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 http://www.dhca.org.

For more information, contact the DHCA at 404-934-3750. 

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.”

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.”

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 DHBN which includes a discussion forum. All of this can be found online at http://www.dhca.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 Parents Network (DHPN) 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 Candle 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 gratified 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 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 http://www.dhca.org.

For more information, contact the DHCA at 404-934-3750.
The deadlines for the summer issue of the Druid Hills News are:

Advertising—July 27
copy—August 3
Publication will be in mid-September

DIVISION CHAIRS

Division 1 (City of Atlanta) …………………… div1chair@druidhills.org
Robert Yacavich \t………………… 404-872-5964

Division 2 (Ponce Corridor in DeKalb) …………………… div2chair@druidhills.org
David Winston \t………………… 404-523-3422 (DHCA)

Division 3 (W. of Briarcliff & S. of University in Decalb) …………………… div3chair@druidhills.org
Laurens Miller \t………………… 770-8770

Division 4 (B/twn Briarcliff, N. Decatur & Lullwater Ck.) …………………… div4chair@druidhills.org
Katherine Davey \t………………… 404-977096

Division 5 (Between Peavine Ck., N. Decatur, & RR Lines) …………………… div5chair@druidhills.org
Chad Polazzo \t………………… 687-9706

Division 6 (W. of Briarcliff, N. of Lullwater Ck. to S. Peavine Ck.) …………………… div6chair@druidhills.org
Elise Riley \t………………… 770-877096

Division 7 (?
Univ of Atlanta) …………………… div7chair@druidhills.org
Thomas Winn \t………………… 770-877096

First Vice President \t………………… Jim Morawetz \t…………………………… 404-872-5964

Treasurer \t………………… Clarke Weeks \t…………………………… 404-872-5964

Recommended Services

I highly recommend Peace Painting Company (770-317-0970). I renovated a house in Morningside ten years ago and they did an incredible job. I am now renovating a Neil Reid designed home in Druid Hills and Peace Painting is again exceeding my expectations. They are reasonably priced, highly skilled, and reliable. (Diana Getz)

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 publications advertising rates are a bargain for businesses that want to reach Druid Hills customers. For more information, call 404-523-3422 (DHCA) or email admin@dhca.org.

In Memoriam

The Druid Hills Civic Association and Druid Hills News extend deep sympathy to Julia Wynne, long time resident, on the death of her son Brian, who drowned recently saving his son. Brian Wynne was a 1985 graduate of Druid Hills High School

Saba during the “Eat Now, Play Later…at Burbanck Park” fundraiser in Emory Village.

Recommendations!

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD DRUID HILLS RESIDENT, AR. HANNA, WAS AWARDED THE FIRST MARTIAL HANNA HUMANE HERO’S AWARD BY THE ATLANTA HUMAN SOCIETY FOR “HER DEDICATION TO HOMELESS PETS AND TO THE ATLANTA HUMAN SOCIETY.” SINCE 2002, AR.’S BACKYARD “ART FROM THE HEART” ART SALE HAS GENERATED MORE THAN $4,000 FOR AHS.

For more about the award, contact Mailey McLaughlin, Peace Painting Company, Atlanta Human Society, 404-875-2600 (ext. 261).
**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, 4 stories over retail, 271 units) is controversial. The Clifton Corridor workers, including students at Emory, have spent much time and effort on this project. The owner, AIEV, has requested a change from Office-Institutional zoning to PC-3 zoning, a new classification allowing both mixed use and retail. The DHCA supported this development, with conditions. The Board of Commissioners, and to expend up to $5,000 for that purpose.

**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.

**Pixiorium**

Your photo coach • pixiorium.com

Visit us at www.pixiorium.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**

“I work hard to make it easy for you.”

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 380 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 Burbanck Park in honor of the former property owners and dedicated on Earth Day, April 22.

Anna 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 nothing directly affected by the overlay were not adequately represented and are distressed that the DHCA is 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. Davis said a board story is essential to make this development economically feasible.

Thea Roesor, leader of the Revitalize – Don’t SUPersize movement, presented the Howard School statement. Tha acknowledged the DHCA has done a good job of maintaining the neighborhood’s sense of time and place, but that if this overlay is approved it will break every guideline in the design manual.

