Burbank Park Dedication Draws a Crowd

Over 200 guests attended the April dedication of the newest jewel in Druid Hills, Burbank Park, located at the corner of Oxford and Clifton roads. The event, held on Earth Day (April 22) was the culmination of months of work that will soon transform the residential site into a community park on Peavine Creek. As guests at the dedication planted native species and mingled with friends and neighbors, the Glenn Children’s Choir and the Emory University Jazz Quartet performed.

The non-historic house at 1164 Clifton Road, which was home to the late Drs. Madeline and William Burbank—both Emory professors—is one block from Emory Village. The community site will act as a green buffer between the residences of Druid Hills and businesses in the Village.

Emory purchased the 1.2 acre site in 2006 and is working with the Druid Hills Civic Association, the Alliance to Improve Emory Village, the Peavine Watershed Alliance, Park Pride and the Clifton Community Partnership to create the park. At the printing of this article, over $22,000 had been raised by the community, including private donations, Emory Village fundraisers and a donation by the Druid Hills Civic Association.

For more information on how to make a tax-deductible contribution, go to www.parkpride.org and select Donate, under Gift Info, then select on behalf of and enter “1164 Clifton Road,” or make a check payable to $102 dollars to buy native plants for Burbanck Park. They are also scheduled to receive $102 dollars to buy native plants for Burbanck Park. They are also scheduled to receive tour of Homes, these girls took advantage of the prime real estate on lower Park Pride, Atlanta, 675 Ponce de Leon Ave, NE, 8th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308.

Druid Hills Parents Network Launches in the Neighborhood

by Claudia Edwards

Are you looking for summer activities for your children? Do you want to find a playgroup for your son or daughter? Perhaps your daughter babysits and wants to get the word out. Have your children attended local schools and you feel you could give good advice to others? The newly formed Druid Hills Parents Network is a portal for these needs and many more.

Holly Simmons, President of the Druid Hills Parents Network, initially had the idea after her daughter was born two years ago. She was going back to work part-time and was looking for a nanny. She found the best lead from her friend who lived in Morningside and was involved in the Virginia-Highlands-Morningside Parents Association. It struck Holly that Druid Hills needed the same type of resource for Druid Hills neighborhood parents.

Druid Hills has thousands of families in the area and Holly recently stated her goals for the Parents Network that launched in March 2007. She said, “I hope to see a robust network of information sharing as it relates to neighborhood parents and children. At most moms know, other moms are often the best resource for information. Druid Hills has much to offer in the way of our historic preservation, a neighborhood rich in history, culture and architecture, but, with so many young families, the need for a more family-oriented focus is strong.”

Joining the Druid Hills Parents Network (DHPN) is easy. First, you must live within the boundaries of Druid Hills and, secondly, you must be a Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA) member at any level. If you qualify for these, then you can register to have access on the members-only portion of the DHPN which includes a discussion forum. All of this can be found online at http://www.druidhills.org.

A planning committee, which happens to be a group of moms, was formed at last year’s Fourth of July Parade. They are parents who want to help and involve other parents and their families in events like the parade, playgroups and neighborhood parties so families can meet one another. The committee is also responsible for moderating the various forums found online in the members-only portion. The forum covers topics such as healthcare, local services, parks, new parents and schools. Druid Hills has a plethora of resources and parents are the ones who can share this information with their neighbors both in person and online.

One new member to Druid Hills, Laura Bendoly noted, “As a newcomer to Druid Hills, the new Parents Network has provided the occasion to meet families that I wouldn’t have met through my child’s school or on the byways about town. Since my son goes to day care full-time, it’s hard to meet other moms through the park/playgroup route many stay-at-home moms use. So an internet solution, where you can set appointments and invitations to meet others with similarly aged kids is a great idea. I have already hosted a play date through the Parents Network discussion board. I am also looking for a jogging partner and a book club through the same vehicle. This method worked very successfully in Candler Park where we lived. I hope we have similar results in Druid Hills.”

Bruce MacGregor, President of the Druid Hills Civic Association, noted, “We are grateful to see the large number of young (and not so young) parents in the neighborhood. These are the future of Druid Hills. DHCA is very happy to incorporate the Parents Network into your Civic Association. With people like this coming on board, Druid Hills has a bright future.”

Go online and get registered. Contribute your ideas and information to the discussion board today. If you have any questions about the DHPN, email communication@druidhillsparents.org.

The Druid Hills News
Newsletter of the Druid Hills Civic Association
P.O. Box 363
Decatur, GA 30033-0363

The Druid Hills News
Newsletter of the Druid Hills Civic Association
P.O. Box 363
Decatur, GA 30033-0363

PRE-SORT STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 515
Athens, GA

Please Join Us For The Annual DRUID HILLS FOURTH OF JULY PARADE
11 a.m. • Corner of Oakdale & The Byway
Adults, Kids, Bikes, Strollers, Cats, Dogs, Birds Welcome (No Fish, Please)
Join the Ad Hoc Marching Band
Dress Up Encouraged
Prizes for Most Patriotic Adult, Child, Pet, Stroller/Bike Refreshments at End of Parade at Oakdale & The Byway
DHN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Past Presidents
1. Bruce MacGregor 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
2. Sheila McIntosh 378-6040 SheilaMcIntosh@druidhills.org
3. John Paddock 378-6040 JohnPaddock@druidhills.org
4. Davie Morgan 378-6040 DavieMorgan@druidhills.org
Ex Officio
1. Max Trigg 373-1935 MaxTrigg@druidhills.org
2. Alila Silverman 373-7921 AlilaSilverman@druidhills.org
3. Steve Misner 378-6040 SteveMisner@druidhills.org

