



THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

WINTER, 2010
Volume 24, Number 4
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“Dream in Green” Gala

You're invited to

the 7th annual party for the Olmsted Linear Park

Sunday, March 6, 2011, 7 pm – 10 pm

Fernbank Museum of Natural History

Tickets: 404-377-5361 or olpa.atl@att.net

Information: atlantaolmstedpark.org

When Charles Beveridge visited Druid Hills to view the restoration of the neighborhood's linear park, designed by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, he judged the effort to be “the most thorough and comprehensive replanting of any Olmsted project undertaken in the last 25 years.” Beveridge should know. He is the foremost Olmsted expert, having edited the nine volumes of Olmsted's papers and consulted on Olmsted restoration projects throughout the nation.

Beveridge's comment was welcome news to the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, the group that has spearheaded the rehabilitation and preservation of the park. This winter, the implementation phase of the decade-plus project will be complete, and OLPA is throwing a party to celebrate.

In what promises to be the neighborhood party of 2011, the “Dream in Green” gala will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2011, from 7p.m. to 10p.m. at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Co-chairs Rhonda Mullen and Claire Sterk promise an evening to remember with chances to connect with neighbors and park lovers, listen to live jazz, and sample delectable hors d'oeuvres and signature cocktails. Both a live and silent auction will feature beach and mountain getaways such as a weekend at the Grand Bohemian Hotel in Asheville (across from the Biltmore grounds, which Olmsted also designed)—along with fine art, rare wines, roundtrip airline tickets, and more.

Atlanta-based landscape architect Spencer Tunnell, who has interpreted Olmsted's original 1904 plans for OLPA, sees the evolution of his work over the past 13 years as paralleling OLPA itself. Tunnell started his designs on the westernmost segments of the park by filling out Olmsted's detailed plans for Springdale, Virgilee, and Oak Grove parks. He established vistas, articulated high points, and made modifications when necessary to accommodate the widening of Ponce de Leon Avenue, which runs alongside the park sections. In Deepdene, his work broadened to interpret Olmsted's intent in the largely conceptual drawings the master architect made. One guiding principal that inspired Tunnell was Olmsted's vision to capture a resource—a forest preserve—to set aside for the future.

During these same years, OLPA has grown from an organization dedicated to the implementation of plantings, hardscapes, and natural habitats to one with a broader vision. Now the group turns to building an endowment that will be create a lasting legacy for the park—even becoming a springboard for other community-building efforts.

“Olmsted knew intuitively that green space and parks make us happy,” says Tunnell. “He knew the importance of preserving land for the future, to save something undeveloped. He knew that this place could spur the Platonic ideal and become a place to study, play, come together, reflect, and be calm in the midst of our busy-ness. One hundred years later, that dream has come true.”

OLPA President Kirk Elifson echoes Tunnell's sentiment: “The Olmsted Park is a legacy for all Atlantans, now and in the future.”

DRUID HILLS DAY 2010

by Chad and Lacy Henderson

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Druid Hills Day! The event was held on Sunday, October 24, at Dellwood Park, in conjunction with the Druid Hills Parents Network and their annual Halloween Festival.

Families from all corners of the neighborhood enjoyed each others' company and the cool, sunny fall weather. Music was provided by Carter Rude and “Acoustic Tom.” Free ice cream was served by the Olmsted Linear Parks Alliance (OLPA), who also received a check from DHCA for \$5,000. DHCA provided a variety of games and entertainment for the 100+ children in attendance, including a rock climbing wall, jump, castle, and slide.

Congratulations to Mandy Rollins! She won a large jar of 667 candy corns by coming the closest to guessing the correct number. Congratulations, also, to all the winners of the Parents Network annual Halloween costume contest, which included a monkey, a bumble bee, and a cow. The kids won toys and other prizes, and two lucky “grown up” winners left with tickets to the 2011 DHCA Tour of Homes!

We're already thinking of ways to make next year's event even bigger and better. Don't miss it!



Cathy Vandenburg, president of Druid Hills Civic Association, presents a \$5,000 check from DHCA to Olmsted Linear Park President Kirk Elifson.

Tally Sweat receives Distinguished Alumna honor

Tally Sweat, president emerita of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, was recently recognized as a “distinguished alumna” of Georgia State University. The awards ceremony, held at the old Macy's Department Store downtown—now an events venue—included a cocktail reception and seated dinner. On hand to celebrate with Tally were past and present OLPA board members, L to R: Tally Sweat, Lynn Kerpel, Sally Harbaugh, Jennie Richardson and Beth Grashof. Congratulations to Tally for this honor!



THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

*Newsletter of the
Druid Hills Civic Association*

**P.O. Box 363
Decatur, GA 30031-0363**

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The DHCA Annual Meeting is not until February 20 of the New Year, BUT the Nominations Committee has to begin preparing ahead of time (and this is the closest newsletter to the deadline).

