The 2008 Fourth of July Parade celebrated both our nation and our neighborhood. Festive marchers, patriotic attire, music, political speeches, lemonade and watermelon—all that was missing was fireworks, not a usual daytime event. The neighborhood event continues to grow and remind us of how good it is to live in Druid Hills!

Parents Network Builds Community
By Beth Blaney

Since the inception of the Druid Hills Parents Network (DHPN) in spring 2007, dozens of neighbors have connected—both online and in person.

“The Parents Network has given me a small-town feel while living in a city,” says Lacy Henderson of Cameron Court.

“I’ve become close to people on my street that I might have never met if it wasn’t for the Parents’ Network,” says Oxford Road resident Tammy Carroll. “I knew when I joined that I’d have parenting in common with members, but I didn’t realize how many other things we’d enjoy talking about. I love being a part of it.”

In addition to making new friends, Carroll says she’s found babysitters, home-improvement contractors, doctors and day-care options through the network. Perhaps the most popular perk of membership, the DHPN Yahoo Group fosters online communication among neighborhood parents. So far, the invitation-only email group has nearly 60 participants.

“The Parents Network is for everyone who is a parent,” says Claudia Edwards of Druid Hills Methodist Church. “It’s a great way to exchange neighborhood information, news and ideas with so many parents,” adds Suzi Dize of Emory Road. “The Parents Network plays a vital role in creating a stronger sense of community in Druid Hills.”

Upcoming events include a “MoMo’s Night Out” in mid-September and a family Halloween Party on October 26. “The activities we have planned are going to be a great way to put faces with names. I hope we have a great turnout!” says Carroll.

Don’t miss our Sign up today—it’s easy. Simply join the Druid Hills Civic Association (www.druidhills.org) at any membership level, and indicate interest in the Parents Network. You’ll receive a user name and password for our online discussion board, as well as an email invitation to join the DHPN Yahoo Group. If you’re already a Civic Association member and would like to join the Parents Network, too, please email communication@druidhillsparents.org. You’ll promptly be added to the group.

An Interview with Morningside Kindergarten Campus Program Administrator
Whitney Woodward

Whitney Woodward began her career in administration last year as the program administrator for the new Morningside Kindergarten Campus, located in the historic home on Ponce de Leon Avenue at the corner of Springdale Road. She is a native Atlantan who earned her master’s degree in early childhood education at the University of Georgia, after graduating from Washington University in St. Louis with a major in art history. She taught 2nd and 3rd grade in two Atlanta public schools: Centennial Place and Morningside. A leadership endorsement from Georgia State added to her teaching certificate put her in the program administrator position. She, the teachers, children, and parents all made a new beginning in a beautiful old house, most recently the high school for The Howard School, with “learning cottages,” a.k.a. trailers, installed all around the back yard. The cafeteria is a triple-wide trailer. A play area with structures is located to the Springdale side. The Campus will house Morningside’s kindergarten for one more year.

Barbara Vogel and I met Whitney Woodward in mid-July in her office on the second floor. Though quiet now, there is still evidence of how much vitality the house enjoys as a kindergarten space. And it is very clear that the Kindergarten Campus has exactly the right person at the helm.

Following are our questions and her answers.

What was the first year like?

I learned so much. We have the most wonderful group of teachers. All women. One of them was Morningside’s teacher of the year for this past year and one of the paraprofessionals was paraprofessional of the year. The teachers made everything work so well. They are all returning. And the parents were very positive. We are very lucky to be here in such a beautiful neighborhood. I have taken walks, really enjoyed seeing the homes and streets. Ponce is a challenge. My job is to see that the children can get here safely. This coming year we are going to live with the construction. (Construction of new NE elementary school involving demolition of previous additions to the Neel Reid house next door and a new addition. See box for the transportation plan.)

What goes on in the classrooms?

We follow the Georgia state performance standards. Kindergarten focuses on the alphabet, sounds, literature, reading, math, science and social studies. (The summer book list is on the Morningside web site.) We have a garden and do worm composting, which the children love! They have PE, music, and art. This coming year we will have Spanish once a week. There is a chess club every Friday morning. We emphasize wellness: sugar-free Wednesdays, pedometers for the transportation plan.)

Traffic Plan for 2008-09 School Year:

• Buses bring children to the Kindergarten Campus house.
• No carpools.
• Teacher/staff parking in front western portion of Druid Hills Methodist Church lot, corner of Ponce and Briarcliff.

Lullwater Garden Club to Reclaim Lullwater Conservation Garden as Natural Woodlands

By Jayne Cavagnaro

The Lullwater Garden Club has received a grant from The Principal Financial Group “Let’s Go Native” Civic Development Grant Program in conjunction with the National Garden Clubs, Inc. to initiate the “Lullwater Conservation Garden Native Woodlands Reclamation” project in the 6.7-acre Lullwater Conservation Garden.

“Lullwater Conservation Garden Native Woodlands Reclamation” is the Lullwater Garden Club’s first project to complete under its master plan to rid the garden of all non-native,
Lullwater Garden...continued from page 1

invasive plants. This phase will focus resources on a one-acre area that has been overtaken by bamboo. With funding resources from The Principal Financial Group “Let’s Go Native” Civic Development Grant Program and generous contributions from neighbors and friends of the Conservation Garden, the bamboo will be removed and replaced with Georgia Piedmont region native plants such as toadshade and southern nodding trillium; heartleaf and shuﬄeworth ginger; lady, maiden hair and royal ferns; pawpaw; spotted wintergreen; solomon's seal; blue-eyed grass; and yellowroot.

A dedication of the reclaimed garden is planned for 2009 National Garden Day. The Lullwater Garden Club thanks Druid Hills residents and The Principal Financial Group “Let’s Go Native” Civic Development Grant Program in conjunction with the National Garden Clubs, Inc. for ﬁnancial support of this project.

The Lullwater Garden Club is a member of the Redbud District of The Garden Club of Georgia and the Deep South Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc. For additional information contact: Tricia Elam, Chair of the Lullwater Conservation Garden Committee at pelam89@bellsouth.net.

-TT-
In the final chapter of his new book, Atlanta’s Druid Hills, A Brief History, Robert Hartle, Jr., chronicles some of the successes and frustrations of the DHCA over its seven-decade history. Like many of us, Hartle considers the DHCA’s defining achievement in its struggle to preserve the historical heritage of Druid Hills to be its success during the 1980’s in preventing the Olmsted Linear Parks from being converted into right-of-way for the Presidential Parkway, a 2.4-mile stretch of divided highway designed to connect the Carter Center with Ponce de Leon Avenue and the Downtown Connector.