Division Chairs
Division 1 (City of Atlanta) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
Division 2 (Ponce Corridor in DeKalb) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
Division 3 (W. of Briarcliff & S. of University in DeKalb) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
Division 4 (North DeKalb) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
Division 5 (W. of Briarcliff & S. of University in DeKalb) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
Division 6 (S. of Briarcliff & E. of Atlanta) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
Division 7 (North DeKalb) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
Division 8 (Emory U., N. Decatur Rd. to S. Peachtree Ck.) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
Division 9 (S. of Briarcliff & W. of Atlanta) 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org

Citywide Board
1. Bruce MacGregor 378-6040 BruceMacGregor@druidhills.org
2. Sheila McIntosh 378-6040 SheilaMcIntosh@druidhills.org
3. John Paddock 378-6040 JohnPaddock@druidhills.org
4. Davie Morgan 378-6040 DavieMorgan@druidhills.org
5. Alila Silverman 373-7921 AlilaSilverman@druidhills.org
6. Steve Misner 378-6040 SteveMisner@druidhills.org
7. Max Trigg 373-1935 MaxTrigg@druidhills.org
8. Ron Hohman 373-0415 RonHohman@druidhills.org
9. John Hudson 378-6040 JohnHudson@druidhills.org

Help Wanted
Two Druid Hills Civic Association Committees need volunteers!

• Create new neighborhood events
• Assist with fundraising for neighborhood parks and common areas
• Create an increased sense of community and ownership

To volunteer, please contact Chad and Lauren Henderson at 404-872-5966 or email adminvp@druidhills.org.

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

The DHCA is also looking for a Coordinator. To volunteer, please contact Thomas Watt at 404-871-0670 or email adminvp@druidhills.org.

Sign up for complimentary elerts for news, events, neighborhood updates, and more, at elert@druidhills.org.

Recommended Services
I highly recommend Peace Painting Company (770-317-0070). I renovated a house in Morningside ten years ago and this did an amazing job. I am now renovating a Newell designed home in Druid Hills and Peace Painting is again exceeding my expectations. They are consistently reasonable, highly skilled, and reliable. (Diana Getz)

Subscribing to the Druid Hills News
While residents of Druid Hills receive the newsletter each quarter by bulk mail, those who leave the neighborhood often want to stay in touch. How can they do that? It’s easy: take out a subscription.

This is what you do: Find the membership application—in this issue it’s on page 11. Fill it in, join, at whichever level you choose. The least expensive is $25. In the section entitled Membership Involvement and Interests, in the center of the application, write “DHN subscription” in the line “Other—specify.”

Send the application and your check to the regular post office box address (see the bottom of the application) and you’ll continue to receive the newsletter it’s on page 11. Fill it in, joining at whichever level you choose. Save the application and your check to the regular post office box address (see the bottom of the application) and you’ll continue to receive the newsletter it’s on page 11. Fill it in, joining at whichever level you choose.
President's Column
by Bruce MacGregor

“AFTER ACTION REPORT”

The past few months remind me of my (long ago) army experience. Along those lines, it may be useful to consider an “after action” report on recent events: What happened? What will be the impact? What can we learn from the experience?

This issue’s column addresses “what happened,” since that is the most straightforward (and easiest to write). It is interesting to note that the Clifton Mixed Use project (50 acres, 2,400 units of housing and general density), a controversial and difficult issue in the Clifton Corridor, and a major addition to the Conference Center) has been far less controversial than the much smaller Emory Village overlay zone.

I believe this is due primarily to their relative locations, and partially to their treatment of buffers. It has been my experience that most land use issues hold down to buffers, traffic, and precedent. Recent developments include:

Emory Village Overlay passed. On May 22, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Emory Village Overlay district. DHCA was able to negotiate some modifications regarding stream buffers (and also the) building height on a small portion of the “BP Quadrant.” A detailed explanation of the overlay, including a map of the Village “regulating plan” can be found in this issue.

Briarcliff Road Opening: The 1.2 acre Burbank Park at the corner of Clifton and Oxford Roads was officially dedicated by the Clifton Community Partnership on “Tour Sunday.” This is the neighborhood’s first new park in 50 years. Folks met to socialize, eat, and hear speeches from Emory, DHCA, and AIEV. Almost 200 people attended and had a great time.

DeKalb County Comprehensive Development Plan passed. May 22, DeKalb County adopted a new “Comp Plan” which will guide the county’s development and budget for many years. This plan will also serve as a guide for major development of the Emory Village and DHCA had met and resolved several issues. Still to be resolved are height and transition to the surrounding neighborhood. Emory’s Briarcliff project will be crucial in that to make this development economically feasible.

In summary, this has been a busy and contentious time. It is important to keep things in perspective and remember that while neighbors may differ, concur, or be indifferent to specific issues, we are still neighbors. Based on past experience, there will be other issues. (Trust me). We are indeed fortunate that we do not have to deal with arguably more serious issues such as public safety, bad schools, absentee ownership, landfills, and general neighborhood deterioration.

Make a Present of Your Past

Photos of your treasured memories are a timeless gift. Let us scan and protect the originals and help you have fun sharing those old family photos.

Visit us at www.pixorium.com or call Jifty Page at 404-680-5341

The smart money is on Peggy!

Your home is your #1 financial investment, so choose a real estate agent in the top 1% nationwide.

