



THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

SUMMER, 2005
Volume 19, Number 2
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Art in Freedom Park

by *Riccarda Heising*

Have you noticed something new in Freedom Park? Art in Freedom Park is a temporary public art exhibit within the boundaries of Freedom Park. The show opened May 1 and will run through September. During this time, 30 different pieces will be installed in the park, some for as short as a weekend and others for the duration of the event. These pieces will be installed throughout the park but will be concentrated on the east-west spine that runs from Boulevard Avenue eastward to Mary Lin Elementary School.

Art in Freedom Park will also feature a series of performance pieces occurring on Sundays between 2:00 and 5:00, weather permitting. Performances of music, dance, and other media will be staged at the plaza just east of Moreland Avenue. With a dynamic and changing array of artworks, performances and events, we hope to encourage neighbors, area residents and visitors to explore the park frequently, as each visit should bring a new experience.

Art in Freedom Park is not a one-time event; the 2005 show will be followed in 2006 by the first of a series of shows entitled Discover Freedom Park. More information about Art in Freedom Park and Discover Freedom Park can be found at our website www.artinfreedompark.org. This website provides information, directions to the park, maps showing locations and dates of art installations, and schedules of performances.

Art in Freedom Park is made possible through the generous support of individuals, the Freedom Park Conservancy, the City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, the Fulton County Arts Council, the Metropolitan Public Arts Coalition, and an anonymous foundation. We still need additional support, however, to continue the program.

If you would like to support this public art event, please send donations, made out to Art in Freedom Park, to P.O. Box 5452, Atlanta, GA 31107. All donations are tax deductible, as Art in Freedom Park is sponsored by the Freedom Park Conservancy, a 501(c)3 corporation.

The Art in Freedom Park task force is also looking for volunteers willing to help with public relations, fundraising, and tours, or providing logistical support. Individuals can volunteer by contacting the task force at artinfreedompark@yahoo.com or at 404-523-1064.

Annals of the 2005 Tour of Homes and Gardens

Compiled by *Ellen Nemhauser*

Pre-Tour

About two weeks before the 2005 tour, anyone other than the terminally unobservant had to be aware of the upcoming event. Signs sprouted all over the neighborhood like the proverbial mushrooms after a rain.

The weekend itself

No one could have hoped for better weather—cool nights and warm sunny days. As one Friday tour-goer said, "Well, God probably lives in Druid Hills." In addition, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* featured the Tulip House in its garden section, so people who hadn't seen the signs learned of the tour.



The voice mail

The voice mail was kept very busy and even got clogged occasionally. The mother of the voice mail kept some interesting notes. The longest distance anyone called from was San Francisco. The most common question was, "Where can I buy tickets?" The most interesting questioner wanted to know which house hosted Bobby Jones' wedding. And the question that required a tad of research was whether the DHCA still had "Door" posters for sale. The answer is yes.

How the tour is "Old Home Day" for longtime residents

A house chair had two docents from the Lake Claire/Candler Park area and another who'd grown up there and moved away. Native Atlantans like them have a strong bond with Druid Hills, having grown up on its border. They recalled eating at the first McDonald's when hamburgers were 25 cents and fries were 15 cents. As the house chair says, "Those of us who share these memories are few—but the strength we gain from our roots is binding."



At the Zedd house

The architect was there for most of the time and was seen as a cross between a celebrity and a source of information for many tour-goers. People were so stunned that a new house could look old and a large house look small that they were full of questions. The docents had a hard time when the architect was absent. Several people came back more than once, bringing friends, to marvel at the feat. DD and CT

At the Cranny house

Even infirm people, in wheelchairs and walkers, were so determined to see the house that they walked up the side steps. It was amazing to see them get around. Then there were a few people who just wanted to read about the house, an unusual situation. LS

Teenagers react to the McConaughy house

How do you get middle school boys to go on the tour? You promise to let them out of school early. The destination was the McConaughy home and the secret message was that nature and neighborhoods could live in balance. Their 14-year-old skepticism turned to genuine interest as they learned about the secret wine cellar and searched for the hidden television. The walk in the woods prompted them to use some recently acquired vocabulary words with their final comment being, "I was surprised that the house was so quiet, in the middle of the neighborhood. It was remote. And the house had such elegance to it." SS

Junior achievement section

Several sets of kids set up lemonade stands. One successful one was just outside the DeFrancis house, but the real go-getters were across the street from the McConaughy house. Polite little girls, they asked the owners if setting up a lemonade and cookie stand would be all right with them. Professor McConaughy introduced them to the notion of free enterprise and they took off from there, making more than \$100 both Saturday and Sunday! Their assistant, aka Dad, was sent to the supermarket numerous times to replenish the frozen lemonade supply.

And even more junior achievement

A few weeks later, several Druid Hills gardens were on the Atlanta Botanical Gardens tour. Emboldened by the lemonade kids, the daughter at one garden tried to charge an extra fee to tour-goers for the privilege of climbing into her tree house! Her mother nipped that little enterprise in the bud. JM

**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

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS
*Newsletter of the
Druid Hills Civic Association*
P.O. Box 363
Decatur, GA 30031-0363

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Create a Wildlife Sanctuary

Here in Druid Hills we already have what is needed—food (from plants and feeders), shelter, and water—to create a certified sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. It's easy, it's fun, and it's educational! The Atlanta Audubon Society can tell you how.
Email: Jacqueline.McRae@comcast.net
Call Jacqueline McRae, 404-633-5225

Druid Hills Walking Tours

Walking tours of Druid Hills depart every Saturday (except in case of rain) at 10:00 a.m. from St. John's Lutheran Church at the corner of Oakdale and Ponce de Leon. The tour takes about an hour and a half and costs \$10 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and is free for members of the Atlanta Preservation Center, the sponsoring organization. Even if you have lived in Druid Hills since you first learned to walk, you might learn something new. No reservations are required.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS

Officers

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| President..... | Jeff Rader | 378-5070 |
| First Vice-President | Bruce MacGregor | 378-6040 |
| Admin. Vice-President | Tricia Elam | 373-3255 |
| Com. Vice-President | Pam Terry | 687-0395 |
| Secretary | Walter Saunders | 634-4467 |
| Treasurer | Rolf Grun | 373-5831 |

Division Chairs

| | | |
|---|--|----------|
| Division 1 (City of Atlanta) | | |
| Art Schiff | | 378-4403 |
| Division 2 (Ponce Corridor in DeKalb) | | |
| Stuart Johnson | | 371-9768 |
| Clarke Weeks | | 327-4195 |
| Division 3 (W. of Briarcliff & S. of University in DeKalb) | | |
| Robert Vicevich | | 249-9215 |
| Division 4 (Between Briarcliff, N. Decatur & Lullwater Ck.) | | |
| Lauretta Miller | | 377-5712 |
| Division 5 (Between Peavine Ck., N. Decatur, & RR Lines) | | |
| Jim Morawetz | | 378-3784 |
| Division 6 (W. of Briarcliff, N. of University to S. Peachtree Ck.) | | |
| Dee Daly | | 876-2951 |
| Division 7 ("University" Streets west of Emory University) | | |
| Greg Robisch | | 373-3923 |
| Division 8 (Emory U., N. Decatur Rd. to S. Peachtree Ck.) | | |
| Jeremy Moeser | | 325-9930 |
| Division 9 (D.H. Golf Course, Decatur fork of Peavine Ck. & RR Lines) | | |
| Rebecca and Randy Moore | | 687-8082 |

DHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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| Div. Name | Phone | Email |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Chuck Palmer | 373-7762 | charles.palmer@troutman.sanders.com |
| 5 Philip Lee | 320-1727 | pal@philiplee.com |
| 5 Michael Terry | 378-3438 | terry@bondurant.mixon.com |
| 4 Debbie McDonald | 373-0998 | debmcdon@bellsouth.net |

Ex Officio

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
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| 1 Riccarda Heising | 373-9077 | rheising@pgfm.com |
| <u>DeKalb Civic Coalition (DCC)</u> | | |
| 4 Judy Yates | 373-2112 | jyates@greatoakmtg.com |
| <u>Neighborhood Planning Unit</u> | | |
| 1 Deb Stone | 377-6070 | deb@doxus.com |
| <u>Tour of Homes</u> | | |
| 1 Tricia Elam | 373-3255 | pelam898@bellsouth.net |
| 1 Barbara Vogel | 377-1667 | blv812@comcast.net |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| <u>Druid Hills News Editor</u> | | |
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Class of 2007

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
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| 1 Dennis Leftwich | 378-5776 | djleftwich@comcast.net |
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| | | |
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| 2 Judi Shur | 378-9775 | judishur@hotmail.com |
| 1 Joanna Stroud | 377-6329 | rojoal@comcast.net |

Recommended Repair-people

Do you know the perfect plumber? An extraordinary electrician? A colossal contractor? Are you willing to share this person's name? The *Druid Hills News* hopes to start a list of reliable repair-people. If you know someone of this ilk please send the name, phone number, profession, and an optional little description to the editor of this paper, Mary Angela Whyte, at mak_shs@yahoo.com.

John Tehan, Computer Troubleshooters (404-892-9030)—He has always made a prompt appointment, arrived on time, and resolved the computer problem. John is honest, intelligent, pleasant, and prompt, and I highly recommend him to your readers. (Libba Fairleigh).

Leonard Blackwell (770-337-1348)—Mr. Blackwell repaired the faulty plumbing in my kitchen sink. The price was more than reasonable and the work very professional. Mr. Blackwell is not a licensed plumber, but he has experience in all kinds of house-related jobs from a long career in construction. His business card says: For a job well done, call Leonard Blackwell; experienced in remodeling, painting and laying tile of all kinds. (Priscilla H. Padrin)

Rory O'Halloran with Greenpoint Contracting did an awesome job with some tree removal. He is very bright, professional, and above all a great tree guy. Outbid all other competitors and is fully insured. Call Jennifer O'Halloran (404-593-5416) for estimates. (Danny Spencer)

Meredyth White, ASID, designed and oversaw the renovation of the kitchen and two bathrooms in our Druid Hills home. He has also helped us with the design of another property and did an excellent job. In our opinion, he works magic. Meredyth can be reached at 404-373-7544. (Jean Paddock)

Barney Opfer—Handyman. 678-641-2932. (Hugh Bell)

Tim Reeves—Handyman. 404-633-3813. (Dina Cook)

Get the Most Out of Your Advertising Dollars

The *Druid Hills News* is published in April, July, September and December. It reaches thousands of people who live, shop, and work in Druid Hills. With thousands of copies of each issue distributed in the area, the publication's advertising rates are a bargain for businesses that want to reach Druid Hills customers.

For information on ad sizes and pricing, please call 404-373-3255.

ATLANTA WATCH CAPTAINS

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Fairview Road | Jane Carney..... | 374-7198 |
| | Linda Herrin | 373-4358 |
| Lion's Gate | Jim Webb | 377-1101 |
| Lullwater Road..... | Dennie Peteet..... | 373-4131 |
| Oakdale Road..... | Lynn Hiller | 373-4193 |
| Ponce de Leon..... | Jim Jackson | 373-1303 |
| Ponce de Leon..... | Eugene Novy..... | 378-0000 |