It is difficult to imagine today how such a vision could have come so close to being realized. What were they thinking? In his book The Americans, Alastair Cooke describes these parks along Ponce de Leon as Frederick Law Olmsted’s “masterpiece.” That’s quite a statement considering that Olmsted’s other achievements include New York’s Central Park, Boston’s Emerald Necklace, the U.S. Capitol grounds, and the Stanford University campus.

The sense of unity and shared purpose that characterized the 10-year fight to prevent the Olmsted Linear Parks and adjacent parkland from being converted into a multi-lane highway was, of course, faded over the intervening years, as individual threats to the integrity of the neighborhood have become smaller and less obvious. Our efforts to preserve the unique character of Druid Hills are often considered static and obstructionist, not merely by developers but at times by residents as well. The DHCA’s opposition to re-zoning Emory Village to allow four-storied buildings was extremely fractious, with neighbors, friends, and even DHCA board members taking opposite sides, notwithstanding their shared concern for historic preservation and the long-term well-being of the neighborhood.

Currently, the most important neighborhood development on the horizon is the planned expansion of Emory University’s health science facilities on the east side of Clifton Road, with an expected completion date of 2013. The plans call for:

- A new 14-story, 525,000 square foot hospital with 250 beds (100 beds will replace beds in the current hospital, for a net gain of 150 beds on Clifton Road).
- A new 9-story, 395,000 square foot Emory Clinic to be built next to the current Clinic.
- A new emergency department in the hospital to replace the current facility in EUH.
- A new 100,000 square foot research facility to be located on Haygood Drive across from Emory Children’s Center.

The new hospital will be 208 feet tall, and the new clinic 174 feet tall. By way of comparison, Emory’s six-story North Decatur building located at 1784 North Decatur Road is approximately 90 feet tall. Emory’s plans call for a 340-space reduction of the parking capacity on the east side of Clifton, from approximately 3,480 spaces to approximately 3,140, and a 1,200-space increase in parking capacity at its Clairmont Campus parking deck, from approximately 1,900 spaces to 3,100. Of the 3,140 spaces on the Clifton campus, 1,400 will be new spaces located beneath the new hospital and clinic. These underground spaces will be used by patients, doctors, and administrators, while other staff will park at the Clairmont deck and access the healthcare facilities by shuttle bus via Starvine Way. Emory anticipates a net decrease in rush hour congestion along North Decatur and Clifton Roads as a result of this arrangement.

Emory has applied for Special Land Use Permits for the new hospital and clinic and the Clairmont parking deck expansion, and those applications are scheduled to come before the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners for decision in September.

Emory is, of course, excited about this expansion of its health care facilities, viewing it as “the crucial next step” in its “evolution as a world-class provider of health care, academic instruction, and innovative medical research.” Emory has made substantial efforts to keep the community apprised of its plans and has expressed a willingness to work with the DHCA and other affected neighborhoods to minimize detrimental impact from the project.

More detailed information regarding the project is available on Emory’s Clifton Community Partnership website at http://cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.

Atlanta Fine Homes | Sotheby’s International Realty

**President’s Column**

By Jim Morawetz

Fall 2008

**Board Briefs**

By Dick Shuey

May minutes were not available. Full minutes will be available on the DHCA website.

June Minutes

Wave of Burglaries: DHCA has used flyers and its website to update the neighborhood on the recent wave of burglaries. There have been more burglaries subsequent to Officer Turner’s resignation of a supervisory position. DHCA suggested that the Neighborhood Watch be reinvigorated or revitalized. Officer Turner offered to assist.

Emory Hospital and Clinic Reconstruction Plans: Emory’s Master Plan map is on Emory’s website under “Press Kits.” There will be an update concerning the Master Plan on June 24. DHCA will issue an e-alert.

DHCA should take this opportunity to lock down Emory on the campus edge as an offset for dense development on the campus interior. It should also be addressed in the Druid Hills Master Plan.

Proposed Nightclub Ordinance: The committee is trying to get the DHCA, the Golf Club and Glen Memorial together on a position opposing bars and nightclubs in Emory Village. We will take a vote on DHCA’s position when we have a consensus with our partners. The Commission will vote on the ordinance July 22.

Budget Committee: The budget committee will prepare a proposed budget for the board’s consideration.

Unpaid Sales Taxes: The DHCA has been notified by the State Revenue Department of failure to report and pay 2006 sales taxes of approximately $2800 on sales of Tour tickets and luncheons.

Druid Hills News Ad Sales: Ad sales for the last issue were down to 27% from the usual 40%.

July Minutes

Clay Hamilton, Dowertal Craftsman, offered to inspect one neighborhood house per month and suggest ways to maintain the neighborhood and to provide assistance in cases of potential problems.

**Schematic showing location of new Emory Hospital and Clinic and Clairmont parking expansion.**

**Facilities**

A. 365k GSF TEC with Underground Parking
B. 2M-bed Hospital including approximately 1000 Beds and Emergency Department with Underground Parking
C. 185k GSF Research Building
D. Pedestrian Connector to EUH
E. EUH Ingress and Egress
F. North Decatur Road Ingress/Egress
G. Clairmont Parking Deck Expansion
H. Georgia Power Substation

**Peggy Hibbert**

Top Agent Dekalb Board of Realtors

**Foundation Partner**
Fall 2008

Safety Tips From Officer Turner
Officer R. Jeremy Turner
DeKalb County Police IUP Unit
Email: rjturner28@ad.com • Phone: 404-392-5490

Over the past several months, there has been an increase in the number of burglaries, stolen vehicles, and thefts in the area of Druid Hills. DeKalb Police reminds all to increase your awareness and decrease your possibility of becoming a victim by following these recommendations.

- DO NOT leave keys, purses, computers, etc., in the vehicle. Once items have been taken, they could lead to the opportunity for other criminal activities (e.g., burglaries, identity theft and fraud).
- DO NOT leave your running vehicle unsecured and unattended.
- Lock your vehicle when parked in your driveway or under your carport at all times.
- DO NOT leave valuables in the vehicle, whether at home or away from home; if you have to, place them securely in the trunk before you reach your destination. NEVER leave items visible in the car.
- Call 911 for any suspicious persons or vehicles in your community; then relay descriptions to neighbors.
- During school vacations, if you are not home during the day, be aware of persons visiting your children.
- Review the security measures throughout your home and property. Ensure outside lighting is functioning properly by changing bulbs and replacing old wiring to increase the visibility around your home.
- Remove fans from windows and secure window A/C units so they are not easily removed.
- Maintain property by trimming shrubbery and lawns regularly to avoid hiding places for potential suspects.
- Utilize all security mechanisms installed in your home: e.g., locks, alarm systems, light & sound timers; do not leave doors or windows open.
- Avoid advertising the purchase of new electronic equipment and other items. Break down boxes and packaging and dispose of them in garbage bags & covered cans.
- Remove any objects to aid a criminal: i.e. ladders, tools, projectile objects.
- Keep good records like serial numbers on all electronics and pictures of jewelry. These items can be placed on the pawn network to assist detectives if your items are taken to a pawn shop.
- Communicate with your neighbors on suspicious activity seen and always call 911 for any suspicious persons, vehicles or activity seen in your community.