Bruce MacGregor reported that lot coverage was one of the issues resolved at the meeting. Paul Shantor reported the remaining issues are height, setback, and transitions. Ed Henderson offered, and the Board approved, a motion to ask the Board of Commissioners to deny the zoning overlay if they fail to grant a full cycle deferral permitting negotiations to continue.

Steve Minder elaborated on the Hummingbird Lane situation. The neighborhood opposes allowing developers to subdivide the lots and put large houses on lots only 50 feet wide. The developer has sued the County for denying COA applications for that purpose. The Board previously approved funds for a study to create Chatswood Heights special character area. At this meeting it voted to appropriate up to $5,000 to intervene or file an amicus brief in support of the County’s defense of the developer’s lawsuit.

Bruce MacGregor reported DHCA is assisting Emory and the CCP through Park Pride in fundraising for development of Burbanck Park, and has raised approximately $8,000 to date. Chad Polzado reported he has nominated the Nunan property (adjacent to Burbanck Park) as green space with the County. A motion was passed for DHCA to explore acquisition of this property as green space.

**MARCH**

Rob Benfield reported the Liawwater Park project on the south end of Briarcliff Road presents four issues. We are working with DOT on waving requirements for deceleration and left turn lanes, and with the developer on density and eliminating a planned gate.

Bruce MacGregor and Chad Polzado reported on Emory’s Briarcliff Apartments Project consisting of 271 apartments for foreign graduate students. The recommendation was to support the development, including requested variances, with conditions. The Board approved an amended motion allowing the Land Use Committee to do a study to be submitted to the DHCA officers for approval and subsequent review by a Board member whose original motion was to approve Emory’s applications “as is.”

Regarding the Emory Village zoning overlay, the Board approved the Executive Committee’s motion to delegate to the president and negotiating team authority to decide how to preserve the Association’s appeal rights in the event of an adverse decision by the Board of Commissioners, and to expend up to $5,000 for that purpose.

Bruce MacGregor reported he has selected Mack Platt as Chair of the Nominating Committee.
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 South Ponce. Following an external review of DHP policies and procedures conducted last fall by Col. Wayne A. Mock, Chief Public Safety Officer of Midtown Blue/Green, the DHP Board of Directors implemented five important changes.

First, Sgt. Tony Singh, a long-time City of Atlanta police officer with significant community policing experience, assumed duty as DHP Officer-in-Charge (OIC). Sgt. Singh determines and assigns patrol shifts to his three DHP Officers based upon weekly analysis of neighborhood crime trends, budgeting, and experience, assumed duty as DHP Officer-in-Charge (OIC). Sgt. Singh determines and assigns patrol shifts to his three DHP Officers based upon weekly analysis of neighborhood crime trends, budgeting, and experience, assumed duty as DHP Officer-in-Charge (OIC). Sgt. Singh determines and assigns patrol shifts to his three DHP Officers based upon weekly analysis of neighborhood crime trends, budgeting, and experience, assumed duty as DHP Officer-in-Charge (OIC). Sgt. Singh determines and assigns patrol shifts to his three DHP Officers based upon weekly analysis of neighborhood crime trends, budgeting, and experience, assumed duty as DHP Officer-in-Charge (OIC). Sgt. Singh determines and assigns patrol shifts to his three DHP Officers based upon weekly analysis of neighborhood crime trends, budgeting, and experience, assumed duty as DHP Officer-in-Charge (OIC). Sgt. Singh determines and assigns patrol shifts to his three DHP Officers based upon weekly analysis of neighborhood crime trends, budgeting, and experience.

Second, DHP officers now patrol in full uniform and in direct communication with 911, with emergency response capability and full powers to arrest. Officers perform routine checks and special property watches for those on vacation, provide home security assessments with suggestions to enhance the safety and protection of family and property, continually monitor vehicular and foot traffic for suspicious and illegal behavior, and investigate crimes reported by the membership.

Third, the DHP purchased a used, black, 1998 Ford Crown Victoria for a patrol car, and detailed it with yellow/white strobe emergency lights, logo, and appropriate markings to identify the DHP mobile as a security patrol vehicle.