Nominations for Officers and Board Members of the Civic Association are needed and welcome. PLEASE think about people who love the neighborhood, care about the future of the neighborhood, and would set aside a little time (or already are/have been) to do something for the neighborhood. (Yourself included!)

E-mail your nomination (name and address, even if only street, phone number) to adminvp@druidhills.org. Deadline: January 15.

The Nominating Committee is appointed by the DHCA President. Board Members serve three years. For descriptions of the duties of Board Members, as well as all Officers, go to www.druidhills.org and click on “ByLaws.”

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|---|--|----------|-------------------------------------|
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| 4 | Scott Storbeck | | |
| 2 | Jeremy Turner | | |
| 4 | David Winston | | |
| 6 | Mike Lancaster | | |

Important Numbers

Police – General Information404-294-2000
 Animal Services—Stray Animals404-294-2996
 Animal Services—After Hours404-294-2519
 Board of Health—DeKalb404-294-3700
 Chamber of Commerce-DeKalb404-378-8000
 Code Enforcement770-724-7940
 DeKalb Community Relations (Police)404-286-7955
 DeKalb Medical Center404-501-1000
 DeKalb Medical Center – Hillandale404-501-8000
 Elections404-298-4020
 Family & Children Service (DFACS)404-370-5000
 Gov. Off. Of Consumer Affairs404-656-3790
 Homeland Security/Gangs770-216-4926
 Human & Community Affairs770-322-2950
 Information—General404-371-2000
 Keep DeKalb Beautiful404-371-2654
 Law Department404-371-3011
 MARTA-Complaint Line404-848-4800
 Mental Health Emergencies404-892-4646
 Neighborhood Watch404-286-7955
 Planning & Development404-371-2155
 Records (Police Information)404-294-2512
 Recreation, Parks404-371-2631
 Roads, Drainage, Trees Down, Pot Holes404-297-3840
 After Hours404-294-2523
 Sanitation404-294-2900
 Sight Obstructions (Roads)404-294-2041
 Sheriff's Department404-298-8000
 Street Lights, Speed Humps770-492-5200
 Storm Water Management404-297-2570
 Tax Assessor's Office404-371-2509
 Tax Commissioner (property tax)404-298-4000
 Traffic Signal Malfunction404-297-3929
 Voter Registration404-298-4020
 Water—Billing404-378-4475
 Emergency770-270-6243
 Women's Resource Center404-688-9436
 Zoning404-371-4915

Let Us Know!

The post office is changing its bulk mailing software, which may cause problems. If your home is not receiving the *Druid Hills News* in the future, please contact us.

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

Here is how to sign up for E-Alerts – the civic association's current means of keeping you up to date about current and impending events in Druid Hills.

The elert system replaces the paper notices you used to get in or on your mailbox. It is less expensive and more efficient.

1. Go to our website, www.druidhills.org
2. Click the "sign up today" button & complete the form.
3. Click "subscribe" button. There, you've done it!

Subscribing to the *Druid Hills News*

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

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

Send the application and your check to the regular post office box address (see the bottom of the application) and you'll continue to know what's going on in the old neighborhood.

Emory no longer sponsors a recycling site at the Emory Village CVS. Recyclables may be taken to Whole Foods on Briarcliff, DeKalb County fire stations and libraries, and DeKalb Farmers Market.

To join the County curbside recycling program, call 404-294-2900 or visit www.co.dekalb.gov.us

Druid Hills News deadlines

The deadlines for the spring issue are:
Advertising — February 10
Copy — February 17

Publication will be in mid-April

HELP WANTED

Two Druid Hills Civic Association Committees need volunteers!

Community and Lifestyle

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

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

Membership

- Welcome new DH residents
 - Assist with administrative tasks
 - Create new opportunities for residents to join DHCA
- To volunteer, please contact Thomas Winn at tw1042@bellsouth.net

The DHCA is also looking for a **Coordinator**. To volunteer, please contact Elliott Kyle at 770-481-1960 or email adminvp@druidhills.org.

Get the Most Out of Your Advertising Dollars

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

404-523-3422 (DHCA)
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THE DRUID HILLS NEWS

Newsletter of the Druid Hills Civic Association

P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363, Voicemail 404-523-DHCA

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Your Letters Are Welcome

Garden Drought: Adapting to the New Normal

by Paula Refi

You can tell it's dry when even the ragweed wilts. A hefty clump Jim and I pass on our daily walk drooped one day in August, testimony to the lack of rain. It grows at the base of an ancient oak where Emory's Starvine Way bridge ends and we descend the gravel path into Lullwater Park. It's a sign that the situation is serious when I grieve for the plight of a noxious weed.