If you are a victim of a Stolen Vehicle (provide VIN & Tag#), Theft or Burglary (provide items taken), please dial 911 as soon as possible to alert the police of the incident. If you are part of an Active Neighborhood Watch Group, follow the proper communication chain after reporting it to the police.

Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?
by Pamela and Pierre Preservation

The Olmsted firm’s landscape design for Druid Hills provided a context in which we can enjoy the endless vistas of lawns and green space. With no fences, front yard spaces flow and are visually connected to each other. Major open spaces and a linear park system help provide us with this unbroken landscape setting.

Imagine driving down your favorite street and seeing every other yard with a concrete wall or wood fence in the front yard. It would assault your sense of space and destroy the beauty of the landscape. Some neighborhoods are like this. We are lucky in Druid Hills to be protected against such intrusion.

Back yard fences are used regularly within the district and provide the means for more private areas, if desired. Remember that the back yard starts at the rear wall of the house. Fence materials can include wood, iron, or chain link. Vinyl chain link can be found in brown, black or bronze, which aids in making the fence less obtrusive.

Planting material can also be used to soften the fence to make it less obtrusive.

Retaining walls are rarely used in Druid Hills. This is due to the original sensitive landscape design, which eliminated the need for such walls until the 1950s. Since then, they have been used, these walls are usually stone. Many of our yards have existed in their current state for decades. Please remember that changing the topography is not usually necessary.

The Guideline from the Design Manual for Druid Hills Local Historic District is as follows: Fences and walls should not be built in front yard spaces and are strongly discouraged.

New CCP Website Online
The Clifton Community Partnership (CCP) recently launched its new website, www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org, which provides updates on Emory’s projects as well as community projects and activities. The new site has a calendar that anyone in the community can access and add events. If you have a church, community, or business event that is open to the general community, add it to the calendar. Everyone is welcome to visit the site for updates in the Clifton community.

The Lullwater Conservation Garden to participate in the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative of 2008
By Kim Sutherland

The Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative was established in 2002 as an ongoing joint effort among the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center, the Garden Club of Georgia, the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, and the Historic Preservation Section of the Department of Natural Resources. The project identifies, promotes, and creates an archival record of historic gardens and landscapes in Georgia.

Garden Club of Georgia volunteers and the Cherokee Garden Library graduate students are using the Garden Club of Georgia’s 1933 publication “The Garden History of Georgia 1733-1933” as a guide. The volunteers and graduate students are trying to document which of the significant gardens remain, which have been destroyed, and what changes have occurred to those still in existence.

The Lullwater Conservation Garden, under the protection of the Lullwater Garden Club, is one of these historic gardens. It was featured in the 1933 publication, including the original plans and drawings for the Garden made by Eugene C. Wachendorff, an Atlanta architect.

The Lullwater Garden Club is completing the 2008 survey. In addition, the volunteers and graduate students will participate in the Lullwater Conservation Garden Community Work Day on July 12, 2008, to complete a physical survey of the Conservation Garden.

At the culmination of the project, the completed findings of the volunteers and graduate students will be archived at the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center.
The McConaugheys built the house 40 years ago, they were not free stone entrance on the front of their house. The four-page feature was about how HammerSmith was able to design and build a multi-purpose crafts room/future bedroom with accessible bathroom and barrier-free entrance on the front of their house. The McConaugheys owned a large amount of land in the area and built small houses on Shepherd's Lane. The shopping center included a Winn Dixie, an Italian restaurant, a gift shop, a hair salon and a laundromat. There was an A&P on Johnson Road, where Horton’s, the meeting place for Druid Hills, was run by Mr. Horton and his wife. His son grew up there and later ran the store.

During this time, Mr. Horton, who had run a Piggly Wiggly (currently the CVS) and turned of products and a lunch counter; he also cashed checks. Horton’s, the meeting place for Druid Hills, won out and opened Channel 5, WAGA, known as “wager” with a Scottie dog as their logo. The theatre, another neighborhood meeting place, burned down in the early 1970s and was never replaced. The theatre ran two of our-timers recall will be front of the Piggy Wuzzy (currently the CVS) and turned around in front of Horton’s. Because it was a single track road between Edith’s home on Oxford Road. They eloped after a military service at the end of WWII. Bernie knew everyone who was anyone in Atlanta. He knows political and social history and loves to talk. With kids back in school and fall raking soon to come, summer already seems a distant memory – even if fall weather comes later and later each year. Summer in the South demands an easier pace and our neighborhood book clubs chose their summer reading accordingly.

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To enjoy a good book club, share your memories of growing up in Druid Hills or Emory near Emory Village. And about the Village itself? For more than two years, I’ve been doing research on the Village from its beginnings in 1929 to the present. Soon, the Village many of us old-timers recall will be changed. I hope to compile my research and subsequent interviews into a small history book with vintage photographs. The book will be available for sale to neighborhood residents, and the proceeds after publication costs will go to two important community groups: The Druid Hills Civic Association, and the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance.

Now that my research is nearly done, I need to hear from you. If you have memories or photographs to share, please contact me for an oral history interview. You will be given credit in the book, and with your permission, I’ll carefully dissect your memories and turning points. It is hardly seems fair to read about Greg Mortenson’s challenges of building schools in Afghanistan in Three Cups of Tea while lolling in the pool, I kind of like the sensibilities of southern ladies choosing to once again disavow Sense and Sensibility, only this time on pool floats. This summer’s political climate was as hot as an Atlanta day in August and Emory University Women’s Club chose to celebrate both by reading two very inspiring stories. Barack Obama’s Dreams of My Father, along with Three Cups of Tea, were their summer picks. Harvard Road Book Club took the European lead of taking August off and chose a European bestseller, Hanna’s Daughters, for their singular summer meeting. Written by Ambrose Fiddes, the book spans three generations and one hundred years in the lives of a mother, daughter, and grandmother. It is best described as a heart-felt historical epic and was well-received by the group.