Fourth, the DHP arranged with purchasers of the Howard School to locate temporarily a staging area on property that the Board, peruse the website, and encourage everyone to better understand the unique character of our neighborhood.

The "Ghost Lots" of Chelsea Heights

by Steven Misner

For several years, developers have sought to redevelop Chelsea Heights (roughly bounded by East Clifton, Drayson 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-75 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 using 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. The Association recently permitted 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 financial support from community discretionary funds generously contributed by Commissioner Gannon) are seeking to have the deed of the Draft 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 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 attended meetings and are starting to develop awareness of Chelsea Heights’ 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 trees 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.gaprd.gov/drought1/html for details.

ING Marathon

by Sheila McIntosh

On March 25, our community had the privilege of hosting some of the nation's most elite runners in the inaugural ING Georgia Marathon. Nearly 7 miles of the 26.2 mile course was run in Druid Hills and touched many of our streets, including North Decatur, Lullwater, Oakdale, and Springdale. Residents and friends turned out to cheer and support these visitors.

Like all new experiences, you can expect some surprises and special entertainment. This year’s race day brought record high temperatures on a weekend so it was especially surprising and cold rain. Missing water stops earlier in the race resulted in some hot and thirsty runners. Some of the runners appeared surprised to find actual hills in Druid Hills.

As spectators, neighbors and friends stepped up to encourage and assist our guests. Impromptu water stations popped up complete with volunteers to hand off the cups. One group was using, washing, and reusing their limited cups—much to other neighbors’ horror—but thirsty runners didn’t care. I can tell you, most of us will drink almost any thing from anyone.

Some neighbors offered Peachtree Road Race-like water stations. Mobile cheering sections moved from corner to corner. Signs were posted and held by enthusiastic kids. My favorite was the one near the 16-mile mark that proclaimed, "only 9 miles to go!" Let’s hope that little artist is planning for a career in art!

Watching from near a medical tent at Clifton and North Decatur, I saw some curious sights. At that time, I wasn’t aware of the "water shortage" but started to see signs. First was the guy who stopped at that tent to ask for ice. Was he hurt? asked the EMT. No—just thirsty. Next was the woman who ran by carrying a nearly-full gallon of water. I was awed by the guy who ran with a broken arm. I learned later that he’s lives on Oxford Road.

There were the usual race day costumes…clown hair and superhero capes…but none quite so memorable as the guy in a speedo—and the little spectator who asked, "Mommy, what happened to his pants?"

So, for those of you who think running is a boring sport…maybe you should try it from the sidelines! Next year’s race is planned for March 30. Just bring your camera, hook up the hose, and stock up on cups!
**BOOK CLUB NEWS:**

**Informal Extensions of Shared Interests**

Faye Andresen

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 neighborly 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 shirking their duty to read, think and discuss is the North Decatur Road Book Club. They were so enamored with Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance* that one member went back and reread all 663 pages—noting the plots, sub-plots and numerous characters.

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 Loes* 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 *Devotion* by Laura Restrepo 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, *There Is No Me Without You*. B & B's next choice was *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang. It is a true story of three generations of Chinese women during the rule of Mao. Harvard chose to follow with *Salt-A World History* by Mark Kurlansky.

The Wine, Women, and Words Club enjoyed discussion prompted by *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, while a late 70's sci-fi book, *Enders Game*, surprised them. The author provided an uncanny degree of accuracy in predicting current technology. Proud Mary Club enjoyed the light and fun *Zorro* by Isabelle Allende, followed by Janet Wallach's *Devil's Queen*. Wallach chronicles the fascinating life of Gertrude Bell, a Victorian adventurer and part-time diplomat who was close to Lawrence of Arabia and helped draw the current boundaries of Iraq.