Award-winning Results
Year After Year

Peggy Hibbert 404-444-0192
www.peggyhibbert.com

DHCA Board Meeting Highlights
Dick Shuey, secretary

complete minutes may be viewed at www.druidhills.org

JANUARY

Mike Mandl, Emory’s Executive VP for Finance and Administration, presented an update on Emory’s plans, including a graduate student housing project on Briarcliff Road near Sage Hill, expected to house 390 students; a bookstore on N. Oxford Road, and a mixed-use project on Clifton Road providing 850 housing units and retail for Clifton Corridor workers.

Becky Evans reported the park (at Oxford and Clifton) will be named Burbank Park in honor of the former property owners and dedicated on Earth Day, April 22.

Alena Silverman reported the Atlanta Public School System has purchased The Howard School (on Ponce de Leon between Briarcliff and Springdale), and will be asked to present its plans to the Board.

Jim Morawetz reported on DHCA negotiations with the AIEV. Elise Riley, Oxford Road resident and DHCA member, said neighbors directly affected by the overlay were not adequately represented and are distressed that the DHCA is divided on this issue. They expect the DHCA to protect the neighborhood’s interests.

FEBRUARY

Davis Fox presented the AIEV statement concerning the Emory Village controversy, reporting that the AIEV and DHCA had met and resolved several issues. Still to be resolved are height and transition to the surrounding neighborhood. Emory’s Briarcliff project will be crucial in making this development economically feasible.

This issue’s column addresses “what happened,” since that is the most straightforward (and easiest to write). It is important to keep things in perspective and remember that while neighbors may differ, concur, or be indifferent to specific issues, we are still neighbors. Based on past experience, there will be other issues. (Trust me). We are indeed fortunate that we do not have to deal with arguably more serious issues such as public safety, bad schools, absentee ownership, landfills, and general neighborhood deterioration.

Mike Mandl, Emory’s Executive VP for Finance and Administration, presented an update on Emory’s plans, including a graduate student housing project on Briarcliff Road near Sage Hill, expected to house 390 students; a bookstore on N. Oxford Road, and a mixed-use project on Clifton Road providing 850 housing units and retail for Clifton Corridor workers.

Becky Evans reported the park (at Oxford and Clifton) will be named Burbank Park in honor of the former property owners and dedicated on Earth Day, April 22.

Alena Silverman reported the Atlanta Public School System has purchased The Howard School (on Ponce de Leon between Briarcliff and Springdale), and will be asked to present its plans to the Board.

Jim Morawetz reported on DHCA negotiations with the AIEV. Elise Riley, Oxford Road resident and DHCA member, said neighbors directly affected by the overlay were not adequately represented and are distressed that the DHCA is divided on this issue. They expect the DHCA to protect the neighborhood’s interests.

FEBRUARY

Davis Fox presented the AIEV statement concerning the Emory Village controversy, reporting that the AIEV and DHCA had met and resolved several issues. Still to be resolved are height and transition to the surrounding neighborhood. Emory’s Briarcliff project will be crucial in making this development economically feasible.

This issue’s column addresses “what happened,” since that is the most straightforward (and easiest to write). It is important to keep things in perspective and remember that while neighbors may differ, concur, or be indifferent to specific issues, we are still neighbors. Based on past experience, there will be other issues. (Trust me). We are indeed fortunate that we do not have to deal with arguably more serious issues such as public safety, bad schools, absentee ownership, landfills, and general neighborhood deterioration.

Mike Mandl, Emory’s Executive VP for Finance and Administration, presented an update on Emory’s plans, including a graduate student housing project on Briarcliff Road near Sage Hill, expected to house 390 students; a bookstore on N. Oxford Road, and a mixed-use project on Clifton Road providing 850 housing units and retail for Clifton Corridor workers.

Becky Evans reported the park (at Oxford and Clifton) will be named Burbank Park in honor of the former property owners and dedicated on Earth Day, April 22.

Alena Silverman reported the Atlanta Public School System has purchased The Howard School (on Ponce de Leon between Briarcliff and Springdale), and will be asked to present its plans to the Board.

Jim Morawetz reported on DHCA negotiations with the AIEV. Elise Riley, Oxford Road resident and DHCA member, said neighbors directly affected by the overlay were not adequately represented and are distressed that the DHCA is divided on this issue. They expect the DHCA to protect the neighborhood’s interests.

FEBRUARY

Davis Fox presented the AIEV statement concerning the Emory Village controversy, reporting that the AIEV and DHCA had met and resolved several issues. Still to be resolved are height and transition to the surrounding neighborhood. Emory’s Briarcliff project will be crucial in making this development economically feasible.

This issue’s column addresses “what happened,” since that is the most straightforward (and easiest to write). It is important to keep things in perspective and remember that while neighbors may differ, concur, or be indifferent to specific issues, we are still neighbors. Based on past experience, there will be other issues. (Trust me). We are indeed fortunate that we do not have to deal with arguably more serious issues such as public safety, bad schools, absentee ownership, landfills, and general neighborhood deterioration.

Mike Mandl, Emory’s Executive VP for Finance and Administration, presented an update on Emory’s plans, including a graduate student housing project on Briarcliff Road near Sage Hill, expected to house 390 students; a bookstore on N. Oxford Road, and a mixed-use project on Clifton Road providing 850 housing units and retail for Clifton Corridor workers.

Becky Evans reported the park (at Oxford and Clifton) will be named Burbank Park in honor of the former property owners and dedicated on Earth Day, April 22.