Deepdene Book Club followed suit with only one summer meeting and one summer book. They were so taken with Geraldine Brooks’ People of the Book, they selected her Year of Wonders as a follow up. This is not your typical summer book. Year of Wonders is an elegant historical fiction chronicling a small, 17th century English village’s struggle to survive the plague.

Well, summer is behind us now, but the memories of pools, porches, beach books, and hot reads will warm us until next summer. Now, on to helping with homework and finding that rake.

By Judy Book (as remembered by Bernie Merritt)

Bernie Merritt came to the Quarter Master Depot (now Fort Gillem) in Conley, Georgia, in 1942 with the US Army. After a short time, he met his future bride, Edith, who lived on Oxford Road. They eloped after a three-week courtship and left Atlanta to fulfill Bernie’s military service. In 1946, Bernie was discharged and they returned to Edith’s home on Oxford Road. With many people returning from military service at the end of WWII, there were no homes available. In 1947, the Emory Woods apartments were built and Bernie and Edith were among the first tenants. In 1956, Edith saw a new house being built on Briarcliff Road. That was where she wanted to live, so they moved into the new developing area. Briarcliff was a dirt road beyond Emory Line, lined with dairies, including Brownlee, Lively, and C. C. Tuggle. In 1953, Dan Shepherd, who did road construction, built a new road through the area and tore down the hill known as Sage Hill to build the Sage Hill shopping center. Mr. Shepherd owned a large amount of land in the area and built small houses on Shepherd’s Lane. The shopping center included a Winn Dixie, an Italian restaurant, a gift shop, a hair salon and a laundromat. There was an A&P on Johnson Road, where the McConaugheys built the house 40 years ago, they were not.

Congratulations to HammerSmith, Inc for receiving national recognition for a Druid Hills ADA renovation.

People who saw the home on the Druid Hills Tour will recall the narrow winding stairways and level changes of the glass and stone “free house” hanging over the water. When the McConaugheys built the house 40 years ago, they were not.

Though the McConaugheys are still hiking, building trails in the woods and keeping up with their eight grand children, they took a proactive approach to what their future needs might require, and added a new barrier-free entry, accessible bathroom and multi-purpose room that can be easily converted to a master suite on the main level when the need arises. They wanted to do what they could now to avoid a move to a retirement home later in life.

Aging with dignity and grace, and a good sense of humor, Dan calls the project their “termination renovation,” and Emory currently parks its buses.

In 1956, Dr. Peter Mueller, Jr. opened a veterinary clinic across the street from Sage Hill and lived upstairs. (The clinic is currently owned by his son, Peter Mueller, III.) That year, there was a big fight about starting a new television station on Briarcliff Road. Stontor Broadcasting won out and opened Channel 5, WAGA, known as “wager” with a Scottie dog as their logo. During this time, Mr. Horton, who had run a Woolsworth before, opened Horton’s where the Druid Hills bookstore currently stands. His store had thousands of products and a lunch counter; he also cashed checks. Horton’s, the meeting place for Druid Hills, was run by Mr. Horton and his wife. His son grew up there and later ran the store.

Emory Village also included a theater that showed a variety of films, including foreign and avant garde, and a cowboy picture on Saturday mornings for the children. The theatre, another neighborhood meeting place, burned down in the early 1970s and was never replaced. The movie ran two of our-timers recall will be front of the Piggy Wuzzy (currently the CVS) and turned around in front of Horton’s. Because it was a single track road between Edith’s home on Oxford Road. They eloped after a military service at the end of WWII. Bernie knew everyone who was anyone in Atlanta. He knows political and social history and loves to talk. With kids back in school and fall raking soon to come, summer already seems a distant memory – even if fall weather comes later and later each year. Summer in the South demands an easier pace and our neighborhood book clubs chose their summer reading accordingly.

Everyone likes a really good beach book and Last Tuesday’s Book Club chose two. An absolute crowd pleaser and highly recommended is The Vanishing Act of Emre Lenova by Maggie O’Farrell. It is the perfect summer read – fabulous plot, character voices ring true. It is riveting in its pace and a quick read. A lively discussion revolved around the unexpected ending. The second book is deemed “just a bit of fluff.” Although a bit too light for some, Maeve Binchy is a prolific writer of easy-to-read novels. The group read Scarlet Feathers, a book about the lives of two caretakers and their families. Maybe not Binchy’s best but at least the book contains some great ideas for party food.

Wine Women & Words takes a different tack during the summer months – Porch Party! Billing it as a summer book share, folks bring favorites to pour and trade. Wine in hand, lively discussion ensued. How delightful.

The Proud Mary Club has an equally appropriate take on the coping with summer heat – Pool Party! While it hardly seems fair to read about Greg Mortenson’s challenges of building schools in Afghanistan in Three Cups of Tea while lolling in the pool, I kind of like the sensibilities of southern ladies choosing to once again disavow Sense and Sensibility, only this time on pool floats. This summer’s political climate was as hot as an Atlanta day in August and Emory University Women’s Club chose to celebrate both by reading two very inspiring stories. Barack Obama’s Dreams of My Father, along with Three Cups of Tea, were their summer picks.

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Share Your Memories of Emory Village

By Jennifer J. Richardson

You can make history! Are you willing to share your memories of growing up in Druid Hills or Emory near Emory Village, and about the Village itself? For more than two years, I’ve been doing research on the Village from its beginnings in 1929 to the present. Soon, the Village many of us old-timers recall will be changed. I hope to compile my research and subsequent interviews into a small history book with vintage photographs. The book will be available for sale to neighborhood residents, and the proceeds after publication costs will go to two important community groups: The Druid Hills Civic Association, and the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance.

Now that my research is nearly done, I need to hear from you. If you have memories or photographs to share, please contact me for an oral history interview. You will be given credit in the book, and with your permission, I’ll carefully clip your photographs and return them to you. No memory or story is “too silly” or “too insignificant” to share. I’m interested in all your stories so far. I’m about to compile a comprehensive record of what we remember about Emory Village. Call me. Jennie Richardson, at (404) 737-1837 or by e-mail at jrich@bellouth.net. If you have friends or family who’ve moved out of the Druid Hills/Emory area, please pass along the word. Thank you!
The “Skeleton” House

By J.J. Williams

Many neighbors have asked about the house at 965 Springdale Road in the DeKalb portion of Springdale. Is it a tear down? What’s going on? Why were the bricks, windows, chimneys and doors removed? Isn’t this a local historic district and therefore protected? In October 2007, 965 Springdale received a certificate of appropriateness from The Druid Hills Historic Preservation Commission (DHCA). Provisions of the certificate included:

• Construction of a porte cochere
• Construction of a two-story rear addition
• Demolition of three non-historic structures in the rear yard
• Installation of retaining walls and grading to make a flat area in the rear yard
• Rebuilding of the front porch
• Replacement of all brick
• Removal of a landscape wall at right side of house
• Replacement of 9/1 windows with 9/9 windows (the designation is how many panes are above other panes; 9/9 has nine panes above one single pane of glass.)
• Removal of four trees

Removal of all exterior brick was approved by the Commission because of structural damage. Issues cited include:

• the fact that the “brick was pulling away from the wooden walls” and the fact that the brick was “set directly on the soil with no foundation and no ties to the framed wall behind it” and the brick “was a free-standing curtain wall.” The Commission staff report stated that the new owners will be “jacking up the house and putting in new pier feet because the original piers are failing, and the motion of the house as it rises back into true will probably damage the brick further.”

