Alliance to Improve Emory Village, Inc.

AIEV updates proposed zoning and design guidelines

by Davis Fox

The Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV) has refined and improved the proposed zoning overlay and design guidelines for redeveloping Emory Village. These actions respond to questions and recommendations from the Druid Hills community, business owners, and Emory University. Changes suggested by the affected stakeholders will improve the quality of development in the Village and the quality of life in the neighborhood. AIEV appreciates the interest and suggestions. Some of the changes AIEV has made in the proposed ordinances include:

- Providing particular attention to future buildings across the street from Glenn Church. A 10-foot wide landscape strip will be created across from Glenn Church on North Decatur. This will accommodate larger street trees and more green space as the Village transitions away from the commercial district. The “build to” line for buildings along this section will be 25 feet from the curb. This move will improve the transition from the Village to the historic building owned by Emory next to the Bank of America site. Building heights across the street from the church will be benchmarked with the height of the cornice (where the wall meets the roof) of Glenn Church. Some of the Bank of America site is also limited to three stories.

- Scaling back the height of future buildings immediately adjacent to the R–75 zoning on Oxford to three stories.

- Providing an incentive to property owners to remove the parking in the 75–foot stream buffer along Peavine Creek. Currently, existing properties along the creek do not have to abide by State and County stream buffer requirements because these sites were developed before enactment of the regulations. Owners now use the buffer to meet their parking requirements. AIEV proposes to give them parking credits to meet the zoning requirements if they remove the impervious materials and restore the stream buffer. Owners could use the space for outdoor dining along the creek but could not build permanent structures or parking. In the future, if these properties are redeveloped, owners must comply with the stream buffer regulations.

- Providing an exception to permit a food market in the Village. To prevent big box development and large national chains, the proposed regulations had limited the size of retail businesses to 6,000 square feet. Now an exception will be permitted (up to 25,000 square feet) if 70% of the space will be dedicated to selling food and non-alcoholic beverages.

- Providing parking incentives for a movie theater. To encourage the proposed parking for a movie theater in Emory Village, parking requirements will be reduced for such a structure. Overflow parking spaces for theater audiences will be available on Emory's campus at the Fithbourne dock along North Decatur and in the Emory lot along Oxford Road.

- For more information about the proposed zoning overlay and design guidelines, please go to www.emoryville.org. You can also find information about members of the AIEV Board, make comments about future changes to the overlay and guidelines, and sign up on the list serve to receive more information.

EMORY VILLAGE UPDATE NOTES:

By Ed Henderson

The DHCA Emory Village response team is reviewing the AIEV Rezoning proposal, including the recent changes. This proposal is scheduled to be heard by the DeKalb County Commission in January, 2007. The concerns most regularly voiced regarding the rezoning include:

1) Six-fold increase in buildings
   (from ~77,000 existing sq ft to ~520,000 proposed sq ft including parking decks)
2) 180 apartments/condos (equivalent to 2.2 Clifton Condos)
3) 60 ft building height
4) 100% lot coverage
5) Need to assure open space provision
6) Potential for zoning creep

We are holding discussions with AIEV for clarifications, elaboration and modifications to their proposal. We especially want the plan for the Burbank Property to match up with AVE’s plans for the adjoining area along 5 Oxford, especially as it relates to the stream buffers. Together, this could be an especially attractive area of green space linking the neighborhood with Emory Village. We have also requested base maps with items such as setback lines, property lines, topography, stream buffers, floodplains and tree cover in order that we may hold informed discussions and make sound decisions. In addition, the actual location of the proposed street treatment and on-street parking has been unclear, and necessitated another survey. We remain hopeful that the DHCA and AIEV can reach consensus on the land use regulations governing Emory Village.

Glenn Chancel Choir Sings At Riverside Church, New York

The Chancel Choir of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church will sing for worship at the Riverside Church, Manhattan, April 15, 2007. Modeled after the 13th century Chartes Cathedral, Riverside is among the renowned churches of the world.

This trip to New York will be the first for some choir members and a welcome return for others to the Big Apple's wonders. When not singing, they will enjoy sites, dining, concerts and Broadway.

In April 2005, the Chancel Choir traveled to Chicago. They sang for worship at the University of Chicago’s Rockefeller Chapel and enjoyed the world class culture of the Windy City. Traveling brings the choir a welcome opportunity to enjoy great cities, share their music with others, and build on their strong camaraderie.

