. The tree with the possible nest is close to the street in the front yard of the house to our west.”

—Amy Stankus

And this from our eclets in May:

Coyote Sighting in Druid Hills, Stephanie Ramage, news editor of The Sunday Paper, reports:

“At about 9:30 p.m., May 15, as I was driving on East Clifton toward Clifton, a large coyote loped out of the ravine where a little stream crosses the street. Having lived in Utah, I know a coyote when I see one. This was unquestionably a coyote. He stopped when I slammed on brakes, looked right at me and then continued on his way across the road and back down into the ravine.

Ironically, we did a story about the growing suburban coyote population in the metro area a few months ago, but I didn’t realize they had moved right into town. Druid Hills residents should bring their pets in at night and avoid leaving pet food outside.

Coyotes are generally very shy, but they love dining on cats and small dogs, have been known to get into fights with large dogs, and there are some reports out West of them being aggressive toward humans (I’m convinced those must have been rabid—by nature they’re really timid). If your kids like playing in the woods and creeks in the neighborhood, you should probably keep your new coyote neighbor in mind. He was very healthy looking and I would say, by coyote standards, actually kind of pretty. It was startling.

(Note: These coyotes [2] have been seen on N. Superior in August, so they are still here!)

Add our usual raccoons, possums, squirrels, chipmunks, birds, owls, and hawks and we’re not that far from Oz, after all!
Looking for a quick and convenient way to get around the Clifton community without getting into your vehicle? Why not bike?

Bike Emory is a new campaign sponsored by Emory and the Clifton Community Partnership (CCP) and developed in collaboration with Fuji Bikes, an international bike company, and Bicycle South, a Decatur-based bicycle shop. The campaign encourages cycling as a safe, fun and economical transportation alternative.

Log onto bike.emory.edu and join the online cycling community for:
- The “Cyclopedia” blog, an online forum for cycling enthusiasts to share tips and ideas with other riders
- Times and locations for the Mobile Repair Center on Emory’s campus
- The Bike Emory calendar of events and tips on bike safety
- Promotional items and giveaways
- Links to other bike groups in the area

Cycling more means driving less, making it better for your health and the environment—there are also fewer vehicles on the roads throughout the community. Why not bike?

For more information on the CCP, visit www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org or contact Bryan Cooke, executive director, at 404.727.9341 or at info@cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.
The Transportation Committee was soliciting input on traffic and transportation priorities in the neighborhood. Perhaps it was back in the early winter through their breathing calls or, perhaps, early spring when the couple made their presence heard. False and truly experienced.

A number of tools and equipment are necessary to co-habitats, in educated awareness, with a family of species quite different from oneself. It takes a guidebook, a pair of binoculars, internet resources, contact with Fernbank Science Center/Chattahoochee Nature Center, a camera, a cell phone and, finally, the good fortune to be available during the weeks of the fledglings’ departure into the same larger world into which we launch our own youth.

We MacGregors live on the edge of old growth forest somewhat contiguous with Fernbank Forest, giving a range large enough to support such a family of owls. Through research, I now know that Barred Owls mate for life, stay together on a territory all year (they do not migrate), nest in big holes in trees left by broken branches, are single-brooded, and lay 2-4 eggs with an incubation period of 28-33 days. Parents care for their young at least four months, much longer than most other owls – this is where it really got interesting.

For a month or two, we experienced the almost nightly calling of courtship of a loud, resonating “hoo, hoo, too-HOO, hoo, too-HOO,” often phrased as “Who cooks for you? Who, cooks, for-you,” all (“Internet.” This was often accompanied by a raucous squall similar to a brief dogfight or animal attack – we knew not what. Rarely, we glimpsed a very large bird flying silently through the woods. All this nocturnal activity changed in April when we began to see these beautiful creatures in the late afternoon and early evening – quite visible on low branches of the trees surrounding our gazebo. Thus, we began to seek them out at this time of day.