When watching for signs of drought, attentive gardeners know to rely on certain "indicator plants." These are the earliest to show drought stress, telling us it's time to drag out the hose. The blue mophead hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) are the first responders. The genus name, *Hydrangea*, comes from the Greek *hydor*, meaning water. These Japanese natives are Southern heirloom shrubs that thrive with adequate moisture. But when water is scarce, they wilt. Our native hydrangeas—the oakleaf (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) and smooth hydrangea (*H. arborescens*)—never flagged.

During August and September, daily journeys through our Druid Hills community revealed the extent of the drought. Wilted hydrangeas occurred almost everywhere. I considered leaving little Post-it notes on mailboxes, with the suggestion that the hydrangeas need a drink. But I didn't. Wilt is not necessarily a death sentence; plants usually recover with the next rain. If a plant reaches what is known as its "permanent wilting point," recovery becomes impossible. For hydrangeas, leaves shrivel and stems turn brittle. The roots survive, and the following spring new growth will appear near the base of the plant. The shrub, however, won't bloom until the following year. Wait until spring, then prune out any dead stems.

Among big native trees, tulip poplars raise the first alarm. Their leaves turn yellow and fall prematurely. This is actually a brilliant adaptive mechanism. The tulip poplars enhance their chances of survival by shedding expendable foliage to save the crucial root system. The leaves of dogwoods react by wilting. Then they shrivel at the margins, the part of the leaf farthest from the roots and their source of water. This detracts from the fall color we expect from the species, but the tree will recover.

Herbaceous perennials endure because of their extensive root systems. In friable soil, the roots grow large and stored water sustains the plant in drought. It's a trait we recognize whenever we divide a monster clump of daylilies, dahlias, or hostas. Drought tolerant species like epimedium, euphorbia, Lenten rose, lamb's ear, black-eyed Susan, and purple coneflower almost never show drought stress. Many more species behave similarly, and any good book on perennial gardening will have a list of suggestions. The roots of annuals don't grow large, so they pout sooner. Impatiens wilt first in my garden, followed by begonias and torenias. Gomphrena, lantana, zinnia, verbena, and vinca performed just fine.

It's a challenge to remain undaunted in the face of recent and, perhaps, enduring climatic challenges. The following suggestions can prepare gardens for those times when temperatures and rainfall amounts always seem to register significantly above or below average levels.

1. Amend new beds or top dress established beds with organic material. Use homemade compost or free compost available from DeKalb County, rotted manures, or purchased soil conditioner. Well-amended soil encourages root growth, which promotes drought tolerance.
2. Mulch all beds and add more mulch as it decays. Mulch retards evaporation of soil moisture and insulates the roots during temperature fluctuations.
3. Choose adaptable species that tolerate climate extremes. Knowledgeable help is available from the DeKalb County Extension Office (www.ugaextension.com/dekalb/ or 404-298-4080).
4. If you have rain barrels or cisterns, make sure downspouts and overflow pipes are not clogged with debris. Use harvested rainwater first to keep water bills manageable.
5. Learn which are the indicator plants in your landscape and irrigate them first. This could be thirsty fescue lawn, non-native hydrangeas, or beds of impatiens. Don't waste water on plants that show no sign of stress.
6. Water deeply when needed. Don't assume that a couple of hours with an oscillating sprinkler or a programmed irrigation system deliver needed amounts. Place several straight-sided shallow containers around the garden and aim for one inch of water. I use a hefty trowel to see how far the water has actually penetrated. If the soil is still dry at a trowel's depth, I keep watering.

It looks like that ragweed clump will flower just fine this fall. I'm relieved. Sort of.

President's Column

by Cathy Vandenberg

It's been a busy fall in our Druid Hills, with neighborhood developments of interest:

In October, Emory sought a variance to build a bridge/office building over Haygood Drive and build a four-story medical building on the site of the Turman dorms. Thanks to Bruce MacGregor for representing our Association at the variance hearing in front of the DeKalb Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to make sure neighborhood protections are in place. At a basic level, this is a county air rights policy decision (the bridge over Haygood Drive), and must be approved by the Board of Commissioners (BOC). From a neighborhood standpoint, we recommended conditions essentially binding Emory to the site plan they have submitted. The ZBA voted to approve the variance, subject to an air rights agreement with the BOC.

Recently, the Mann house on Vickers Drive has been torn down and will be replaced by a community park/green space. Many folks in the neighborhood are suggesting to the county that the park be named for Louie and Sarah Mann who lived on that site for so many years and treasured the stream that runs through the property. The Manns were committed community activists and wonderful community members. If someone is interested in serving as point person for the neighborhood in the development of this community park, please contact me at vandena@bellsouth.net.

It appears that, if all goes well, the County will soon be acquiring the Rutledge property on Ridgewood Drive for green space. The 1.8-acre site was historically platted as a park and is the only interior block parcel within Druid Hills that remains in private ownership. The site is relatively level, with easy walking proximity to a large number of homes with young children. It contains an unnamed tributary stream to Peavine Creek.