DEKALB WATCH CAPTAINS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Artwood Rd. | Beverly Head..... | 373-3151 |
| The Byway | vacant | |
| Barton Woods Road | Linda Grant | 378-2397 |
| Briarwood Hills Area..... | Jeff Stone | 815-9382 |
| Burlington Road..... | Kim Papastavridis..... | 377-1540 |
| Chelsea Circle | Kathy Morawetz..... | 378-3784 |
| Chelsea Circle | Lindy Grebbe | 370-1232 |
| Chelsea Circle | Charlie DeJarnette | 373-4514 |
| Chelsea Circle | Mark Bashor | 373-8486 |
| Clifton Rd. (779-969)..... | Trudy Kretchman..... | 378-1104 |
| Clifton Rd. (973-1223)..... | vacant | |
| Cornell Road..... | Missy Aue | 378-6975 |
| Durand Drive..... | Paul Brown | 378-7913 |
| Durand Falls Drive..... | Sue Osier | 373-6131 |
| E. Clifton Road..... | Jo Koch | 377-3001 |
| Edinburgh Terr..... | R. Cary Bynum..... | 634-5082 |
| Emory Circle..... | Paul Brown | 378-7913 |
| Emory Drive | Mary Angela Whyte | 373-0291 |
| Emory Road (upper) | Judy Book | 377-3914 |
| Emory Road..... | Sue Shuster..... | 373-8710 |
| Harvard Road..... | Shannon McDonald..... | 378-7660 |
| Hummingbird Lane | Jackie Wilkinson | 373-7528 |
| Lullwater Road..... | vacant | |
| N. Decatur Road (4) | Marci Nunnery | 378-9595 |
| N. Decatur Road (6) | Rachel Friday | 607-9011 |
| Oakdale Road..... | Mark Herold | 378-6446 |
| Oxford Road | Vivian Moody | 378-8928 |
| Princeton Way..... | David Cherry | 634-7858 |
| | Jan Smyth | 636-5055 |
| Ridgewood Dr. (mid)..... | Julie Ralston | 370-0554 |
| Ridgewood Dr. (upper)..... | Susan Fox..... | 377-4240 |
| Springdale Road..... | Georgia Marshall..... | 371-1998 |
| The Falls Court | Mary Emma McConaughy..... | 377-1500 |
| Vickers Circle..... | Charlie Snelling..... | 378-6154 |
| Vickers Drive | Sue Briss..... | 377-7060 |
| Vickers Drive | Bobbie Wakamo..... | 373-6403 |
| Woodview | Mary Larson..... | 377-7030 |

Please call 404-523-DHCA to volunteer for vacancies and back-up spots

HELP WANTED

The *Druid Hills News* offers an opportunity for Druid Hills residents to list needs for services. Here division chairs can list streets needing delivery persons, localized causes can list issues needing workers, enterprising teenagers can mention their skills at babysitting, lawn care, etc., needy parents can advertise for enterprising teenagers, and on and on. It will be what you make it. Please send a description of your needs and/or willingness to volunteer to Sue Heerin at jheerin@aol.com or call our voicemail at 404-523-DHCA.

The Druid Hills Civic Association is looking for volunteers to work on the new **Community and Lifestyle Committee**. We need people to do the following:

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

If you would like to help and, at the same time, meet your neighbors and have fun, please contact Judi Shur at 404-378-9775 or judishur@hotmail.com.

The Druid Hills Civic Association is looking for volunteers to assist on the **Membership Committee**. We need people to:

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

If you would like to volunteer for the Membership Committee, please contact Dee Daly at 404-876-2951 or deedaly3@comcast.net.

Is the Historic Druid Hills sign that tops your street sign damaged, in the wrong place, even missing? Please call the DHCA hotline and report the problem so it can be remedied.

Distributor Needed: Looking for a neighbor to deliver occasional flyers to:

- N. Parkwood and Lakeshore Dr.

ARE YOU NEW TO DRUID HILLS?

If you have not received your welcome/information packet, give your division chair a call. Division chairs are listed on this page.

Recycle at Emory

Emory Recycles encourages the community to use its 24-hour drop off site, located near the end of Peavine Creek Drive and the Lower Fields parking lot. Magazines, newspapers, white paper, tin cans, aluminum cans, plastics #1 and #2, phone books, cardboard, and green, brown and clear glass are accepted.

For more information, call 404-727-1796 or visit <http://www.emory.edu/FMD/web/Recycling/recycling.html>.

**Druid Hills Civic Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 16, 2005**

by Walter Saunders

Visitors: Randy Pairs, Ansley Park resident; D. L. Joury, resident; Alex Pavich, CEO of Golden Key; Shea Roberts, Attorney; Donna Armstrong and Heather Prichard, ReMax Cityside.

Reports from Officers:

Secretary's Report: January minutes were approved with one change regarding the Ponce intersection at Briarcliff/Moreland. The City of Atlanta was taking public comments on the intersection plan, not the DOT.

Communications Vice President's Report:

Druid Hills News: Ellen Nemhauser and Van Hall provided costs to bulk mail *The Druid Hills News* and recommended using carrier routes (5,000 pieces).

Web Site Update: Pam Terry's committee will form a plan for revamping the website.

Administrative Vice President's Report: Tricia reports membership renewals going well.

Administrative Support —The Executive Committee approved a plan and budget to hire a part-time (8 hours per week) person to perform many duties previously undertaken by the Executive Director.

Treasurer's Report: Rolf presented the proposed budget for 2005, which was approved.

First Vice President's Report:

1189 Ponce de Leon (Golden Key Property)—Donna Armstrong, ReMax Cityside owner, has made an offer to purchase the property for use as a real estate office and made her case for a needed special use permit., believing it unlikely this property could be converted to residential housing. Alex Pavich, CEO of Golden Key, supported ReMax Cityside. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Nunan Property—Bruce MacGregor reported the developers filed a third COA, this for a cul-de-sac, historically opposed by DHCA In-Fill Task Force. Bruce requested \$1,000 for law research on the Doctrine of Merger to present to the In-fill Task Force. A motion to do the research and determine whether writing it up would violate the Association's attorney/client privilege carried.

Atlanta Zoning Text Amendment—Continuing Care Retirement Community: This text amendment would further divide the assisted living facility land use into a sub-category of continuing care retirement community. Division 1 board members (Atlanta City residents) voted in favor of the motion to endorse.

Atlanta Sign Ordinance Amendment: Building Signature Signs—This text amendment would further stipulate that in determining the height of a building, parking structures are not to be used in the calculation. Division 1 board members (Atlanta City residents) voted in favor of the motion to endorse.