David Cullison, DeKalb preservation planner who staffs the HPC, stated that removal of the bricks was warranted because the new owners provided documentation of structural damage involving the brick. However, permission for removal of stairs, half-lighting, windows, and doors was not granted, nor was removal of an addition on the right side of the home. Mr. Cullison is looking into these.

Though the Commission staff report states plainly that the bricks were not tied to the timber walls, a simple examination of the house from the street reveals metal ties still attached to the timbers, and presumably attached to the non-timbered brick.

According to Mr. Cullison, there is no enforcement provision in DeKalb County’s historic preservation ordinance.

Why Ponce de Leon, Indeed?

By J.J. Williams

Shortly after the end of the Civil War, Atlanta was busy re-building railroads destroyed in the war and new lines were added. One such railroad was the Air Line Railroad (later the Southern Railway belt line) and during its construction a popular spring known as Yancey Springs was filled in. Atlanta residents then began going to Armistead’s Springs, located in a beech grove about two miles east of downtown, to fill their water jugs and Wade in the cool creek.

In 1889, electric street cars went to Ponce de Leon Springs and Richard Peters and his son E.C. Peters set about transforming the modest Ponce de Leon Springs into an amusement park. A four-acre lake was built, along with a smaller lake, known as Pairs Pond, surrounded by shady walking trails. Other amenities included a dance hall, mechanical amusement rides for children, and even a stage for summer stock theatres.

The 43 acres surrounding the springs was purchased in 1907 by the Ponce de Leon Amusement Company. This group constructed several new buildings, a children’s merry-go-round, a circle swing, a casino, a ferris wheel, a miniature railway, a midway with Southeastern Fair-type amusements, restaurants, concession stands, a pony track, and the “coliseum”—a sixty-foot platform that served as the streetcar station for the park.

Ponce de Leon Springs may sound a bit tacky, with carnival rides, shooting galleries, and penny arcades, but it was “coliseum”—a sixty-foot platform that served as the streetcar station for the park.

Ponce de Leon Springs and Park. The lake was drained in 1907 for the construction of Ponce de Leon Ballpark, home of the Atlanta Crackers and the Atlanta Black Crackers baseball teams. In 1966, Cricket Stadium was demolished and replaced by an Arthur’s store and parking lot, later the Great Mall of China, and still later Midtown Place shopping center. In 1926, Sears Roebuck & Company built a retail store and catalogue distribution center where Ponce de Leon Springs and its many buildings were located. The spring itself is now under the old Sears building (now City Hall East.) For many years, a sign over a water cooler at the Sears store proclaimed that the water was piped from the springs below the store. Like Ponce de Leon Springs and Park, the sign has disappeared, and Ponce de Leon Avenue is the only remainder of what used to be.
School News

by Karen Leary

Druid Hills High School

The DHHS Athletic Foundation gets serious about fund-raising this year. At all DHHS sporting events, the Foundation will sell Red Devil spirit wear and seasonal programs covering all sports; all teams will also participate in Coca-Cola sales August 25 – September 5. In addition, the Foundation and the PTSA will co-sponsor the first annual DHHS auction on January 31, 2009, with proceeds to be divided between academic and athletic enrichment. Check out DHHS sports and the Athletic Foundation at www.druidhillsreddevils.com.

Fernbank Elementary

The Fernbank PTA and School Council are forming the Fernbank Falcon Foundation to support Fernbank’s continuing growth as an International Baccalaureate World School. The Foundation plans to raise funds and provide resources to improve the Fernbank physical plant, upgrade technology, and promote academic enrichment, especially in foreign language and science. Email questions to mmlenesne@aol.com.

Mary Lin Elementary

Parents of prospective students at Mary Lin can get to know the principal, Dr. Brian Mitchell, at monthly coffees, usually on the last Thursday of each month. Tours of the school are typically provided at 9:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. For details, visit the school’s website.

The Paideia School

This fall, Paideia is opening several new facilities, including a junior high building, a high school choral classroom, a multipurpose gym, a fitness center, a small black box theater, underground parking, and an open green space at the west campus entrance. Renovation of existing buildings will continue over the next 18 months for an expanded elementary campus. This fall, Paideia is receiving new air conditioning equipment building-wide. Part of the installation is complete; work will continue throughout the school year. Shamrock has also received enough new computers to equip two class-size computer labs and two mini-labs.

For more information about our neighborhood schools, visit their websites, listed below:

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
The Paideia School: www.paideiaschool.org
Shamrock Middle School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/shamrock

Summer Travels of a Methodist Church Choir

You might think that a Methodist church choir just sings at a Methodist church – if so, you would be wrong! The Glenn Chancel Choir at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church in Emory’s campus has had two great “gigs” outside the Methodist Church this summer. In June, the choir provided all of the music for a Catholic Mass celebrated by thousands of Catholics in the Atlanta Diocese at the annual Eucharistic Congress. Because of the numbers in attendance at the Mass, it lasted more than two hours and the choir sang almost the entire time!

In July, the Chancel Choir appeared by invitation before the Georgia Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association at their annual conference. To make this event even more exciting, it was staged at Spivey Hall on the Clayton State College campus. Two other choirs were also invited, from First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville and Winona Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. Each choir sang separately and at the end of the day we all joined together for a combined selection. We had a blast and it was a treat to sing in Spivey Hall. The acoustics are beautiful there and the Hall itself is very lovely.

The Chancel Choir sings every Sunday at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, 1660 North Decatur Road. Who knows what special events we will undertake next year? In alternate years, we do a Spring Concert in March and a road trip – Chicago and New York have been recent destinations. We welcome new singers and they do not have to be members of the Church to sing with us. We are mostly amateur singers, with professionals to support us.