Alena Silverman reported the Atlanta Public School System has purchased The Howard School (on Ponce de Leon between Briarcliff and Springdale), and will be asked to present its plans to the Board.

Jim Morawetz reported on DHCA negotiations with the AIEV. Elise Riley, Oxford Road resident and DHCA member, said neighbors directly affected by the overlay were not adequately represented and are distressed that the DHCA is divided on this issue. They expect the DHCA to protect the neighborhood’s interests.

FEBRUARY

Davis Fox presented the AIEV statement concerning the Emory Village controversy, reporting that the AIEV and DHCA had met and resolved several issues. Still to be resolved are height and transition to the surrounding neighborhood. Emory’s Briarcliff project will be crucial in making this development economically feasible.

This issue’s column addresses “what happened,” since that is the most straightforward (and easiest to write). It is important to keep things in perspective and remember that while neighbors may differ, concur, or be indifferent to specific issues, we are still neighbors. Based on past experience, there will be other issues. (Trust me). We are indeed fortunate that we do not have to deal with arguably more serious issues such as public safety, bad schools, absentee ownership, landfills, and general neighborhood deterioration.

Mike Mandl, Emory’s Executive VP for Finance and Administration, presented an update on Emory’s plans, including a graduate student housing project on Briarcliff Road near Sage Hill, expected to house 390 students; a bookstore on N. Oxford Road, and a mixed-use project on Clifton Road providing 850 housing units and retail for Clifton Corridor workers.

Becky Evans reported the park (at Oxford and Clifton) will be named Burbank Park in honor of the former property owners and dedicated on Earth Day, April 22.

Alena Silverman reported the Atlanta Public School System has purchased The Howard School (on Ponce de Leon between Briarcliff and Springdale), and will be asked to present its plans to the Board.

Jim Morawetz reported on DHCA negotiations with the AIEV. Elise Riley, Oxford Road resident and DHCA member, said neighbors directly affected by the overlay were not adequately represented and are distressed that the DHCA is divided on this issue. They expect the DHCA to protect the neighborhood’s interests.

FEBRUARY

Davis Fox presented the AIEV statement concerning the Emory Village controversy, reporting that the AIEV and DHCA had met and resolved several issues. Still to be resolved are height and transition to the surrounding neighborhood. Emory’s Briarcliff project will be crucial in making this development economically feasible.

This issue’s column addresses “what happened,” since that is the most straightforward (and easiest to write). It is important to keep things in perspective and remember that while neighbors may differ, concur, or be indifferent to specific issues, we are still neighbors. Based on past experience, there will be other issues. (Trust me). We are indeed fortunate that we do not have to deal with arguably more serious issues such as public safety, bad schools, absentee ownership, landfills, and general neighborhood deterioration.
The Revitalized Druid Hills Patrol
by John R. Paddock

Almost 28 years ago, concerned homeowners formed the Druid Hills Patrol (DHP), a nonprofit organization managed by volunteers, to ensure our neighborhood remains safe and special. Currently, the DHP employs off-duty City of Atlanta or Dekalb County police officers to patrol an area roughly within the rectangle of Lullwater, North Decatur, Briarcliff, and Ponce de Leon, as well as portions of Fairview and Oak Grove. The Revitalized Druid Hills Patrol

The "Ghost Lots" of Chelsea Heights
by Steven Misner

For several years, developers have sought to redevelop Chelsea Heights (roughly bounded by East Clifton, Dyson Drive, the CSX railroad tracks, Woodview Drive, and Chelsea Circle) with fairly large homes built on small lots. The developers are using the 1914 platting of the Chelsea Heights subdivision to justify redevelopment on the original 50-foot lots. Of course, the neighborhood was developed from the 1940’s through the 70’s without reference to that plat, primarily on much larger lots. In fact, most conforms to current zoning regulations. DeKalb County’s R-7.5 zoning (75 street footage and at least 10,000 square feet). At first, these new homes on 50-foot lots were not contested. However, as their number and size grew, the Association and the neighborhood resisted.

Fortunately, Chelsea Heights is within the Druid Hills Historic District and applications for demolition or construction require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission. Once the neighborhood made clear to the HPC the threat posed by widespread redevelopment of large homes on 50-foot lots, the HPC and the Board of Commissioners refused to permit such redevelopment, finding it antithetical to the basic character and nature of our neighborhood: a wooded, moderately developed area with low horizontally oriented homes on large lots.

Currently, developers of two lots on Hummingbird Lane are suing the County for refusing them permission to build five large tall homes on five-foot "ghost lots" where two modest ranch-style homes now exist. The developers have filed three lawsuits, directly attacking the process by which the entire Druid Hills Historic District was designated under DeKalb County’s Historic Preservation Ordinance, and alleging that the HPC and County Commission abused their discretion in denying them COAs. The Association and the neighborhood are monitoring that lawsuit, currently defended by the County Attorney’s office. Currently, permission to construct large tall homes on 50-foot lots on Vickers Drive and Coventry Road, vehemently opposed by the neighborhood, has been denied by the HPC.

To be more proactive, the neighborhood and the Civic Association (with additional County discretionary funds generously contributed by Commissioner Garrison) are seeking to have the drafters of the Druid Hills Historic District devise a "character area" to preserve the uniquely wooded and sparsely developed nature of Chelsea Heights. The character area would have its own set of guidelines governing development, which should prevent the redevelopment we are now fighting.