The Transportation Committee led by Mike Hellerstein has concluded its review of the proposed temporary Clifton Road/North Decatur left turn. The committee convened two neighborhood meetings and decided not to take a formal position on the issue. We have been assured by a representative from the DeKalb County Transportation Department, as well as Commissioner Jeff Rader, that the left turn will be temporary, lasting no more than the 60 days while S. Oxford is closed, and will be removed after the 60 days. Thanks to everyone who worked hard on this issue.

This year we are switching to an annual membership term based on the calendar year. For all of you for whom we have e-mail addresses, you should by now have received a friendly e-letter from Thomas Winn, our Membership Chair, asking you to join/renew your DHCA membership. Thanks to all of you who have already done so. Follow-up e-mails and letters will be sent shortly to those residents for whom we don't have e-mail addresses and those we haven't heard from. For \$25 (for an individual membership), it's the best deal in town.

Residents on Artwood Drive, led by Division 2 Chair Bob Ballou, continue their efforts to develop character area guidelines for their street. They have been fortunate to be able to hold their neighborhood meetings at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany on Ponce de Leon.

Last but not least...Druid Hills Day was a smashing success this year, thanks to the efforts of Chad and Lacy Henderson, Co-Chairs of the Community and Lifestyle Committee, Claudia Edwards, co-chair of the Druid Hills Parents Network, and many others. The decision to combine Druid Hills Day with the annual Parents Network Halloween Festival was inspired. What could be more fun than to enjoy a gorgeous fall Sunday visiting with neighbors you haven't seen in a while, meeting new neighbors, and getting a chance to talk to our elected officials Jeff Rader and Mary Margaret Oliver. All this took place in our beautiful Dellwood Park, while we were eating tasty ice cream generously furnished by the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance, listening to wonderful live music from Carter Rude and "Acoustic Tom," and watching the children cavort in their fantastically creative costumes.

Enjoy the rest of the beautiful fall weather. Very soon, we'll be asking folks to submit nominations for next year's officers and board of directors. Consider getting involved. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and have an impact on what goes on in our neighborhood.

Vandalism

DeKalb County Police and USPS Postal Inspectors are investigating the destruction of eight mailboxes in the 1000 section of Clifton Road. These mailboxes were struck by pumpkins thrown from a vehicle traveling southbound on Clifton sometime between 11 p.m., 11/11, and 6 a.m., 11/12.

Mailboxes are considered federal property, and federal law (Title 18, United States Code, Section 1705) makes it a crime to vandalize them or to injure, deface or destroy any mail deposited in them. Violators can be fined up to \$250,000, or imprisoned for up to three years, for each act of vandalism.

As a potential "teaching moment," neighborhood parents are strongly encouraged to discuss this vandalism and the potential consequences with their children.




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Interview with SPARK Principal Yolonda Brown

by Alida Silverman

"We are one of a kind!" So proclaimed the dynamic principal of Springdale Park Elementary School (SPARK) during our interview in her office in the Rutland Building, the former Neel Reid –designed home that was formerly The Howard School on Ponce de Leon Avenue (between Briarcliff Road and Springdale Road) in the Druid Hills (City) Landmark District. She was referring to the fact that SPARK occupies two historic homes and a new building that expects LEED certification, the first in the Atlanta Public School system.

Yolonda Brown opened SPARK for the 2009-2010 school year after serving four years as principal of C.W. Hill School. She began her career as a middle school science teacher (chosen APS Middle School Teacher of the Year) and then a member of the district-level School Reform Teams instituted by the current superintendent at the beginning of her tenure. She spoke animatedly about the SPARK vision and what is happening at the school and candidly about some significant problems.

The vision for SPARK is to become "a high-performing community of learners where teaching and learning is connected to the global world and all students are nurtured and challenged to reach their highest potential." Reading and math are central as are science and social studies. The Youth Greening Foundation selected SPARK for a 3rd grade teaching program designed to assist students becoming environmental leaders. All children have music, art, PE, and Spanish (every day), as well as Media/Research and Guidance. Band and orchestra are for 4th and 5th graders. (A fifth grade was added this year to the school, making it a full-fledged elementary school.)

Olmsted Hall, the new LEED building, and the Rutland Building house all this activity. Small class groups like the gifted/talented program, English Language Learners (ELL) and early intervention classes use the Hirsch Building, the historic home on the corner of Springdale Road. Looking toward the future, SPARK is exploring the possibility of becoming a feeder school for the IB program.

Having no gymnasium or indoor play space during the first year was a problem that teachers had to get creative about "solving," but Ms. Brown expects that by the end of October the children will have a renovated gym to use. Like the Howard School before it, SPARK will use the gym at the back of the Druid Hills Methodist Church property, a new walkway away from the school and completely renovated by APS.