Closer to home, the choir participated in the 100th anniversary of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riots at the Rialto Center, this September 24. “This is an important opportunity for us to make a real contribution to necessary exploration of a dark period of Atlanta’s history,” says Steven Darsey, Glenn’s Director of Music.

The Chancel Choir sings weekly for worship at Glenn Church on the Emory campus. They sing some challenging and beautiful music, and have a great time with each other. With a wide range of musical ability among members, anyone with a love of singing and choral experience can make a valuable contribution. New members are warmly welcomed. For more information, please see www.glennumc.org or call 404-634-3936.
Recommended Services

Do you know the perfect plumber? An extraordinary electrician? A colossal contractor? Are you willing to share this person’s name? The Druid Hills News hopes to start a list of reliable repair-people. If you know someone of this ilk please send the name, phone number, profession, and an optional little description to the editor of this paper, Mary Angela Whyte, at mail_dh@comcast.net. Each repair person is listed only once in this column. Readers can find previous recommendations in the Druid Hills News on line. Go to www.druidhills.org and click on the link to Druid Hills News.

Jamie McPherson (Heath and Home Interiors, 770-251-2803) does kitchens and bath design. He lists and translates your ideas into a beautiful, functional design. He is extremely creative and visionary and we are thrilled with the work he did on our renovation/expansion. His own house was the cover story for the October Atlanta Homes & Lifestyle magazine if you want to see his personal style. (Maisy and Jim Babcock 404-270-9780.)

David Hicks (Architects Studio, 404-373-1234) did the architectural plans for our renovation and addition. We love the space plan and functionality and how he maximized every square inch of space we were allowed to build. David, a Druid Hills resident himself, also deeply understands the historic district design guidelines and approval process. (Maisy and Jim Babcock 404-770-9780.)

Garman Manure Delivered. Jonathan Hibbert will deliver a small trailer load of composted horse manure to your house. There is a delivery charge. Call 404-508-3006 for details. (Jean Paddock)

I recommend my carpenter and all-round Mr. Fix-It—All American Handyman and his wife Handy Girl (as he calls her.) Cheryl and Larry Morris have kept my home and rental property in tip-top shape for seven years. They can do anything and have a referral list for what they can’t do. They’ve worked for others on my street and clean up after themselves every day, often a rare quality. For professional attitude and a great handy team call 770-233-9408. (Sharon Sleeper.)

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 line of the center, 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.

Get the Most Out of Your Advertising Dollars

The Druid Hills News is published in April, July, September and December. It reaches thousands of people who live, shop and work in Druid Hills. With thousands of copies of each issue distributed in the area, the publication’s advertising rates are a bargain for businesses that want to reach Druid Hills customers. For information on ad sizes and pricing: 404-523-3422 (DHCA) www.druidhills.org/news/advertise.htm email: admin@druidhills.org.htm
AUGUST

Jim Morawetz was elected to fill the vacant post of First Vice President. Craig Maraikis and Mac Platt were elected to fill open Board seats from the class of 2007. Greg Robisch, DHCA Public Safety Coordinator, reported he has started to get the word out to the neighborhood. He is trying to set up an organizational plan, including block captains who report to division chairs. He is just trying to put the word out that this position does exist.

Alex Otley, chair of the Land Use and Zoning Committee, reported that before zoning came into effect small lots in areas of Druid Hills were often combined with one house being built on the combined lots. Now, due to increased economic pressures, people are trying to redivide the lots. The board needs to think about this due to increased economic pressures, people are trying to redivide the lots. The board needs to think about this.

SEPTEMBER

David Purcell and Michael Graham of Georgia Power Company presented an update of a project which began two years ago. Power lines in much of Druid Hills are placed in the back yards of residences. The power corridors have become degraded over the years. All the poles were surveyed for condition and interference with trees. This affected 908 customers. The project was completed six months ago, although the process will be ongoing to make sure the project doesn’t return to its previous condition. This has increased safety for the community and Georgia Power employees and has improved access, which in turn limits the amount of time it takes to restore power when lost.