Just because a book is about an artist doesn't mean that book club members will love it. *The Memory Keepers Daughter* was a late summer read. Though they admired her creative style, they were disappointed with the depth of her character and the true greatness of the indigenous totem pole carvings she paints. The Last Tuesday Book Club enjoyed the book but their high praise came for their next selection, *Las Vegas* by Wendell Berry. Berry is a well-known poet and agrarian philosopher. His stories of the fictional Port William are captivating. Everyone loved *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion. While being the busy bibliophiles they are, the Busy Bibliophiles read only one book, *Steiff—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 Murvme* by Mitch Albom; sophomores are assigned *Nickle and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich. OHH… Juniors get a John Grieb novel—*A Time to Kill*—and the 12th grade Brit 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 1400, 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 Taine home; the pastoral endless backyard of the Colby/Baroco home, with the delightful pygmy goats snuggling up for a pat on the head; the gorgeous garden rooms of the second story balcony of the Tauxe home; the pastoral endless backyard of the Colby/Baroco home, with the delightful pygmy goats snuggling up for a pat on the head; the gorgeous garden rooms

The Cliff Shuttle, courtesy of the Clifton Community Partnership and Emory, provided a welcome service in transporting several hundred tour goers along the route. Two shuttles operated on Friday and Sunday, and three on Saturday, with peak ridership on Saturday afternoon. For some of the children accompanying their parents on the tour, riding at the front of the shuttle was the best feature of the day!

The final numbers are not in, but our revenue exceeded last years, 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.

The Druid Hills Civic Association would like to thank our sponsors for making this year’s tour a success!
The Druid Hills News

The Only Constant by Chad Polazko

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. Vacation homes are built on, others are subdivided. Roads are widened, airports expanded, and even whole new cities are built—seemingly overnight, as was the case with Atlanta’s Confederate 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 disturbing 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 kudzu tunnels and created inceptible 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 that 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 errors or chores. Things like reading a book on a bench by the creek or climbing a tree with your child, tending 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 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 has a creek where you don’t have to drive everywhere you want to go. Some of the new developments also include the pedestrian experience. After all, aren’t these things all undertaken for the benefit of the environment and those trying to preserve history, those trying to build community, those protecting the environment and those working to improve the pedestrian experience. After all, aren’t these things all undertaken for similar reasons?

I am getting involved in Druid Hills because I believe it can become the neighborhood where I want to raise my children. My response to the pace of change is going to be to get involved so that I can help shape that change in a positive way. What about you? I know your schedule is busy, but would you like to see a new park with a playground nearby? Would you like to have a conversation at your mailbox without fear of being run down by a commuter? Would you like to walk on a well-constructed sidewalk to your school or work? Would you like to meet a friend for a game of basketball or tennis by going down the street? If you are interested in these ideas and would like to share ideas of your own, please contact me at chadpolazko@bellsouth.net.
CLIFTON COMMUNITY partnership

Working to improve the quality of life for the Clifton Community

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
• 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
• Increased awareness for safe pedestrian and bicycle access on local roads

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

For a complete list, visit www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org

For more information on the CCP, visit www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org or contact Bryan Cooke, executive director, at 404.727.9341 or at info@cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.
Dr. Mary Ellen Perkins, now 96, was born in Lakeland, Florida, and soon moved to Wadeley, 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 Wadeley farm, Mary Ellen and her siblings were taken care of by their grandmother and aunt. 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 northeastern 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 $21,000," she said. Another change was neighbors aging and moving to retirement homes. The newcomers were often young females.

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, she 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, 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 situations in the United States, Dr. Perkins was quick to reply. "Things were mighty bad when I started teaching. Students were not required to attend school, and many did not have the advantage of an education. Black children had schools, but they were not as good as the white schools. They 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 connection with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, please call 404.564.7248!

Call Zac and Start Packing!

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 McLeod. Salutatorian is Yiwen 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.

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 Kittredge 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.

Druid Hills Civic Association
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.

Experience Creates your Best Investment
www.spacemaxstorage.com

A Space for Everything.
Decatur 404-292-0606
Emory/VaHi 404-888-9688

Need Space?
- Variety and temperature controlled
- 24-hour surveillance
- Clean indoor environment
- Small to large spaces
- Covered loading area
- Business & personal storage
- After hours access
- Conveniently located
- FREE TRUCK RENTAL AT MOVE-IN

Call the store today for weekly specials!

Decatur 404-292-0606
Emory/VaHi 404-888-9688
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, $1,100,000

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

406 Sinclair Avenue
4 Bedroom/4.5 Bath in Inman Park, $859,000

1304 North Avenue
6 Bedrooms, 4 Full baths, 2 half baths, in Candler Park, $1,095,000

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

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