Ponce de Leon traffic presented a major problem for the new school the first year and continues to be an issue. Seven buses come to the school and there are walkers and bikers, as well. Bus ridership continues to be high. Carpool continues to use the Hirsch Building driveway with a strict "window" of use this year. Cones are put at the entrance when the carpool time ends.

Parking has been helped this year by the renting of 20 (permitted) spaces in the western front parking lot of the church. The purchase of 803 Briarcliff Road by APS will result in parking spaces that meet the requirement for the school, and then some. Ms. Brown has asked that the School and PTO be part of the planning process for use of this property.

With an enrollment of 470 – more than 100 kindergartners – SPARK has already exceeded its student projection. SPARK serves the Druid Hills (City), Virginia-Highlands, Poncey-Highlands and Midtown neighborhoods. The potential of this newest elementary school is excellent. May it flourish.

Check out the SPARK website for more about the School: www.springdaleparkelementary.org

The Artists among Us: Angie Brooks

New Druid Hills resident Angie Brooks has a multi-faceted resume that adds luster to our impressive cache of neighborhood artists. Angie has traveled extensively and worked as an artist for more than twenty years. She studied art at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, where she received a fine art scholarship from the Rubell Collection. It was through her travels, however, that Angie had her own personal renaissance and began to paint.

"While I was living in Italy, my days were filled with history, wandering around absorbing the art and culture. I remember standing in front of 'La Primavera' by Botticelli and weeping. I returned to the U.S. a different person. . . . It changed my life," she says.

In her fine art, Angie uses many media: oils, ink, acrylic, canvas, paper, text, organic pigments, encaustic, metal leaf, venetian plaster. She creates expressionistic organic imagery that explores themes of the sacred human spirit and its journey, ancient cultures, religion, symbolism, language, poetry, divinity, interconnectedness and nature. She is currently working on a Goddess Series. Since moving to Atlanta more than a year ago, Angie has involved herself in her community and philanthropy. She has donated art to local fundraising efforts such as Olmsted Linear Park Gala, Horizon Theatre, WRFG, Gift Card Giver, Fernbank Elementary, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Ocean Conservancy. She remarks, "I really feel it's important to give of yourself in this world, and so many wonderful not-for-profits are hurting right now. If my art can help, I am happy to use it for good."

Angie also designed a scarecrow for the Atlanta Botanical Garden's 2010 Scarecrows in the Garden exhibit, a sculpture she titled "Mother Peace." "I had this brainstorm and went on a hunt for a vintage dress form. I scavenged the whole city, and finally found one for twenty dollars. My daughter and I perused many ethnic stores and found talismans and cultural objects to adorn it. I wanted her to be a statement about world peace and people of all nations getting along. 'Mother Peace' has Tibetan prayer flags I bought from the Buddhist Center while they were doing their mandala." Rosaries, Buddha symbols, a pink yarmulke, shells, and many ethnic fabrics narrate her message. "The best part is that I found an old globe and made that her head!"

Angie's work was recently selected by a juried international panel for the Peace Project, a collaborative exhibit and fundraiser for the people of Sierra Leone. The show ran this fall at galleries in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. Locally, Angie has joined Homegrown Decatur, a new cooperative gallery in downtown Decatur. Among her other interests, Angie is currently Co-chair of Sponsors for the Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour and Artist Market (look for her work in the 2011 Market). She is an accomplished freelance writer and has been published in *Parent and Child*, and been a featured artist in *Casa y Estilo Internacional*, *Naples Illustrated*, *Bonita Living*, *Neapolitan Family*, *News-Press*, *Palm Tree Press*, and the *Bonita Banner*. She is chapter leader of Atlanta Kids for Peace, a writer for *Atlanta Art and Culture Examiner*, a mommy, volunteer, activist, culture seeker, and citizen of the world.

You can view Angie's artwork and contact her through her website, www.arteangie.com.



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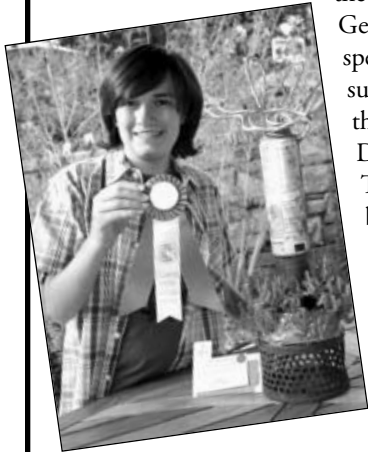
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*Dates subject to change.