One collateral benefit to Chelsea Heights is the winds of change might bring some development that the neighborhood seems to have discovered itself! Folks from all over the neighborhood fought these proposals and quickly raised nearly $10,000 for the effort!

Large numbers of Zoomed in meetings and are starting to develop awareness of Chelsea’s unique character.

But the fight is hardly over. Significant economic pressure to redevelop the area so close to Emory University, currently with modest homes, will strongly motivate developers to make ours another neighborhood of large homes on small treeless lots. But the unique character of our neighborhood is worth fighting for, and we are confident we will be able, with the Association’s and County’s help, to retain the unique character of our neighborhood.

DROUGHT

Georgia is currently experiencing severe drought conditions and new outdoor watering restrictions are in place for homeowners. Odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Even-numbered addresses may water on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. All watering must take place between midnight and 10:00 am. There are many other restrictions and exceptions, so if you have questions, please visit www.gaspd.org/drought1.shtml for details.
**SPEAKING OF HISTORY:**

A very old house on North Decatur Road

Its construction date is uncertain but it is believed built by Arthur Tufts, Emory University's master builder, built his house. The Tufts boys called it the "Hardeman House." Mt. Strickland, the caretaker, lived in one-story, three-room house after Arthur Tufts died, and farmed the land. In the 1930's, the Jones family rented the house and then bought it.

A May 28, 1936, article in the DeKalb New Era describes the house and how the Jones family furnished it. A photo shows a front porch, which a neighbor remembers.

Clearly, research is needed to piece together the history of this house. Is it truly an ante-bellum structure?

Fortunately, an effort is at last long underway to capture this house's story and assure its future. The immediate impetus is the request of Emory University's Vice-President for Governmental and Community Relations for participation in the decision-making process for the house. Stay tuned!

**BOOK CLUB NEWS:**

**Informal Extensions of Shared Interests**

by Faye Andreessen

Book clubs are unlike the normal clubs with membership roles, dues, and elected officers. There are no by-laws. No one was ever accused of being a card-carrying member of a book club. And that's part of the reason why joining is difficult. Book clubs just seem to be the natural extension of neighborhood friendship and shared interest. Cropping up informally, each club exists because of a comfortable connection among individuals—a shared desire to read, to think and to discuss... and to drink wine.

Never drinking their duty to read, think and discuss is the North Decatur Road Book Club. They were so enamored with The Last Tuesday of a Prime, a collection of critically acclaimed short fiction by Kate Egan, that a member went back and reread all 603 pages—naming the book one of her favorite reads of the year.

Their next choice, The Black Book by Orhan Pamuk (a recent Nobel Prize winner for literature), offered the readers a challenging labyrinth-like investigation of identity. All agreed it could not be considered a "beach read." Again, in agreement, all were dismayed by India's social rigidity in The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai, but they thought it was a terrific read.

Tales of a Female Nomad by Rita Golden Gelman split the Deepdene Club. Some thought this tale of a middle-aged, middle-class divorcee becoming a low-budget vagabond showed an adventurous spirit; others believed it showed nothing but self-absorbed narcissism. Again disagreeing, members could not decide if Delirium by Lauren Oliver was fascinating or just dark and difficult. The book is a recently translated Spanish tale dealing with the causes of the main character’s madness.

Combining their membership, Harvard Road Book Club and the Beer and a Book Club, hosted a discussion led by local author Melissa Faye Greene concerning her newest book, "The Summoning of Constance." The book was a recently translated Spanish tale dealing with the causes of the main character’s madness.

**The Emory University Women's Club (EWWC) Book Discussion Group has recently tackled Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln, the Pulitzer Prize winner by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Theocacy and the Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion. While being the busy bibliophiles they are, the Busy Bibliophiles read only one book, Seif--the Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach. A funny yet dignified examination of cadavers.

Now, just so you don't think all the reading is in book clubs, Druid Hills High School requires some summer reading from its students—don't let them convince you otherwise. Ninth graders are asked to read Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom; sophomores are assigned Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich. OHHH... Juniors get a John Graham novel—A Time to Kill and the 12th grade British Lit students are asked to read To by Frank McCourt.
Hidden Treasures of Druid Hills Sparkle in the Sunshine: 2007 Home and Garden Tour a Success

By Becky Evans

Beautiful spring weather and the lure of exploring the unique cottages and castles of Druid Hills brought throngs of tour goers, more than 1,400, to our Druid Hills neighborhood. More than 350 volunteers served as docents, shift chairs, house managers, and on the planning committee to pull off this tremendous annual event highlighting our historic neighborhood. In addition to being the only fundraiser for the Civic Association, the tour is a wonderful community builder among our residents, where we can work together to share our pride and delight in our community and its featured homes and gardens.

So many images come to mind when reflecting about the 2007 tour experience. The incredible antiques and collectibles of the Steward/Thompson home; the calm décor and warm family feel of the Cross home; the tour goers walking down Harvard passing several enterprising youngsters selling their snacks; the peace and privacy of the Bushes’ woodland garden; soaring airplane models and bright reds of the second story balcony of the Tauxe home; the pastoral endless pastures of the Colby/Baroco home, with the delightful pygmy goats snuggling up for a pat on the head; the gorgeous garden rooms opening up one after the other at the Tillman/Andrews property; and finally, the beautiful vistas of Emory’s Lullwater Estate and the sunshine: to make this year’s tour a success!

The Druid Hills Civic Association would like to thank our sponsors, Friends, & Patrons who helped to make this year’s Tour a success.