Historic Preservation—Excelsior Mill (currently the Masquerade) may be demolished for condominium project. Motion to authorize contribution to the Atlanta Preservation Center toward developing nomination for historical status carried.

President's Report:

Nominating Committee: The following slate of candidates was elected to the Executive Committee: Judy Yates, Julie Ralston, Deb Stone, Judy Shur, and Paul Shanor.

Re-establishment of Special Committees: All special committees and task forces were re-established as required by laws. A special task force was created to address the building pressure for redevelopment in and around Druid Hills.

AIEV: Davis Fox reports design documents are 50% complete. The first cost estimate is 3.8 million (2.5 million is budgeted). The design calls for the planting of 90 new trees, new ground covers and shrubs, 27 benches and 17 street lights.

The President's Column

by Jeff Rader

Get Into the Mainstream!

Sometimes, when you're driving or biking along our neighborhood streets, you get the impression that Druid Hills is as settled and stable a place as exists on earth. But like a swan gliding serenely across the lake, there's a lot of paddling that goes on beneath the surface. In this column, I want to bring you up to date on some of the efforts that keep our community above water.

Recently, we've been fielding an aggressive defense against land use changes that could undermine the basic character of our neighborhood. If you've been watching these pages, you'll know that we've been fighting against plans to subdivide the Nunan Tract, three undeveloped lots on Clifton Road, near the South Oxford intersection. So far, we've fought a nine-lot subdivision, and a couple of configurations of five-lot subdivisions, all of which would stick out like a sore thumb, plus set an earthshaking precedent for the subdivision of lots throughout the neighborhood. We've won a few innings, but the game's not yet over. DHCA members, including Bruce MacGregor, Rob Benfield, Mike Terry, Vaidy Sunderam and Leland Chung took responsibility for specific aspects of this effort, and many of your neighbors have turned out for meetings and hearings.

On the other end of the neighborhood, we're grappling against a proposed Special Use Permit for the Golden Key property at the corner of Ponce de Leon and Moreland. If approved, the proposed real estate office in this historic home could encourage others to push for offices or more intensive activities in the Howard School, Green Gables home, or elsewhere in the Ponce Corridor. It will take leadership by the Atlanta City Council and our District Councilmember Anne Fauver to prevent this dangerous trend. How ironic it is that these intrusions should come at a time when the residential market in Druid Hills is stronger than it's been in decades. Alida Silverman and Bill Carney have been in the forefront of this effort.

But that's not all. Jay McMullin's Transportation Committee has a full plate evaluating new infrastructure proposed by the Clifton Corridor institutions. Rolf Grun and Susan Fox are leading that review. DeKalb County is also doing a transportation plan, and investigating a bond issue. Davis Fox and Rob Vicevich serve on DeKalb's Future Funding Commission.

Judi Shur is the first chair of the new Community and Lifestyle Committee. We hope to see some real synergy between our community building efforts and those of many of our sister organizations that serve Druid Hills, including the NPU & N, Olmsted Linear Parks Alliance, Peavine Watershed Alliance, and Freedom Park Conservancy. Deb Stone, Chuck Palmer, Becky Bracewell, and Riccarda Heising represent us at these tables, and DHCA supports each financially.

The team that put together and staffed this year's successful Tour of Homes would fill an entire page (we thank you all), but Trish Elam and Barbara Vogel were in key leadership positions. The Tour is the signature event that defines our neighborhood to the region, and it provides the funding for the rest of our efforts.

This short list just scratches the surface of involvement in your Civic Association, and we depend on many more of you who serve generously in other volunteer capacities. To join in, drop us a simple email to President@DruidHills.org. Soon you'll be swimming with the swans!



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Newsletter of the Druid Hills Civic Association
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Photos: Cliff Sparkman, Van Hall, J.J. Williams
Article on Mrs. G's retirement reprinted from Fernbank Falcon's Nest

CIRCULATION MANAGER Clarke Weeks
Your Letters Are Welcome



School News

by Katherine Davey

The Howard School

Contributed by Linda Levy

The Howard School is pleased to announce Marifred Cilella as the new Head of School, beginning July 1. Marifred joins us from Indianapolis where she was Director of the Russel & Mary Williams Learning Project at Park Tudor School. She and her husband Sal have two adult sons. They are excited about joining The Howard School and getting involved in the Atlanta community.

High school students visited Boston landmarks such as Nathaniel Hawthorne's House of Seven Gables, Walden Pond and the Salem Witch Museum.

The Middle School attended a rehearsal of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus as well as the evening world-premiere performance based on the poem "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

For additional information, check the school's website at www.howardschool.org.

Shamrock Middle School

Contributed by Sue Briss

The Georgia State Champion Shamrock Chess Dragons placed 15th in the nation in the annual Junior High Chess Championships. Thanks again to Ms. Kern, teacher sponsor, and Mr. Davis for their unending support of chess at Shamrock.

Shamrock Middle School has opened an a la carte fruit and vegetable bar called the "Dragon Garden of Eatin'," named by 7th grader Briana Williams. This is a pilot project supporting the USDA Fruit and Vegetable Galore Initiative to increase fruits and vegetables in diets.

For additional information, check the school's website at www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/shamrock.

Paideia School

Contributed by Jennifer Hill

The Paideia School Chamber Orchestra premiered a composition by Emory professor Steve Everett at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center in New York in March.

The Paideia Elementary Robotics Team participated in the FIRST Lego League competition at Georgia Tech and won a 2nd place award for Robot Design.

The High School Science Olympiad Team finished fourth at the state tournament.

For additional information, check the school's website at www.paideiaschool.org

Fernbank Elementary School

Contributed by Holly Holland

After years of test score increases, formation of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, construction on a new multipurpose building, and being honored as one of Georgia PTA's Top Ten outstanding principals for 2005, Fernbank's beloved principal Mrs. Grabowski (also known as Mrs. G.) is retiring. She has been a true inspiration to the Fernbank community. She will surely be missed. See article on page 5.