Local Children Sweep the Yellow Daisy Flower Show

by Kim Sutherland

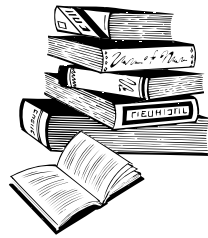
The 38th Annual Yellow Daisy Flower Show was held September 11-13 at Memorial Hall in Stone Mountain Park, GA. The show is sponsored by the Redbud District of the Garden Club of Georgia. Among thousands of entries there is a special category for Youth. Each year children submit entries in keeping with the current year's theme. The 2010 theme was "Going Green – Daisy Style," and 54 sculptures were entered. They needed to include some plant material – but also have an ecological flair. The Mashman family lives on Lullwater Road and all three of the children entered the competition and all three won First Place in their age brackets! The children scoured the creek in the Lullwater Conservation Garden and other sites to re-claim items for their sculptures.



Pictured below right is Connor Mashman with his giraffe-like entry that used computer parts, wires and metal, and carried a basket of grass. Devon Mashman (above) entered a hand that grew out of an aerosol can planted in a copper container. And, last but not least, Carly Mashman (below left) won with her eco-gal made of bolts, metal, and a picture frame. Her entry sported a head full of hair made out of plants. In addition, her entry took Best in Show.



Congratulations, Mashman children, on a job well done.



BOOK CLUB NEWS:

Catching Up With the Others

by Faye Andresen

It's not all about the name but -- The Beer & a Book Club has changed its name to The Lit Chicks. I love the double entendre, intentional or not. After all, discussing good books is a bit more fun with a wine glass (or beer bottle) in hand. So while names can be fun or informative, book clubs are all about the reading and the wine, oops, fellowship.

The Lit Chicks kicked off their "new" club with *The Invisible City* by Emili Rosales. A Barcelona art gallery owner is trying to solve 18th century mysteries of a lost masterpiece and a lost city. Members felt the writing was not nearly as captivating as it could have been, but the subject matter itself was fascinating.

The Proud Mary Book Club discussed *My Brilliant Career* by Miles Franklin. Written in 1901, by a teenager destined to become a major Australian writer, the story chronicles the struggles of a young woman in 1890 Australia. They followed with a very modern novel and a Pulitzer Prize winner, *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz. It is a wonderful, insightful tale of a Dominican immigrant nerd growing up in New Jersey but references the homeland's hard times under tyrannical leader Rafael Trujillo.

Wine, Women & Words thought *Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein was enjoyable but a sad tale, generally well-liked. Members were divided on *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Some had difficulty with the beginning, but those who stuck it out, generally loved it. First time author Lisa Genova's *Still Alice* proved to be a gripping, scary story about a brilliant 50-year-old Harvard professor with early-onset Alzheimer's. What a book! Realistic, in all aspects of the disease.

Last Tuesday Book Club was lukewarm towards *Four Seasons* by Alice Monroe. Members felt it was a bit trite and true. They did enjoy *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. It prompted a discussion of the ethical, moral and historical implications of the actions of our medical community.

The Deepdene Book Club agreed with the Emory Women's Club. *The Imperfectionists* by Tom Rachman, was a disappointment considering its critical acclaim. Much more popular was *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese, a novel about conjoined twins born under difficult conditions in Ethiopia; following one twin to adult life. "It's not a page turner, but a completely satisfying reading experience."

Harvard Road Book Club also read the popular *Cutting for Stone* and then *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* by Robert Heinlein. This 1966 Sci-Fi novel explores libertarian philosophies as 2057 moon colonists, "loonies," revolt against Earth's rule. This action-packed tale won the '67 Hugo Award.

Atlanta Public Schools Purchase 803 Briarcliff

by Alida Silverman


APS has purchased 803 Briarcliff Road for parking spaces and some green space (rear of property). This property backs up to the Springdale Park Elementary School (SPARK) on Ponce de Leon in the (City) Landmark District. With these parking spaces, APS would meet the required spaces for the school.

Although the APS representative at the Urban Design Commission hearing on October 13 for a Review & Comment could not provide any further information than the site plan showing parking spaces and the green space, the representative did indicate that there was a topography issue at the rear of the property – higher than the Ponce lot – and the issue posed by having to cross the school parking lot.

It is hoped that APS will develop a plan for carpool to use this lot, thus fulfilling the initial promise that carpool traffic would approach the new school from Briarcliff rather than Ponce de Leon. Some kind of traffic signal would be needed: 803 Briarcliff is across from St. Louis Place in Atkins Park/Virginia-Highland. Traffic/transportation issues have been a major concern from the beginning of the proposed school project (early 2006) for the neighborhood.

The Commission urged that APS develop an effective plan in a timely fashion. Demolition of the early 1960's apartment structures was not an issue. Briarcliff Road on the east side is not part of the Landmark District.

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No Walk in the Park! *by Kevin Semanik*

For those looking for a great workout without leaving Druid Hills, there's some green space just south of the bustling four-lane thoroughfare of Ponce De Leon Avenue. Because of its straight and narrow nature many forget about the recreational benefits of the Olmsted Linear Park pinched between two roadways.