A huge THANKS to all of our wonderful Sponsors, Friends, & Patrons who helped to make this year’s Tour a success.

2007 FRIENDS
Debbie and Ray McDonald
Thomas and Catherine Dering
John and Ellen Yates
Helen and Don O’Shea
Jeannie and Paul Shanor
Bonnie Wolf
Kevin and Gretchen Smith
Ann and Steve Yohos
Walter and Sandra Kruger
Preston and Linda Herren
Rolf and Leslee Gran
Mrs. Virginia Muse
Mr and Mrs Robert Gerwig
Claire Sterk
Becky and David Evans
Sharon and Allen Garrison
Billy and Carolyn Hall
Dr. Sandra J Still
Roger and Joanna Strood
Ms. Elizabeth Thompson
William and Jane Carney
Hilary Hargreaves
John M Hudson
Linda Hubert
Katherine Fredericksson
Richard and Gayle Shuey
Thomas and Tony Winn
Emily Kari
Ruth Kirby Sanders
Don and Jackie Biles
Alda and Stuart Silverman
Mary Emma and Dan McCuaghey
Lisa and Todd Hill
Robert and Carolyn Riordan
Allata and Craig Brooks
Carol Strehl and Don Kernagy
Melanie and Mac Platt
Doug and Jerry Grimm
Magik Touch Cleaners

2007 SPONSORS
PLATINUM - $3,000
Debra Sines and Claus Kneerger
Lorraine E. Loeflin
John and Marilyn McMullan

GOLD - $2,000
Paris & Associates Realty
Atlanta Intown
Natalie Gregory - Keller Williams Realty Metro Atlanta
Liltte Sparrow Floral Design

SILVER - $1,500
Garry Willmers - Karafotias Realty Co.
Peggy Hibbert - Coldwell Banker Previews
Kathi Sanders - Keller Williams Realty Metro Atlanta
Everybody’s Whole Foods Market on Ponce

2007 PATRONS
The Kroger Co. • Wind and Wood Chamber Players

BENEFACOR
Arborguard Tree Specialists • Moon Bros., Inc.
Travis Construction, Inc. • Clarke Weeks – Coldwell Banker
The Zac Team • Castles & Cottages, Inc. • Joni & David Winston
David Handy • Doug Pharris • Rapid Sign Systems
The Druid Hills News

Summer 2007

The Only Constant  by Chad Polazzo

Our world is changing at a pace that seems to quicken every year. One result of Atlanta's growth over the past few decades is a population boom. It naturally follows that when there are more people there is more need for housing and for the infrastructure we use for daily living.  In Atlanta, buildings are getting larger and undeveloped areas smaller, as the pressures of our growing city demand more and more.  Vacant lots are built on, others are Gated.  Roads are widened, airports expanded, and even whole new cities are built—seemingly overnight, as was the case with Atlantic Station. The result of all this is a dramatically changed urban landscape with profound social and ecological implications for our quality of life.

While it can be exciting to witness the things happening here, and while the economic boom that accompanies change is welcome, something else about the pace at which it is occurring makes it difficult to grasp and understand. As a lifelong resident of intown Atlanta, I know the city like I know an old friend. Recently, when I drive by a new development or learn about some huge, pending change, I feel I have lost something.

Moving to my home in Druid Hills has helped me gain a new perspective on these changes and my sense of loss. Much of my formative childhood was during economic recession. Shops were empty, homes were vacant and dilapidated. People had bars on their windows. There were a good number of vine-covered buildings and empty lots and my friends and I played games in the kadzu tunnels and crusted impermeable forts, built on the stacked brick foundations of homes that were long gone—missing from the street like a plucked tooth. These places were my neighbors as much as the occupied homes.

While many disliked the way things looked, I believe that these undeveloped spaces helped promote a slower pace of life. By undeveloped spaces, I don't mean the ruins of old buildings. I include in this definition open, accessible green spaces where people can gather to do fun things—things that do not have anything to do with making or spending money. Things that aren't errands or chores. Things like reading a book on a bench by the creek or climbing a tree with your child, sending a community garden plot or playing a game with your neighbors who have become your friends.

Many of these spaces are now gone.  And I feel their absence. What I realize now is that these lots and abandoned places did more than provide a place for hide-and-seek; they shaped the very culture of the intown neighborhoods. Upon reflection, much of the development that has filled in these spaces has eliminated this informal open space and has adversely impacted our community in a subtle but profound way.

In my professional role as a local real estate agent I see, every day, what people look for in a home. Those looking to move into town are drawn by the community, the vibrant business districts, the easy walks on wide tree-shaded sidewalks to nearby parks and wooded paths. These are not the amenities that constitute a great neighborhood and they are precisely why neighborhoods like Candler Park, Decatur, and Inman Park are so popular. When a new community is planned developers now routinely incorporate open and green space into the design because it is what the customers want. More people are looking beyond the big dream house and are asking for places to live that are "walkable," some place with hiccups, where you don't have to drive everywhere you want to go.

So, spread the word to neighbors, artists, and the Druid Hills Civic Association website at www.druidhills.org. This begs the question: What about in Druid Hills? What are we concerned about? Where do we find our sense of belonging?  Is there a gnat to the Quasars farthest removed in light years or has the Creator failed?

The Druid Hills Civic Association received a small percentage of artists' sales, totaling more than $18,000.  This year's artists were from the Druid Hills neighborhood and invited from throughout Georgia. They included teachers and students from the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center.  Next year, the juried market will be open to artists who apply from any locale in the market expansion.