Contact Dr. Steven Darsey, our Director, at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, for more information. Call 404-634-3936, ext. 116 or e-mail him: stevenD@glennumc.org. You can also visit the church’s web site at www.glennnumc.org.
Here's A History of Druid Hills Community - Part I

by Gail King for the Druid Hills Civic Association

The gently rolling countryside is dotted with white dogwoods and redbuds in bloom. Mountain laurel promises to blossom along the creeks and streams and the sweet smell of mountain laurel fills the air.

The virgin hardwood forests, filled with oaks, beeches, sycamores, poplars, hickory, hollys, and sourwood are beginning to show signs of new life.

The time is 1880. The place is an area that is to become the Middle-Creek Indians, a place that 100 years later would be known as “Druid Hills.”

The INDIANS were forced away when the white settlers came. Their wigwams were replaced with log cabins, and their moccasin-worn paths became roads for horse-pulled wagons.

In 1823, this land was ceded to the Georgia government by the Indians. It was surveyed into land lots of 202.9 acres, and by lottery, Georgia citizens could draw for these land lots. In 1825, Nancy Cosby drew the first land lot from this area. It was bought in 1851 for $910 and sold in 1863 to John Gerdine Johnson for $5,925. Johnson eventually acquired most of the land bordered by streets now known as Ponce de Leon, Briarcliff, North Decatur, and Lullwater. Once they were old Indian paths. After Johnson’s death, his widow and son sold all the land, except ten acres around the homestead (still on Oakdale Road), to Joel Hurt’s Kirkwood Land Company in 1890 for $63,000.

Hurt had founded the East Atlanta Land Company which had designed Inman Park in 1887. In 1890, he chartered the Kirkwood Land Company and began to acquire tracts of land that would later become Druid Hills. He bought land from the Paden family (Druid Hills Golf Club area), the Harrison family (Fernbank area), and several others until, by 1893, he had assembled over 1,400 acres for his dream of a suburban park-like residential area.

IN THIS SAME year, 1890, Hurt invited Frederick Law Olmsted to visit the Druid Hills site and discuss the possibility of designing the property. Olmsted was interested in designing a major residential suburb in the South that would be the “ideal residential park” which would “enrich the living in a country setting, yet not far from the city,” and he felt this site would be ideal.

Letters filed in the Library of Congress indicate Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Brothers completed preliminary plans in 1892 for the development of the 1482 acres of Druid Hills. Olmsted Sr. made numerous trips to Atlanta between 1890 and 1894 to talk with Joel Hurt about these designs. In 1893, Olmsted submitted a preliminary general plan for Druid Hills including roads, lakes and building sites.

But soon, park supporters from the DHCA, the Alliance to Improve the Olmsted firm, and many of the streets were named there. In 1905, the Golf Club was planned. In 1907, the Kirkwood Land Company began developing Druid Hills. Ponce de Leon was graded, its string of parks landscaped and building lots in the western section of Druid Hills laid out.

In 1907, the Kirkwood Land Company began developing Druid Hills. Ponce de Leon was graded, its string of parks landscaped and building lots in the western section of Druid Hills laid out.

Part II of this history will appear in the next issue of The Druid Hills News.
To Prune Or Not To Prune: That Is The Question

By Mary Angela Whyte, DeKalb Master Gardener

Your house is disappearing under an azalea attack, your camellia looks spindly, and you don’t know what you’re supposed to do to your first rose bush you couldn’t resist last May. Is it okay to shape them up now? Is there a list of what to prune when?

Yes, there are lists, but often the plant you’re researching isn’t on some of them. Before we get so specific, let’s look at the logic behind pruning schedules. If a plant blooms in spring, when does it get ready, set buds, for next spring’s show? Obviously, between the time it stops blooming and next spring. If you wait too long, say August, you run the risk of cutting back branches that hold new unopened buds and thereby reduce your flower power next spring. If you prune later than August, it’s not a risk, it’s a sure thing. That doesn’t mean you can’t trim that azalea now, or even cut it back hard. No pruning police will camp out in your yard. Sometimes, it’s worth losing flowers one spring to bring a range plant under control.

What it’s a summer bloomer? Then it sets buds on new spring growth. Wait to prune until the dormant months before spring juice starts flowing, late January to early March; late February for roses. Where to make a cut is another decision, but not a difficult one. The top bud on a branch is not only where new growth will come, it also acts as a “stopper,” keeping lower nodes from sprouting. Cutting just above a lower node makes it the top bud—and where new growth will occur. The result is a temporarily shorter plant, but much fuller.

Hydrangeas are a world unto themselves. Some (Annabelle and PeeBee, for example) can be cut to 8” in February because they bloom on new wood, spring growth; others (mopheads and lacecaps) should be cut only selectively by early March, removing a few old or dead center canes to allow light and air to reach the plant’s center. More can be done by cutting just above new growth. Blooms will occur on old wood, earlier growth, not new growth. Any other pruning can be done during or right after flowering. An oakleaf doesn’t need pruning but can be pinched back after flowering (June) to shape it. The logic here is based on not when but how buds are set, whether blooms appear on new wood or old.

And now for a short list (and remember the logic!):

Prune in winter: tea olive, beautyberry, butterfly bush, lantana, rose of Sharon, Japanese spirea, sweetshrub, grandiflora and floribunda roses, abelia, some hydrangeae, crape myrtle (don’t murder, seek instructions)

• Prune in late winter: azalea, camellia, flowering trees, viburnum, forsythia, weigelia, winter daphne, pieris, some hydrangeas, climbing roses, pycnanthemum, leucothoe, bridalwreath spirea, star and saucer magnolias.

Garden books and websites aplenty can provide diagrams of proper pruning and lists of pruning times and plants, as well as other information. Remember to follow advice for our region by accessing a site such as the University of Georgia; advice for Minnesota may be poor for the South, just as their idea of “full sun” is not our version. Google “Georgia horticulture” or other wording to find a wealth of information online.

Your DeKalb Cooperative Extension Service is another great resource, both online (temporarily unavailable) and through the Master Gardener’s desk (404-298-4080). For a helpful guide. An always excellent source of information is www.waterefferves.com. Sign up for his free emails. And remember, don’t be afraid to wield those pruning shears. You’re not likely to kill a plant and very likely to help it.

CALLING ALL MARY LIN ALUMNI

On Saturday, September 27, 2008, Mary Lin Elementary in Candler Park is hosting an Alumni/Grandparent Open House from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This is a wonderful opportunity for alumni to re-visit their early days of glory, share memories, and update the school on what you’re up to. The latest Thin Client technology installation will show how the classrooms have changed.