Olmsted Linear Park is broken into six sections, with five of them situated south of Ponce De Leon Avenue, allowing for continuous paths that can be travelled without having to cross intersections with heavy traffic. Starting at Moreland Avenue, the trail reaches 1.5 miles by the time it intersects with Ponce de Leon just east of Dellwood Park.

An up and back run along the path yields an easy three mile run. A relaxing evening walk can provide an hour of scenic views, burning between 200 to 300 calories. The truly adventurous can turn the trail into their very own parkour course, with exercise stations along the way.

The westernmost section and starting point for many is the Springdale segment. Slightly over a quarter-mile in length, it's mostly downhill. Rounding the last bend, tucked into a corner is a small playground. A stone reads, "We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."

Recommended primary exercise: warm-up ankles by walking and balancing across the wavy blue beam. Alternative exercise: jump back and forth over the beam that sits only a few inches off the ground. Make sure to keep feet together.

Virgilee is the next segment and the shortest, measuring less than two tenths of a mile. Rolling hills characterize this section, and on your return to Springdale, it mimics the look of golf course fairways.

Recommended primary exercise: Step-ups, placing one foot on a bench, while raising the other leg high into the air. Alternative exercise: Bench jumps, keeping feet together, be quick to leave the ground, trying not to anchor the feet.

Oak Grove, named for the trees that line this longest segment, is just less than 3/8 mile. It's also the narrowest segment, with the path closest to the road. Adjacent to the southern side of this section is the Paideia School. It has the highest elevation as the park overlooks Ponce de Leon Avenue.

Recommended primary exercise: Uphill lunges. Alternative exercise: Do a quick run around the small mini-loop of paved path or zigzag between the closely

grown oak trees.

The aptly named Shadyside Park is the 4th segment reached by crossing over Fairview Road and Lullwater Creek. It's here that 1985 protesters, named the Roadbusters, set up a tent camp to protest plans for an expressway that would bi-sect the park.

Enjoy getting away from the sun, as this section clearly is the most unique in the entire park. In 1930, a bridge and wishing well were built that seem strangely out of place. [They were not a part of the original Olmsted Plan—Ed.] The bridge goes nowhere and the well doesn't go deeper than ground level. But the stones make these objects look full of grandeur.

Recommended primary exercise: Dips, by placing feet on one side of the bridge and your hands on the other and lowering your body. Alternative exercise: bridge thrusts, similar as dips but raise your hips into the air.

Dellwood is the fifth and final section before hitting Ponce de Leon Avenue. It was inspired by the English countryside with the "Dell" being the low area at the far western end. It provides a great turnaround point. There are fields where you can sit

on soft grass for a workout strengthening your abdominal muscles. Recommended primary exercise: crunches. Alternative exercise: twists.

Olmsted Linear Park makes an amazing use of space, as walkers, runners, and bicyclists enjoy this linear park, including it in their daily exercise routine.

Kevin Semanick is a former NCAA track & field coach that owns Sunlight Fitness and operates as their lead personal trainer and running coach.

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**AIEV Update
on Emory Village
Construction**

The first phase of construction in Emory Village is nearly complete!

The first phase (1A) of construction involved improvements to the sidewalks, curbs and garden areas between Supercuts and Panera Bread along the south side of North Decatur Road. This phase also included the addition of new outdoor spaces that can accommodate café-style seating and the addition of parallel parking spaces in front of several businesses. Landscaping and more than 50 trees will be added in the Village later in the construction timeline. The entire DeKalb County project is scheduled to be complete in June 2011.

The next phase of construction (1B) is similar to the first, but across the street on the north side of North Decatur Road between Dave's Cosmic Subs and the Chevron station. This phase of work should be completed in December. As with the prior phase, construction will occur during the day and when feasible, at night.

Begun in November, construction continues on the actual roundabout near North Oxford Road and the Emory University gate at Dowman Drive. During this phase of construction (1C), Dowman Drive will be closed to vehicles. North Oxford Road will remain open to traffic. This phase of construction should be complete by the first week of January, and possibly earlier.

Pedestrian access will continue across North Decatur and North Oxford roads. MARTA and Emory's shuttle system will not be affected.

Following this phase of streetscape construction along North Decatur Road, the construction will begin around the intersection of Oxford and North Decatur Roads. This future phase of construction will likely occur early in 2011 and will necessitate the temporary closure of South Oxford Road by Everybody's Pizza for approximately two months. Please look for future email updates on Emory Village construction from the Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV) and at www.emoryvillage.org.

As always, we encourage the patronage of Emory Village businesses during this period of construction.



DHCA Parents Network

by Tammy Carroll

Fall Fun for Families

The DHCA Parents Network continued its annual tradition of celebrating Halloween with a family-friendly festival. This year, we joined forces with the DHCA Community & Lifestyle Committee and held the event as part of Druid Hills Day. More than 100 people attended the party in Dellwood Park on Sunday, October 24th. The adults enjoyed live music and socializing, while the children participated in pumpkin decorating, playing games, climbing the rock wall, and having their faces painted! Special thanks to the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at Emory University for helping staff the event.