The Druid Hills Civic Association has long been prized for being a "neighborhood in a forest" and has amazing woods and creeks. We do not belong? Why do my clients tend to leave Druid Hills off their list of "walkable" areas? Neighborhoods like ours are now faced with the challenging task of working with the existing infrastructure, amenities, land, and land owners to retrofit a solution.  Community planning for Druid Hills requires committed people willing to help with this effort.  Many of these ideas and would like to share ideas of your own, please contact me at chadpolazzo@bellsouth.net.
The CCP is celebrating its first year. We’ve been working on:

- The creation of a new park in Druid Hills that provides a natural, wooded buffer between the neighborhood and businesses in Emory Village, and preserves a section of Peavine Creek
- Increased awareness of and ridership on Cliff shuttle buses, which are alternatively-fueled, free for the community to ride, and reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles
- Increased awareness for safe pedestrian and bicycle access on local roads
- The development of new urban design guidelines that will create public streets and areas of distinction in the Clifton community, and places that invite community activity and pride
- The initiation of an advisory group where community leaders join with Emory to tackle significant community issues

Our CCP Advisory Group includes neighborhood, civic, business, and education leaders from the Clifton Community.

For a complete list, visit [www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org](http://www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org)

For more information on the CCP, visit [www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org](http://www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org) or contact Bryan Cooke, executive director, at 404.727.9341 or at info@cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.
Dr. Mary Ellen Perkins, 96, was born in Lakeland, Florida, and soon moved to Wadley, Georgia. Her mother died in childbirth when Mary Ellen was just three years of age, and she and some of her siblings were sent to live with their maternal grandparents on their farm.

On the Wadley farm, Mary Ellen and her siblings were taken care of by their grandmother and aunts. One aunt was a teacher, and sent Mary Ellen to Georgia Normal and Industrial College where she graduated after two years. "Normal" was an old fashioned name for a school that trained teachers. "Industrial" was what is today home economics. She then taught school, at age 18, to about 60 children ranging in age from five to fifteen in a one-room schoolhouse.

Mary Ellen returned to college for her four-year degree in math. She later taught second grade in Brooklet, earning just $55 per month for the then seven months of the school year. Entering the University of Georgia, she earned a master's degree in education supervision and curriculum. In 1948, a Fulbright program paid for her to go to South Korea to instruct teachers in the Korean school system. "My aunt thought I was crazy for doing this," recalled Perkins. But she was determined despite the fact she'd never been on an airplane, nor left the southeastern United States. Her trip to Korea was on board a U.S. B-52.

After leaving Korea, Perkins worked for the Georgia State Department of Education at Berry and Shorter Colleges in Rome, helping these private colleges develop a program of practice teaching to qualify their teachers for state certificates. In 1964, she finally received her Ph.D. In 1969, Perkins said, "I felt I'd worked for the state of Georgia long enough—I had 42 years of service" and took a position at Georgia State University. By 1974, Dr. Perkins was ready to retire. "I felt there were some other things I wanted to do," she said instead of retiring, she worked on a history of student teaching at Morehouse College for two years, and then joined Oglethorpe University part time advising students on state certification. While teaching, she was also consulting for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Dr. Perkins moved to Atlanta in 1957, purchased her home on Ridgewood Drive in 1958, and soon knew most of the neighbors on Ridgewood, Emory Drive and Vickers Drive. Perkins stated that not much has changed on Ridgewood in 50 years except for a few new homes, and renovations. Two things that have changed are housing prices and taxes. "In 1958, my three-bedroom, one-and-a-half bath home sold for $21,800," she said, another change was neighbors aging and moving to retirement homes. The newcomers were often young families.

Ridgewood had a long tradition of community get-togethers in neighbors’ yards. "It was a way to have a picnic and get to know each other better," recalls Perkins. As her elderly siblings became unable to stay in their own homes, they took them in. Her three living siblings are in their nineties—one almost one hundred. "Six out of seven were living into their nineties," stated Perkins. "That isn't too bad. There must be excellent genes in the Perkins family! Sisters Blanche and Louise came to live with Mary Ellen on Ridgewood. Louise died at age 93 and Blanche moved into Wesley Woods when Mary Ellen sold the Ridgewood home and also moved to Wesley Woods. Mary Ellen’s living siblings include Blanche nearly 100; Edward Eugene, 95, and Dick, 92. Mary Ellen is 96 and still in good health. Another sister, Evelyn Perkins Allnut, is deceased. "Evelyn died young at age 82," said Perkins.

How did Dr. Perkins manage to live such a long and interesting life? "I think people need to be more concerned about exercise and what they eat," she said. "These two things are essential for the body to feel good. Enjoy people and take advantage of events that will help you grow and continue to learn throughout your life." This advice she follows. She also attends Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, where she became a member in 1959. "I've seen a lot of preachers come and go," she said. Perkins also socializes with church friends, attends Wednesday family church suppers, and participates in classes and other educational opportunities at Glenn Memorial. Other advice from Dr. Perkins: "Everyone has problems that come into their lives that they have to face. Face them and find a way to keep going. Accept help and gifts from people who help you when you're in trouble. Your problems won't last the rest of your life, so just find a way to keep going."

When asked about the educational situation in the United States, Dr. Perkins was quick to reply. "Things were definitely separate and much unequal. Once I was talking openly and freely to leaders at Atlanta University. I asked them what we could do to help things and was told that it would take 100 years for things to be equal in every way—and this was back in the 1960s. We've made a lot of progress on this issue, but we're not there yet."