After surviving delayed start dates and many plan changes, Fernbank's new Multi Purpose Building is ready to open.

For additional information, check the school's website at www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~fernbank.

Mary Lin Elementary School

www.marylinpta.org and www.apskids.org/lin

Druid Hills High School

Contributed by Michelle Swanson

The Druid Hills Class of 2005 graduated Friday, May 20, 2005. John Harrison was Valedictorian and Julia Friedrich our Salutatorian.

In April, Emily Joan Smith was named this year's Baroness at the Baron's Hall Ceremony, a long-standing Briarcliff High School tradition. Druid Hills continued after the two schools merged. The ceremony honors seniors who excelled in athletics, service, the arts, academics, and foreign language.

The DHHS Awards Assembly was held on May 11.

Special recognition goes to the Varsity Boys Soccer team which advanced to the state semi-final round.

For additional information, check the school's website at www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~druidhills

AT PRESS TIME THE DRUID HILLS NEWS HAD NOT RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM BRIAR VISTA SCHOOL. VISIT www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~briarvista.

Cultural Events in Druid Hills

Summer 2005

by Virginie Kippelen

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Historic Preservation Quarterly Box Scores

(unincorporated DeKalb)

by Jim Earhart, Co-Chair,

DHCA Historic Preservation Committee

It has been a busy three months for the HP Committee and the DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission, with the March meeting lasting until 2:16 AM! That is the longest it has ever gone. Walter Saunders represented the DH Committee to the end, your Co-Chair opting out a little before midnight.

In addition to monthly Committee meetings, at which we review all Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) so as to make a recommendation to the Historic Preservation Commission based upon the Guidelines, we often meet with applicants early in the process to familiarize them and their architects with the specific Druid Hills Historic Preservation Guidelines which may impact what they want to do, and to guide them through the process. We encourage applicants to call for more information or to just ask questions.

We encourage you to review the guidelines if you are thinking of making "material" changes to the exterior of your home and property. While ordinary maintenance, e.g., repainting, re-roofing with the same material, repaving on the same footprint with the same material, planting flowers, etc. does not require a COA, we encourage you to check with us first. Major landscaping, pools, fences, walls, window replacements, additions, porches, second stories, etc. do require a COA, as does permission to raze a home and build a new one.

Some fringe areas of Druid Hills and Durand Mill are outside the boundaries of the Historic Preservation District. If you reside between Briarcliff Road and the railroad/North Parkwood, and between Fairview Road and the railroad/Channel 46, your home is probably within the Historic District and subject to either the DeKalb County or the Landmark District Guidelines (Atlanta City limits). Call for information on a specific address. In the last three months, the DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission ruled on 36 new applications for COAs, some 49 parts, and on 10 held over from previous months. Overall, more than 61 percent were ultimately approved, almost 20 percent were denied, with exception of two "for comment only," and the rest were deferred. "For comment only" applications are from either a government body or an applicant wanting information before investing in professional drawings.

Topping the list of applications your Druid Hills Committee considered were COAs for new homes, including the razing of several older homes; not all were approved and several decisions have been or are under appeal. Applications for major additions to existing homes were numerous, as well, including second stories, dormers, porches and even a conservatory! New driveways and walks, new entrances, doors and windows, fences and walls, and garages and outbuildings were the subjects of most applications. The Commission also reviewed and approved the plan submitted by the Omsted Linear Park Alliance for Deepdeen Park and a bridge in Lullwater Park submitted by the Lullwater Garden Club.

If you would like to work with our HP Committee, please get in touch with either Alida Silverman or Jim Earhart.

The Design Manual for Druid Hills Local Historic District is no longer at Kinko's. It can be found at www.co.dekalb.ga.us/planning. Click on HP links, then Druid Hills, then Design Manual. Parts 2 and 3 are the most important/relevant sections.

'Mrs. G' Retires

When the 452 Fernbank students leave for the summer, so will Jane Grabowski, better known as "Mrs. G." She is retiring with mixed emotions after a career that started and ended in the same place. She grew up in the Fernbank



neighborhood, where parents and teachers created a community where "everyone teaches and everyone learns"—the motto Mrs. G brought to Fernbank in 1999. She lived on Burlington Road and played in Peavine Creek. Her dad was chief of oral surgery at Emory. Her parents instilled in her the values that she carried on as an educator. "Daddy always taught me that people are all equal and deserve the same treatment," she recalled. "He taught me a strong work ethic. He taught me kindness, and my mother taught me faith. They taught love of country and respect—old fashioned values."

She went to Druid Hills School for every grade. After marrying a former Atlanta Cracker ballplayer, Dick Grabowski, and having three daughters, she started substitute teaching in 1977. She went on to become a principal. Under Mrs. G, Fernbank's test scores increased, Fernbank was recognized as a School of Excellence, and she oversaw the formation of the International Baccalaureate program and the new multipurpose building. In honor of her work, the Georgia PTA named her as one of Georgia's 10 outstanding principals.

"That award means so much to me because it recognizes the close bond between the home and the school," she said. "We work together for the good of the child and this award recognizes that. To have been a part of that has been the highlight of my career."

"The decision to retire was tough. Twice she submitted her retirement papers and withdrew them. Daughters Cathy, Beth, and Nancy finally persuaded her to travel, read, play piano and spend time with her two grandchildren. Also, Mrs. G's mom, Helen Harpole, is 97 and needs her.

Mrs. G says she will even miss cafeteria duty. Students "tell me things I swear to never repeat, but I could blackmail a lot of parents!" she joked. One favorite story is the kindergartner who, when asked to describe Mrs. G's job, replied, "All I've ever seen her do is walk around and say 'Good job, good job, good job.'"

So at a school where everyone learns, what will she take away from her time here?

"Oh my gosh, I have learned patience. I have learned that there is another way. I have learned to listen and have learned to really value what children have to say," she said. "Sometimes we want to do all the saying and little listening. But when you stop and really listen to what children say, they can teach you a lot."