The Parents Network is looking toward the holiday season and contemplating plans for a neighborhood family gathering involving hot chocolate and cookie-decorating. The committee is excited about the increased level of participation at their events and more opportunities for families to socialize. If you haven't already ... please join us!

New book club forming at Emory

The Bookstore Liaison's Office at Emory is excited to announce the formation of the Noble Reads Book Club, a lunchtime book discussion group open to all of Emory and the greater community. We meet monthly in the new Emory bookstore on Oxford Road for informal discussion about that month's "noble" book (ie, one that possesses "very high or excellent qualities"). As an added bonus, book club selections are 20% off at the bookstore. We would love to have our neighbors in Druid Hills take part!

For more information, or to be kept posted of upcoming meetings, please contact Abby Horowitz at aqhorow@emory.edu.

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1939 GRIST STONE COURT, DRUID HILLS

This five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath Durand Mill home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac lot within walking distance to Emory and CDC and located in an International Baccalaureate school system. Main level features a formal living room, banquet sized dining room, and kitchen with breakfast area opening into a two-story family room with views of the serene, park-like backyard. The master suite on the main level includes a fireplace, two walk-in closets, double vanities, separate shower, and whirlpool tub. Terrace level offers a media room with fireplace, gorgeous wine cellar, billiard room, and second kitchen with guest suite. An attached three car garage on the main level and generous storage throughout are a plus. An automatic transfer of membership to the Durand Mill Pool and Clubhouse (a \$6500 value) is included. \$879,000



319 HURON STREET, DECATUR

Located in the Great Lakes on an extra deep lot, this quality new construction confidently combines old world charm with modern conveniences even including an elevator. Arts and crafts workmanship, period detail and trim, graceful archways, and hardwood floors throughout are just a few of the handsome details. A butler's pantry connects the spacious formal dining room to the gourmet kitchen. Kitchen that opens to a family room, casual dining area, and screened porch make it perfect for entertaining. Owner's suite upstairs offers a large walk-in closet and a spa-like bathroom. Laundry room is conveniently located next to the three other bedrooms upstairs. Attached twocar garage at basement level leads to a recreation room and office. An elevator serving all three levels makes this home ultra convenient. \$795,000



945 CLAIREMONT AVENUE, DECATUR

Located on approximately one acre within walking distance to Emory/CDC and downtown Decatur, this brick estate home has been renovated and expanded. Elegant iron gates at the entry welcome you to a spacious formal living room with built-ins and fireplace. Entertain like a pro with a banquet sized dining room and gourmet custom kitchen with solid cherry cabinets, Emerald Pearl granite, and professional appliances. Large family room off of the kitchen offers vaulted ceiling, built-in cabinetry flanking the fireplace, and a wall of floor to ceiling windows with view of the large level backyard. Spacious owner's suite on main level features walk-in closet and large private bathroom. Second bedroom on main level adjoins a sunroom / office overlooking the professionally landscaped front yard. Upstairs provides a guest or teen suite and more room for expansion. \$550,000



1680 EAST CLIFTON ROAD, DRUID HILLS

This 1920's brick Tudor is within walking distance to Druid Hills Golf Club and less than a mile from Emory University. Sited on more than 1/2 of an acre, this home is a quiet retreat nestled within specimen hardwoods and heirloom plantings. Features include handsome stained trim work and hardwood floors throughout. Main level offers living room, sunroom, dining room, renovated kitchen and two bedrooms and bathroom. Upstairs offers two more bedrooms and bathroom as well as a huge bonus room that serves as a recreation room or office. Two levels of basement space provide for a drive-under garage, laundry room, workroom, playroom, and ample storage. \$525,000



241 CHESLEA DRIVE, DECATUR

Conveniently located between downtown Decatur and Emory University, this four bedroom, three-and-a-half bathroom home has been completely renovated. A formal living room leads you to a sunroom, separate dining room, large kitchen with breakfast room, and separate den. The owner's suite on main level offers a private bathroom and walk-in closet. Main level offers two additional bedrooms, hall bath, and powder room. Terrace level features a guest bedroom, bathroom, storage room, and drive under garage. French doors off of the den bring you to a large deck with views to a private, fenced backyard and beautiful stone patio. \$469,000



261 HEATON PARK DRIVE, DRUID HILLS

Well maintained brick home within walking distance to Fernbank Elementary and Emory University. This three-bedroom, one-bath home is a delightful find on a quiet street in the Chelsea Heights neighborhood. The spacious living room leads to a separate dining room creating a nice flow for entertaining. Carport provides easy entrance to home office and kitchen. Updates include gleaming hardwood floors, fresh paint throughout, updated electrical and renovated bathroom. \$299,000



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