One evening, across the hollow, we spotted what appeared to be two young owls. With the backing light of the sun through the trees, they seemed to have fine fuzz around their heads. Strongly enough, in the fading light, we saw them—shimmery up the tree the way a monkey might. Later, we learned the young leave the nest at about four weeks, are not able to fly, but crawl out of the nest using their beaks and talons to sit on branches. With serious daylight activity all around us, I began to take my binoculars and sit on the deck to wait for the next event. One evening, I saw one of the parents sitting not far from me. I would wait it out, see what happened. The owl and I both sat and sat and sat. Finally, with a loud announcement, the owl’s mate arrived home. He flew to the tree branch, sat down next to his/her partner, and they began a mutual grooming, acknowledgement of each other – “Hello, dear, and how was your day?”

Then, in mutual agreement, they took off in different directions, I suppose to gather dinner and check on the fledglings. It gets more interesting… Two days later, in the early afternoon, our neighbor, Haviland Dunaphant, called: On the edge of her driveway, in the bright sun, sat one of the owls with both its wings extended. I immediately went to see. The owl just sat there, not afraid to let us close. In fact, as I approached, it whimpered softly, looking tight at me with its beautiful big eyes. We agreed it must be hurt, and I went to find help. Searching for telephone numbers on the Internet, I reached the Chattahoochee Nature Center only to have to leave a voice message. Moved on to Fernbank Science Center where the receptionist took a message for the unavailable owl experts. I pleaded that we needed help now – an owl was down and lying in the sun. The urgency in my voice was heard – they would have someone call me. I waited, wondering what to do next.

My cell phone rang. The caller was Michael Ellis of the AWARE Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Arabia Mountain in Lithonia. I told him of our owl emergency. As would any good diagnostician, he needed to ask me some questions – I would have to go to the owl’s location.

Meanwhile, Haviland had pulled up a lawn chair and waited. Animated, she reported the young owl could fly. The mother had arrived, sat down next to her fledgling, regurgitated some food and fed him. Keep in mind, we humans did not initially know if this was a child or parent – seems they are about the same size at this point in their development. Is this beginning to sound familiar? After hearing our reports, Mr. Ellis explained the adolescent owl was just fine – he was just practicing his “mantling” – the spreading of wings to cover/conceal any captured food from being taken by others. He said teenage Barred Owls were “spoiled brats, often putting themselves in harm’s way to see if their parents would come to their rescue.” Well, I believe some of us have also had that experience, have we not?

Our window of observation continued another week before the fledglings left the larger area to explore on their own. One afternoon, through my refined ability to spot owls on branches with binoculars, I observed—first hand and up close—the swallowing whole of dinner. I now completely understand why an owl sits still and doses for such long periods! The digestive processes are an especially complex issue.

With summer, it has grown quiet around here. The lone bullfrog and a chorus of cicadas are all that serenade us now. However, come winter, I am hopeful that our Barred Owl couple will again entertain us with their instinctive desire to procreate. In the meantime, I will settle down—in the swing in the gazebo—with the final Harry Potter book, posted to my mailbox in a package with a picture of Hedwig on it (Harry’s Owl).

School Projects…continued from page 1

Potter #9 for Ponce and the District” – with thanks to Chuck Palmer for the song connection.) Note: demolition of the addition(s) is not an issue for the Committee. The addition across the front occurred before LD protection and would never have received a COA. The 1983 addition was built behind this one.

Parking, transportation and traffic constitute a major issue, as well, but of these only parking is covered by the Landmark District ordinance. There is an ongoing effort to work out the traffic issue with Springdale Road residents taking the lead. An agreement with the Druid Hills Methodist Church is critical just as in the case of Morningside Elementary and the Haygood Methodist Church next to it.