Reprinted with permission from the *Fernbank Falcon Nest*.

Book Club News

by Faye Andresen

Spicy Morsels from around the World

Variety is the spice of life and Druid Hills' book clubs have circled the globe and savored written delights from across Europe to Asia and the South Pacific to the Americas; from woods to schools to...time travel.

The Harvard Road Book Club started their new year journey with *Krakatoa* by Simon Winchester, a chronicle of the volcano "heard around the world," followed by a personal choice poetry reading. In March, they discussed *Brunelleschi's Dome*, an intrigue set in 1400 Florence of a man's design and engineering triumph, the largest dome in any cathedral. From there they traveled to France in April for Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence*. And back home for Edward Jones' *The Known World*, a complex tale of slavery and relationships in Virginia 20 years before the Civil War.

The Beer & a Book Club first read *Middlesex* and discussed its Greek characters while noshing on fabulous Greek food. They shared a husband and wife party discussion of *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson, the diary of a man with a middle-age paunch armed with Little Debbie Snack Cakes hiking the Appalachian Trail. January took the club to South America for the moving tale of rebels holding an opera singer and guests from around the world hostage in *Bel Canto*. Lately they have read a wonderful book about the struggle of the individual against bureaucracy and the artisan against cold capitalism called *The Cave* by Portuguese writer Jose Saramago. This month they are discussing *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Neffenigger about a man suddenly ejected into a different time where he meets his lifelong love...when he is grown and she is six.

Last Tuesday's Book Club attempted to read *Our Mutual Friend* by Charles Dickens for January. The book was too long and detailed for all but one reader and she reported it is worth the effort for its richly developed characters and wit; it is a dark novel about money's power to corrupt. February's book, *The Kite Runner*, was a crowd-pleasing read about friendship in Afghanistan before revolution and war. March's *Four Spirits* by Sena Jeter Naslund is historical fiction based on the Birmingham church bombing that killed four young girls in 1963, and it prompted considerable discussion. For April, members read their choice of Anne Lamott and discussed her take on religion and the world.

The Wine, Women & Words Book Club's December meeting concerned the Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* with January's discussion revolving around *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, set in the "re-education" era of the Chinese Revolution. In February, they read *The Secret History* by Donna Tart which is a well-written dark tale of friends in a N. E. college town, the murder they commit and conceal. March's book was a classic from the 40's, *Mrs. Mike*, a tale of love and courage in the Canadian wilderness. It was enjoyed by all. And then around the globe to Afghanistan for *The Kite Runner*.

North Decatur Road Book Club's last book was *Old School* by Tobias Wolff. The story concerns a boy who lies to himself and others in his quest to fit into an exclusive prep school. Many members had read Wolff's memoir about his childhood and discussion moved to speculation as to how autobiographical this book had been. At the first of the year, the North Decatur Book Club voted to take a break from meeting but plan to resume their discussion group in the fall

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Construction starts in Springdale, Deepdene, as Olmsted Park Rehabilitation moves ahead

Summer has brought the rumble of earth-moving machines to the Olmsted Linear Park as construction begins in Springdale and Deepdene, the gateway parks and the last of the six segments to be restored.

Springdale benefited from the burial of utility lines and the installation of period lighting during the previous phase of rehabilitation. Engineers are now beginning extensive grading to restore the topography of Frederick Law Olmsted's plan. The playing field added to the middle of the park caused erosion problems and compromised the original design.

The installation of pedestrian paths, benches, and interpretive signage will follow, and autumn's cooler weather will facilitate the restoration of grass, shrubs, and trees. A play area will be constructed in the southeastern corner, near the intersection of Springdale Road and South Ponce de Leon Avenue. It will occupy approximately 4200 square feet of Springdale's 5.2 acres and will be landscaped so as not to obstruct the broad pastoral sweep of Olmsted's design. The entire project should be completed in November, according to Tally Sweat, president of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA). Deepdene demonstration project



OLPA Garage Sale - Volunteer Jenny Fletcher rings up a bargain for young Joquante Jackson at the April 16 garage sale that raised \$4300 for the Olmsted Linear Park restoration. A group of North Ponce de Leon neighbors organized both the garage sale and the "Parks on Ponce" Gala and Auction in February that netted more than \$30,000.

The rehabilitation of Deepdene's 21 acres will proceed in stages as funds are raised. To provide public access to the wooded interior, a three-acre demonstration project has begun on the North Ponce de Leon Avenue side of Deepdene. This location was chosen so that the burial of utilities and construction of a sidewalk can proceed on Ponce de Leon later. The project has already allowed the landscape architects, Tunnell and Tunnell, Inc., to determine the best techniques for removing non-native invasive plants and restoring native species.

Construction will begin soon on a curb and gutter that will stretch for

approximately 500 feet along North Ponce de Leon. Crews also will install a mulched interior path that will include one elevated section over a ravine. This phase of the rehabilitation of Deepdene should be completed by the end of August.

Features of Overall Plan

The overall plan for Deepdene was prepared by Tunnell and Tunnell, Inc., Pharr Engineering, and Charles R. Beveridge, a national authority on Olmsted's work. Approved by the OLPA board, it includes seven key elements.

- **Linkage:** The sidewalk that currently stops abruptly at the western end of the park will be continued. This connection will provide linkage to the rest of the Druid Hills community, as first proposed more than a century ago.
- **Promenade:** The Promenade will run along Ponce de Leon Avenue, 20 feet from the road and separated from it by a row of oak trees.
- **West Lawn:** A small oval lawn will serve as one of several pedestrian entries into the park.
- **Barton Pond and Overlook:** Currently this is a blighted area where storm water pools and tumbles down an eroded pipe. The renovation will include an overlook with vistas into the woodland interior of Deepdene.
- **Interior:** The interior of the park will remain forested but will be cleared of the non-native invasive species that have crowded out native plants.
- **Vale:** A century ago, engineers piped road water into the natural drainage way that becomes Peavine, the headwaters of the Peavine Watershed. Over time the volume of the runoff has increased, leading to erosion and undermining the infrastructure. A series of weirs will be constructed across Peavine to slow the velocity of the water and create small ponds. Footbridges will cross the brook.
- **Mead:** The area now known as "the soccer field," the Mead lies at the eastern tip of the park. It will be re-graded and the perimeter planted with additional trees to create two sub-spaces. Moveable goals will allow soccer play to continue, but the Mead will also invite a variety of other uses and can become the principal area for community gatherings.