Perkins recalls seeing her first radio, first automobile and first television "without color or cable" she adds quickly. She believes important changes during her lifetime have been in transportation and communications. But the biggest change, she says, has been the growth of urbanism, where people flock to large cities and rural life continues to diminish. "Your brain continues to grow throughout your life, if you'll use it," stated Dr. Perkins. "There’s so much more to learn, and so much more to do." At 96, Dr. Perkins shows no sign of slowing down, and leaves no doubt that she will continue to grow and learn.
free homebuying seminars!
For information on our weekly homebuying seminars in conjunction with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, please call 404.564.7248!

Call Zac and Start Packing!
the zac team

the zac team @ RE/MAX Greater Atlanta
1057 Ponce de Leon Avenue • Atlanta, Georgia 30306 • 404.564.7200 • 404.609.9898
School News by Susan Merritt Jordan

Padeia School
The total of pledges and gifts to the capital campaign at The Padeia School has topped $20 million. The school anticipates breaking ground sometime this summer on the site it purchased at the corner of Oakdale and South Ponce de Leon. Padeia has plans for a theatre, fitness facilities, and a building for the junior high, along with various improvements around the campus.

Druid Hills High School
Druid Hills High School is anticipating $22 million in capital improvements promised with the March passage by DeKalb voters of the extension of the special local option sales tax (SPLOST). DHHS is also expecting that plans for the redesign of Haygood Drive and the front portion of the high school campus should be decided by August. This process, an initiative of the Clifton Community Partnership, is currently in the hands of a consultant charged with presenting four options incorporating community suggestions for the redesign. The consultant should be reporting back in June. Druid Hills High School Class of 2007 Valedictorian is Stephanie McLaren. Salutatorian is Yvnen Hu.

Shamrock Middle School
Shamrock Middle School welcomes rising 6th graders for a half day of orientation Friday, August 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Planned activities include a scavenger hunt and practice at opening lockers. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Buses will pick up at feeder elementary schools.

After an evaluation of community response to his proposal to consolidate Montessori programs in DeKalb County, Superintendent Crawford Lewis's revised plan leaves Montessori programs in the three schools where they currently are in place, including Briar Vista Elementary.

Fernbank Elementary School
A new Assistant Principal is in place at Fernbank Elementary. He is Rajnish Singh, who was most recently the Administrative Intern at Laurel Ridge, another DeKalb elementary school. Before that Mr. Singh taught for six years at DeKalb’s Kinnedy Magnet School (high achievers grades 4-6) and for three years at an aviation and aerospace magnet school in Orlando, FL. Mr. Singh replaces Jeanette Roberts, who had been in the position since 1999. Ms. Roberts was promoted in May to Principal at another DeKalb school, Sky Haven Elementary.

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

- Briar Vista Elementary School— 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
- Padeia School— www.padeiaschool.org
- Shamrock Middle School— www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/shamrock

Susan Merritt Jordan does freelance writing and editing from the Druid Hills home where she has lived for 10 years. You may send editorial comments to susan.merritt@yahoo.com, subject: Druid Hills News.

Druid Hills Civic Association

Not yet a member of DHCA? Use the form below and join today!

Join online at www.druidhills.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:_________

Home phone:_____________________

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.

0 = Not at all interested     5 = Neutral     10 = Very interested

- Public Relations/Communications __________________________ Newsletter __________________________
- Historic Preservation __________________________ Membership Planning __________________________
- Traffic/Urban Design __________________________ Land Use/Zoning __________________________
- Tour of Homes __________________________ Flyer Distribution __________________________
- Peachtree Watershed __________________________ Other—specify __________________________

[ ] Please feel free to contact me for help

Annual Dues (Check one:)

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

Please [ ] enroll me [ ] renew me as a member of the Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA).
Travis Reed
Number One Agent, Harry Norman, Realtors, 2006
404-874-0083 | 404-233-4142 | treedatl@aol.com

1303 Briardale Lane
Listed for $1,195,000

1378 Rock Springs Circle
Listed for $1,499,000
Gorgeous New Home in Morningside Preserve, 5 Bedrooms, 5.5 Baths, Featuring Elevator, Chef's Kitchen Adjoining Fireside Family Room, Paneled Study, Huge Master Retreat, Finished Terrace Level.

890 Glen Arden Way
6 Bedroom/4.5 Bath in Virginia Highlands, $1,799,000

1077 Mclynn Avenue
4 Bedroom/4.5 Bath in Morningside, $1,099,000

406 Sinclair Avenue
4 Bedroom/4.5 Bath in Inman Park, $895,000

1304 North Avenue
6 Bedrooms, 4 Full baths, 2 half baths. in Buckhead Park, $1,099,000

1265 Mclynn Avenue
4 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths in Morningside $995,000

1723 Inverness Avenue
4 Bedroom/4.5 Bath in Morningside, $1,049,000

1314 North Morningside Drive
4 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths in Morningside $1,025,000

783 San Antonio Drive
4 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths in Morningside $1,295,000

Travis offers the most comprehensive marketing program in the business:

- Continuous print advertising
- Extensive Internet marketing
- Monthly marketing schedules • Weekly written updates • Direct line to legal representation • Professional photography • Direct mail to Realtors

Harry Norman, Realtors®
Since 1930

Buckhead Office • 532 East Paces Ferry Road • 404-233-4142 • Spalding White, Managing Broker • www.harrynorman.com • Equal Housing Opportunity