DHCA Board Briefs…continued from page 3

Transportation
April: The Transportation Committee was soliciting input on traffic and transportation priorities in the neighborhood, e.g., eliminating as much through traffic as possible.
May: The Committee is seeking additional volunteers for sub-committees

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First Thursdays in Emory Village Kick-Off September 6

Emory Village will launch a new monthly celebration on Thursday, Sept. 6, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. with special activities for children and adults. The kick-off for First Thursdays in Emory Village is designed to bring together neighbors, friends and visitors for an evening of fun and to highlight the businesses in the village.

“Not only will this evening provide Druid Hills residents and the Emory and CDC communities an opportunity to socialize with friends and neighbors, but also First Thursdays is our way of supporting the businesses of Emory Village. We encourage people not familiar with the village to visit the numerous new businesses there as well as old favorites,” said Davis Fox, president of the Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV).

Events planned include: children's activities and a book signing at All Fired Up from 6:30 until 10:30 p.m.; Trivia Night at Saba starting at 9 p.m.; music by the Moonlighters Jazz Band at Innan Perk from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. In addition, participating merchants will offer samples and special promotions. Various community groups plan booths, and vendors will offer items for purchase such as organic produce, soap and wrapping paper.

First Thursdays is sponsored by AIEV with support from the Clifton Community Partnership.

Emory Village is located at the intersection of North Decatur Rd. and Oxford Rd. Additional parking will be available at the B. Jones and Fishburne parking decks at Emory University.

“We hope you will mark your calendars today to attend the monthly First Thursdays celebrations and become part of what we envision as a new tradition in the village,” said Fox. “Every month will feature different activities for all ages.”

For more information, visit www.emoryvillage.org or call 404-687-0395.

Civic Association Archives
by Dick Shuey, Secretary

How many of us knew that the DHCA has archival records dating back to the 1930’s? It is true, and the Association’s By-Laws provide that they will be held by the Emory University Department of Special Collections.

The president is responsible for preserving the archival records with the assistance of the secretary. The president, secretary and treasurer have the duty to preserve all records generated during their terms of office, and to pass them on to their successors. After the annual meeting each year, they or their successors are supposed to deliver to the Department of Special Collections all of the collected records more than three years old.

Recently, it has been suggested that this procedure has not been followed consistently, and that we need to catch up to ensure that our archives are complete. As a first step, we are asking all former presidents, secretaries, and treasurers of the Association to review their DHCA files and determine if they have retained any records that should have gone to the archives. We are also asking that they call or e-mail their current successors with the results of this informal inventory, so that we can develop a plan for gathering and assembling the records for delivery to the archives. Thanks for your help!

Druid Hills Civic Association
Not yet a member of DHCA? Use the form below and join today! Join online at www.druithills.org/join/memberform.htm

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION—MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please [ ] enroll me [ ] renew me as a member of the Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA).

PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s):
Address:

City:__________________________________________________   State:_________  ZIP:_________________

Cry.:_____________________________________   Work phone:____________________

Mobile phone:____________________________________   Fax:____________________

E-mail:_____________________________________   Occupation:____________________

Membership Involvement and Interests

Please indicate your level of interest in the following areas on a scale from 0 to 10.

[ ] Please feel free to contact me for help

Annual Dues (Check one):

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[ ] Druid Member $100 - $249

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1173 Rosewood Drive

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New Construction by Swan Inc! 5 bedroom, 5.5 bath. New home in Morningside Elementary Dist. Featuring gorgeous fixtures and finishes, great open floor plan, and finished terrace level.

34 The Prado

4 Bedroom/3.5 Bath in Ansley Park, $1,350,000

1077 McLynn Avenue

4 Bedroom/4.5 Bath in Morningside, $1,690,000

325 9th Street

6 Bedrooms/5.5 Baths in Midtown, $1,690,000

886 Cumberland

6 Bedroom/4 Full Baths/2 Half Baths in Morningside, $1,365,000

1374 Rock Springs Circle

5 Bedrooms/5.5 Bath in Morningside Preserve, $1,390,000

1265 McLynn Avenue

4 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths in Virginia Highland, $1,559,900

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