Other features of the plan include a path system throughout the park; completion of the curbing and gutters along North Ponce de Leon and reinstallation of the curbing along Ponce de Leon; burial of utility cables and installation of historic lighting; and the addition of benches and signage.

The cost of rehabilitating Springdale and Deepdene and completing a long-term maintenance fund for all six segments is approximately \$4.8 million, with \$2.1 million raised to date. Contributions to help ensure the completion of this significant project may be sent to the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, P.O. Box 5500, Atlanta, GA 31107. Additional information is available at www.atlantaolmstedpark.org.

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Breath of Fresh Air

by Sheila Macintosh

If you dine out often, you've surely experienced the dreaded streak, when it seems every new place you try is, shall we say—unremarkable, or worse. Our recent streak was broken when we visited Atmosphere. For years, we've noticed it while waiting at the traffic light at Morningside and Piedmont. Finally, we gave it a try.

This French bistro was everything we like in a nice, but not too nice, restaurant. In a converted house at 1620 Piedmont Road, they have several rooms that accommodate 4-6 tables each, giving it the feel of a much smaller place. The patio, though overlooking Piedmont Road, still seems to have a calm air about it and continues the peaceful vibe.

Service is polite and efficient. The food offers something for everyone. Always the "tester," I had the beef carpaccio with shaved Parmesan cheese as my appetizer and an artichoke and vegetable casserole as my main. A strange combination, yes, but I'm doing this for you! It was just the right amount of food and very tasty. Scott had a Roquefort salad with pears & walnuts. His main course was roasted pork tenderloin, with caramelized peaches and chorizo rice pilaf in a port wine sauce. The combination was interesting and delicious.

I'm told that Sunday brunch can't be beat. For now it appears that it's one of the few places where you won't need to wait 45 minutes to be seated. If you do, there's a full bar with your mimosa or bloody Mary waiting for you.

Reservations are accepted, even at the last minute, and you can even plan your meal in advance by checking out the menu on the website. Special events are noted there, such as the special Mother's Day brunch, live music, and wine tastings. I'm anxious to visit on Martini Nights, held every Thursday when Brazilian music is featured from 7:30-10:00.

All the details are available at www.atmospherebistro.com.

The Alliance to Improve Emory Village, Inc.

~Quarterly Notes~

The latest on the roundabout and the park

by Laretta Miller

Another in the series of community meetings sponsored by the Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV) was held on Thursday, April 28, 2005, in the fellowship hall of Glenn Memorial Church School Building. In attendance were many of us with a stake in the future of Emory Village—residents of Druid Hills, Emory Village business owners, and representatives of the Emory and Clifton Corridor communities. AIEV is a charitable non-profit organization that makes the revitalization of Emory Village possible and consults with all stakeholders on a continuing basis. This meeting's main purpose was to present options for paving materials, landscaping and furniture (benches, streetlamps, bike racks, etc.) and describe current plans for the Village's main park. Community members voiced their opinions on these and other matters related to Emory Village.

Opening the meeting was Tom Walsh, an AIEV Board Member and a principal at Tunnell Spangler Walsh, an architecture and urban design firm. Another presenter was Ray Strychalski, Director of Landscape Architecture with our design consultant EDAAW. Also participating was Brian Bolick, Director of Transportation Services with our traffic engineering consultant URS. AIEV Co-Chair Davis Fox coordinated the meeting.

**The roundabout—
The new center of Emory Village**

AIEV is happy to report that 50% of the design work for the new Emory Village is complete and all of it should be finished by the end of 2005. Our consultant, Peter Drey + Company, is now preparing the zoning/overlay plan. As reported in the spring edition of *The Druid Hills News*, the schedule calls for construction to start in 2006. Our vision is a distinctive and safe urban village experience. You already know that the site plan features a roundabout at the center in lieu of the present five-way intersection. The roundabout will afford easier pedestrian access to businesses and foster community interaction. Preservation and enhancement of the historic character of Emory Village is another goal. Vertical elements are as important as horizontal ones. Trees and streetlights are vital, with due attention to safety and design aspects. Instead of the current angled parking in front of businesses, the project will embrace parallel parking, a safer practice for drivers and one that will allow space for a wide two-tiered pedestrian walkway. (Eventually, we hope to see parking expanded in the Village area.) The upper walkway will accommodate commercial uses, including al fresco dining away from exhaust fumes.

Previous articles and the internet site www.emoryvillage.org

have explained how the Emory Village roundabout will make it easier for us to walk safely and pleasantly in the Village. To recapitulate, the roundabout will funnel pedestrians to clearly identified brick crosswalks. Ray Strychalski brought samples of the "Emory blend" bricks, as well as the concrete "Belgian blocks" proposed for the interior of the roundabout. Traffic entering the roundabout will be slower than that now passing (sometimes speeding) through the lights, but during non-peak hours, there will be none of the endless waiting for traffic light changes for just a few cars. Drivers entering the roundabout will yield right-of-way to vehicles already in the roundabout and to pedestrians in the crosswalks. Thus, the traffic flow will be slower but steadier. Roundabouts have been shown to reduce the frequency and severity of accidents. AIEV is considering a visual—perhaps a fountain—to highlight the roundabout as the new focal point of Emory Village.