Grandparents are also invited to come see where their precious little angels spend their workweeks. Light refreshments will be served. Mary Lin is located at 586 Candler Park Drive and the event is hosted by the newly-formed Mary Lin Education Foundation. For more information, contact foundation@marylinelementary.com.
SECOND ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE
Saturday, September 27
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Druid Hills Civic Association plans to make the 2008 neighborhood-wide yard sale even better than last year’s. The event is an easy way to get rid of your unwanted stuff and keep all the money you make from your sales. No fuss, no hassle! The DHCA will advertise the sale in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the surrounding neighborhood. In addition, each participating household will receive a yard sale sign for the front of the home. All you have to do is drop your treasures to your front yard and start selling!

The American Kidney Fund will have trucks in the neighborhood picking up items you want to leave on the curb at the end of the sale day. They will provide you with a receipt for tax purposes. What a deal! You make money, and don’t have to take anything back into the house at the end of the day.

Registration cost is $25.00 and the registration form is on the DHCA website (www.druidhills.org). You can pay by PayPal or you can download the form and mail in your payment. A detailed map will be available to download from the DHCA website, showing all the houses participating in the yard sale.

You must register by September 22 to have your house listed on the master map, to receive a yard sale sign, and to be on the Atlanta Kidney Fund’s list for optional pickup at the end of the day.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Yard Sale Day!

ARCHITECTURAL EVENTS AT GEORGIA TECH

A Centennial of Architectural Education at Georgia Tech
Exhibition of Student Work
College of Architecture Atium, West Architecture Building 247 Fourth Street
• November 5: Part II: 1941-1972 (opening will follow the Thomas W. Ventrell III lecture)

April 24-25 Centennial weekend: creative black tie gala
The Centennial Lecture Series will feature prominent alumni and take place on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the College of Architecture Auditorium, East Architecture Building, 245 4th St., NW

September 24: Anthony Ames, FAIA (B.S. 1968)
November 5: Thomas W. Ventrell, III, FAIA (B.S. 1957)
November 12: Michael A. AIA (M Arch 1999)

Please consider car-pooling or public transportation as parking on campus is complex. The College of Architecture recommends Technology Square Parking Deck on Spring Street just south of 5th.

For additional information, call 404-894-3880.

DRUID HILLS HIGH SCHOOL RED DEVILS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Varsity Schedule 2008 - 2009

DATE  OPPONENT  HOME/AWAY  SITE  TIME
Friday, Aug 29  Decatur  Home  Avondale  7:30
Friday, Sept 5  Avondale  Home  North DeKalb  7:30
Saturday, Sept 13  Tucker  Away  Gisday  5:00
Friday, Sept 19  McNair  Away  Pantherville  7:30
Friday, Sept 26  Clarkston  Home  Adams ***  8:00 PM
Friday, Oct 3  Cedar Grove  Away  Avondale  7:30 PM
Friday, Oct 10  Columbia  Away  Pantherville  5:30 PM
Friday, Oct 17  Towers  Home  Avondale  7:30
Friday, Oct 24  Open
Friday, Oct 31  Dunwoody  Home  Adams  TBD
Friday, Nov 7  Playoff Play-In Game?  TBD

*** = Homecoming Game

JV Schedule 2008 - 2009

DATE  OPPONENT  STADIUM  TIME
Monday, Sept 8  Towers  Adams  5:00
Monday, Sept 15  Miller Grove  Hallford  5:00
Thursday, Sept 25  Dunwoody  N. DeKalb  5:00
Thursday, Oct. 2  Tucker  Adams  5:00
Thursday, Oct 16  McNair  Adams  5:00
Monday, Oct 20  Lakeside  Adams  5:00
Monday, Oct. 27  Cedar Grove  Hallford  5:00

PUBLIC EVENTS

ENDS OF THE EARTH: FROM POLAR BEARS TO PENGUINS
Fun celebrating End of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins. Enjoy free treats, snow-themed crafts and activities, and special screenings. Free for members! Call 404.929.6400 for tickets.

FERNBANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
767 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30307
fernbankmuseum.org

*Samples available while supplies last. Screenings will be presented in Fernbank’s Auditorium. Media support for Sunday Snow Days provided by The Sunday Paper.
The Date Is Set!
The 2009 Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour & Artist Market
April 17, 18, 19
Information is now available online at www.druidhills.org about the 2009 Druid Hills Artist Market. The Market is held in conjunction with the Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour. Artists wishing to apply may do so online.

County Pet Code
The following was recently mailed to DeKalb County residents:

Attention Pet Owners!

Highlights of the DeKalb Co. Animal Ordinance and Helpful Contact Information:

1. Unaccompanied chaining/training of dogs on property is illegal but dogs must be walked on leash.
2. Dogs must be kept within the home and/or a fence, pen, or well ventilated area not less than 100 square feet.
3. Pets must have fresh food, water, exercise, sanitation, socialization, vet care, yearly registration/rabies shot.
4. Pets cannot be left in hot cars even with windows open and must be safely restrained within open bed vehicles.
5. Uninterrupted or lengthy noisy (whining, barking, etc.) can indicate a serious problem and is not permitted.

To view the entire ordinance, access www.municode.com, select the “online library” and then follow the prompts. To adopt from, report neglect/abuse of a dog contact an animal to DASE call 404-294-2996 (or 911 in an emergency).

Remember: DASE is NOT a no-kill shelter. Please ask the staff there to provide referrals for other options such as no-kill rescues, low cost fencing, doghouses, appropriate collars, leashes, toys, food, treats, and obedience training.

Keep current ID tags on your pet at all times!

Microchipping provides a permanent ID, ask DASE how to get it done. Don’t forget regular heartworm and flea preventives, so important for pets in GA! See your vet for these items.

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:
Home phone:
Work phone:
Mobile phone:
Fax:
E-mail:
Occupation:

Membership Involvement and Interests

[ ] Please feel free to contact me for help

Annual Dues (Check one):

____Individual/Family Member $25 - $49 Amount Paid: $________
____Sustaining Member $50 - $99
____Druid Member $100 - $249 Please make checks payable to Druid Hills Civic Association.
____Olmosted Member $250 or more Mail to: P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363

The Lullwater Garden Club would like to thank all of our friends and neighbors who have
helped with financial support and participation in the semi-monthly Community Work Days.

The Lullwater Garden Club has been caretaker of The Lullwater Conservation Garden
since 1931 and has a long-term plan to eliminate all non-native, invasive plants from the
6.5-acre garden and restore it back to its original state with native plantings.

Through the generous support of the Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc. Community
On My Mind Grant Program, and donations of time and additional financial
resources from Lullwater Garden Club members, friends and neighbors, we are
making progress toward this goal and a unique green space that can be enjoyed by the
community. Thank you for your generous support!

CAR CRASHES AND INJURIES ARE PREVENTABLE

By Patty Schiff, M.D., FACEP

It may come as a surprise to many of you that within our own Druid Hills neighborhood we have an intersection so dangerous that there have been more than 200 motor vehicle crashes at this corner between 2003 and 2006. That translates to about one crash every four to five days. The intersection boasting this frightening statistic comprises the corner of Clifton Road and Ponce de Leon Avenue.

Have you ever sat in traffic, heard the ambulance, or seen police cars while carpooling to school or on your morning commute? Chances are that another car crash at this site has occurred. A review of the data from Dekalb County reveals that these crashes are not without injury, almost always include multiple cars, and significant damage to vehicles is the norm.

Like diseases, injuries from car crashes are preventable. In fact, these crashes are not “accidents” because they are both predictable and preventable. They do not occur at random.

Emory’s Center for Injury Control studies injuries using scientific methods which include carefully studying the problem through various techniques. Their study includes evaluating factors that increase or decrease the risks for injury. Intervention strategies are then employed that target these risk factors and steps are taken to ensure implementation.

When it comes to our roads, various methods can be employed to improve safety, reduce crashes, and avoid injury.

Examples include starting with road design that permits optimum visibility and considers human behavior, traffic flow, and road conditions. Experts have also added safety belts, airbags, and anti-lock brakes as a few innovations that help save our lives.

Clearly, this neighborhood, including major steps taken by Emory, is working and thinking hard to improve traffic, implement environmental improvements, increase pedestrian and bicycle opportunities, and generally become greener. It behooves us to look at the Clifton and Ponce accident corner, and every other roadway that can be identified as one with a high crash rate, and improve this situation.

For the Clifton and Ponce corner, engineering experts can look at the problem and identify what improvements can be made. For example, an additional turn signal or signals might just solve the problem. Imagine how much less traffic congestion we would have if we could reduce the crash rate, and wouldn’t the hundreds of victims of these crashes be pleased to know an improvement was made? Not to mention improved safety. These incidents and the resulting injuries are preventable.

While we wait for the help we need—driver beware! Slow down on Ponce, make very careful turns onto or off of Clifton and Ponce, mind the lights—and keep aware.

Thank You, Friends of Lullwater Conservation Garden!

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On My Mind Grant Program, and donations of time and additional financial
resources from Lullwater Garden Club members, friends and neighbors, we are
making progress toward this goal and a unique green space that can be enjoyed by the
community. Thank you for your generous support!
NATALIE GREGORY
Welcome to Your New Home

158 SOUTH CANDLER, WINNONA PARK
This rare 1860’s Victorian gem in South Candler's historic district is unforgettable, and unlike any other property in Decatur. One and a quarter acres of 150-year-old oak trees shade the stunning five-bedroom, two-bathroom house situated directly across from Agnes Scott’s campus. Swoon over architectural details including 12-foot ceilings with nine-foot windows, seven fireplaces, three large bay windows, spacious dining room with circular corner cabinets, and walnut banister and staircase – all original. Built by the Thomas Holley Chivers’ Estate, owned by Charles Murphy Candler, Sr and part of the Candler estate for over 100 years, the house is within easy walking distance to excellent schools and all that downtown Decatur and the Oakhurst community has to offer. $799,000

509 PONCE DE LEON PLACE, DECATURE
Distinctive new construction inside the shell of an older historic home, this five bedroom, three bathroom total renovation incorporates all the cottage details you dream of from the magazines. The floor plan boasts four bedrooms (including master) upstairs, study or additional bedroom down, formal dining room, living room, family room, sunroom and immaculate state-of-the-art white kitchen. Entertain under the trees on your slate front porch, side porch or in the lush backyard. Light a fire in one of the two stunning fireplaces inside or in the built-in outdoor fireplace. Best of all, walk to Clairmont Elementary and restaurants in downtown Decatur. Details such as period tile, city custom moldings, hardwood floors and even a new clawfoot tub sing. $875,000

1507 EMORY ROAD, DRUID HILLS
Sited on a winding tree-lined street across from Emory greenspace, this Druid Hills classic is just a short stroll to Emory University, the CDC and Emory Village. Originally built in 1929, this four bedroom, three bathroom home has been completely renovated and expanded while maintaining the original charm such as hardwood floors, high ceilings and crown molding throughout. Main floor features a spacious chef’s kitchen that opens to a family room, formal living room, screen porch with French doors, an office/library and a guest bedroom and bathroom. Upstairs offers an owner's suite with large walk-in closet and spa-like bathroom. Two additional bedrooms, full bath, large bonus room and laundry room complete the second level. $799,000

1738 COVENTRY ROAD, DRUID HILLS
Featured in Better Homes and Gardens, this three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath tin-roof home brings the flavor of Key West to its convenient location near Emory. Light streams in from multiple sets of French doors in the central hall that is perfect for entertaining. 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 playroom or home office. Enjoy fires in the living room fireplace or wood-burning stove in the eat-in kitchen. $499,000

461 DURAND DRIVE, DRUID HILLS
This beautifully maintained 1930’s bungalow in Druid Hills offers incredible privacy with the convenience of intown living. Flagstone walkways wind through a stunning, natural garden leading to this four-bedroom two-bath home with a Vermont-style covered bridge garage. Architectural details such as the hand-carved mahogany entry door, graceful archways and built-in china cabinet distinguish this lovely home that was made for entertaining. Two sets of French doors, one in the dining room and one in a sun-filled bedroom open onto a large deck with hot tub. Butler block counters, maple cabinets and stainless steel appliances update the kitchen. Bathrooms sparkle with new fixtures and tile. A basement with office and plenty of storage make living easy in this home one block from Emory. $499,000

650 CLAIREMONT AVENUE, DECATURE
Just a short stroll to Decatur Square and award-winning Clairmont Elementary, this delightful 1939 brick Cape Cod bungalow is a Decatur classic. Sited in the Clairmont Historic District and with broad street frontage, this house revels in a gracious approach. Classic entry foyer with staircases and central hallway welcomes you home. This three bedroom, three bathroom home features formal dining room, spacious living room with fireplace, separate casual den and sunroom. Comfortable eat-in kitchen with separate mudroom entry leads to large level backyard and deck for entertaining or unwinding. Full daylight basement with separate entrance is ideal for an in-law or au pair suite. $499,000

NATALIE GREGORY, Your Home Marketing Specialist
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