A new urban space in Emory Village

You have all heard about the creation of a new park in the area adjacent to the Chevron station when North Oxford Road is shifted for the roundabout construction. Ray clarified the plans for this "found space." It is to be an urban plaza, not greenspace in the traditional sense. The plaza will be a place for chatting with neighbors; meeting friends; reading the weekend papers; resting after walking or cycling; bag lunches, and just enjoying our wonderful Atlanta weather. A furniture zone will have Emory blend bricks and easily maintained metal benches. Atlanta city standard streetlights will extend the plaza's use on mild evenings and increase security. (The same lighting is being used in the restored Olmsted Linear Park along Ponce de Leon.) Landscape elements have been proposed for both aesthetic and practical attributes. The willow oak has been selected as the predominant tree because of its shade canopy and self-maintenance. Other trees and ground covers with good track records for streetscapes will add to the ambience.

From community participation to DHCA action—Reinstating the left turn from North Decatur heading west onto Clifton

Brian Bolick helped facilitate a lively discussion about restoring the left turn heading west onto Clifton from North Decatur at the SunTrust Bank. The issue has come up because the road diet will begin along North Decatur at this intersection. New crosswalks and roads stripes will be needed for the road diet. It is necessary for DeKalb County to know soon how the community feels about restoring the left turn. The decision does not affect how the roundabout will function. Many of those in attendance at the April 28 meeting expressed the opinion that the left turn should be reinstated, with the stipulation that it must be signalized with a turn arrow.

At the May 18 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Druid Hills Civic Association, the Board unanimously approved this option. Therefore, DHCA is recommending to AIEV and DeKalb County the creation of a dedicated left turn with a protected turn arrow. Several Board members were present at the community meeting. This shows that input from AIEV community meetings is important and can affect actions by AIEV and DHCA. How can you be certain you are notified of the next Emory Village community meeting? Subscribe to the listserv on the web site www.emoryvillage.org. Notices will also be posted in Emory Village.

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Warner McConaughy, President

Tour of Homes continued from page 1

And afterwards

Everyone agreed that the tour, as usual, was lots of fun—and profitable. As readers surely know, the profits go to local historic preservation efforts and to maintaining green spaces. So our parks will have a fund for another year.



2006 Tour of Homes

How about you? Is your house "tour-worthy?" As you saw this year, there is a great variety of homes on tour—new, old, large, small, lavish, modest. If you know of a house, including your own, that would make an interesting addition to the 2006 tour, please call the DHCA voice-mail at 404-523-DHCA.

New Community & Lifestyle Committee for DHCA

The Civic Association is intent on beefing up its social calendar by the addition of a new committee to its roster. This new committee, Community and Lifestyle, is aimed at improving the quality of life in Druid Hills and promoting a sense of community, hence the name.

Community and Lifestyle includes diverse functions from working to increase the quantity and quality of parks and green space in our neighborhood to overseeing the Druid Hills Fourth of July Parade.

The new committee hopes to expand the annual DHCA Fall Picnic this year by adding bluegrass music, barbeque and walking tours of Deepdene Park. Suggestions from the neighborhood regarding new events and programs that you would like to see are welcome. Possible events could include jazz concerts at Callanwolde, DHCA member tours at Carlos Museum, block parties, dinner groups, etc.

The committee is also looking for new blood. Since this is a brand new committee, people are needed to help start some new programs to create a stronger sense of community in our neighborhood.

Some of the first efforts of the Community and Lifestyle Committee will include fundraising for the completion of the Olmsted Linear Parks on one end of Druid Hills and for the new and improved Emory Village at the other end of Druid Hills.

If you are interested in participating in this new committee or have ideas for new events or programs that would improve and enhance Druid Hills, please contact committee chair Judi Shur at judishur@hotmail.com or 404-378-9775.

Druid Hills Civic Association—Member Benefits

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

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION—MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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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)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member | \$50 - \$99 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Druid Member | \$100 - \$249 | Please make checks payable to Druid Hills Civic Association. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Olmsted Member | \$250 or more | Mail to: P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363 |

2005-06 DHCA Calendar

NOTE: Refreshments begin at 7:00 p.m.

Board Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

JULY

July 4: July 4th Parade
July 20: July Board Meeting (Location TBA)

AUGUST

August 17: August Board Meeting—St. John's Lutheran

SEPTEMBER

September 21: September Board Meeting
St. John's Lutheran

OCTOBER

October 19: October Board Meeting—St. John's Lutheran
October 23: Tentative Date Fall Picnic

NOVEMBER

November 16: Nov. Board Meeting—St. John's Lutheran

DECEMBER

December 21: December Board Meeting if necessary
(Location TBA)

JANUARY 2006

January 18: January Board Meeting—St. John's Lutheran

FEBRUARY 2006:

February 12: 2006 Annual Meeting—2:00–4:00 p.m.

Membership Levels and Benefits:

All membership levels are eligible for discounts from area merchants participating in the DHCA Merchant Program, and all membership levels are entitled to a free Druid Hills Walking tour by the Atlanta Preservation Center on designated DHCA days. Higher membership levels receive additional benefits as described below:

Member—\$25-\$49

Merchant discounts and Druid Hills Walking Tour, plus a \$5 coupon towards a ticket to the Druid Hills Tour of Homes*

Sustaining Member—\$50-\$99

Merchant discounts and Druid Hills Walking Tour, plus two \$5 coupons towards tickets to the Druid Hills Tour of Homes*

Druid Member—\$100-\$149

Merchant discounts and special "Druid Member Day" Druid Hills Walking Tour, plus three \$5 coupons towards tickets to the Druid Hills Tour of Homes* and special recognition in the Druid Hills News (if desired). A great recognition for organizational or business members.

Olmsted Member—\$250 and up

Merchant discounts, special "anytime" ticket for the Druid Hills Walking Tour, four \$5 coupons towards tickets to the Druid Hills Tour of Homes*, and "extra special" recognition in the Druid Hills News highlighting neighborhood projects that benefit directly from these donors' contributions. Especially appropriate for organizational or business members.

* All discounted Druid Hills Home Tour tickets must be bought from a DHCA Division Chair or Board Member.

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