David Purcell then presented a new project. Georgia Power Company will be upgrading the transmission lines from the Moreland Power Station up Briarcliff to North Decatur and then on to the Scottdale substation. This is required because of load increase. The distribution lines (those running into the neighborhood) will be reconfigured from vertical placement to horizontal placement. There will be some traffic disruption.

The Druid Hills Parent Group is a new part of the Civic Association started by Holly Simmons, who recently moved from Virginia Highlands. Membership in the parents group would require membership in the Civic Association.

Public Safety—Greg Robisch, DHCA Public Safety Coordinator, reported that we are still safe. He has received notice of two car break-ins.

Bruce MacGregor reports that the Clifton Community Partnership is in negotiation to contract with an urban design firm to design the environment around the Emory campus.

The current timeline is for construction of the roundabout and streetscape to begin in July of 2007. The project is expected to take 11 months to complete.
the country are located in marginally attractive areas. In a number of these cases, the University has responded either with a pass or has been indifferent, figuratively speaking. As cities renevote, these strategies are being reconsidered. So what does this have to do with us and why should we care? It has a lot to do with all of us, because what is done and how it is accomplished will have a dramatic impact on Druid Hills for decades to come. Many new developments are planned within and near Druid Hills, and many of these are related to Emory University or Emory Healthcare; and many of these tend to blur the hard edge between campus and neighborhood, which the DHCA has defended for many years.

The relationship between Emory and Druid Hills is long and close. Since the main campus was moved from Oxford to Druid Hills in the 1920’s, the neighborhood has provided a bucolic, forested setting, village-like in nature, within a dynamic major city. While this setting appears to be valued by the academic side of Emory, its value to Emory Healthcare is less clear. Since Emory Healthcare is driving almost all of the current and foreseeable expansion, this is an important distinction.

Traditionally, Druid Hills has been tolerant to indifferent to development in the center of the campus, and highly interested in developments on and near the campus edges (where we live). The neighborhood was involved in the development of the 1999 campus master plan which identified almost two million square feet of additional building space. Afterward, the then president stated that for the foreseeable future, Emory would concentrate on their existing programs and facilities. Fast forward to 2004-5 and a new president and a new master plan. This time there was no neighborhood input, and an additional million square feet of building space was identified. The largest and most dramatic project in this plan is the relocation of Emory Hospital (plus the Rehabilitation and Geriatric hospitals) into the area known as the “Haygood Triangle,” formerly part of the neighborhood, and located across from Druid Hills High School.

Other Emory developments include:

- Purchase of homes on North Decatur Rd between Ridgewood and Clairmont, for the stated purposes of providing faculty and student housing and improving sidewalks and bike lanes. (Some neighbors have expressed concern that this could also expedite widening North Decatur Road, or may be the initial stage of an Emory Grove bypass)
- Clifton Road Mixed Use development planned for Clifton Road across from CDC, for the stated purpose of providing housing and retail activities for faculty staff and students.
- Briarcliff Road Apartment sites between Sage Hall Shopping Center and Peachtree Creek, for the reported purpose of reusing and building apartments at a greater density.
- Redevelopment of the Briarcliff Campus (former Georgia Mental Health Institute) into primarily housing, rather than as a Bioengineering Center, as initially planned.
- Bioengineering Center, to be built in an unknown location, possibly outside the neighborhood.
- Parking Deck and Bookstore, to be built on North Oxford Rd, behind the B. Jones Building.
- Religious Life Center as Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, a new interfaith building to be located between the Sanctuary and the Sunday School Building.
- Burbank Property (described in the Fall 2006 President’s Report) or has been purchased in fee simple by Emory. The details of planned partnership are uncertain at this time.

In order to address land uses adjacent to the campus, Emory has established the Clifton Community Partnership, which in turn has selected an Urban Design Consultant, the Goody-Clancy Group, from Boston, MA. The consultants will address streetscape, and potentially land use issues, in the neighborhood near the campus. While this is increasingly common by major universities, it is unusual here in that Emory is bounded on three sides by the Druid Hills Historic District, with its own design guidelines. In addition to the many land development projects planned by Emory, the Clifton Corridor Transit Management Association (CCTMA) has proposed that DeKalb County study the widening of nine intersections surrounding the campus. The CCTMA will also develop plans for streetcar lines and a possible extension of a MARTA rail line between Emory and the Lindell MARTA Station.

The Emory Village is in the heart of Druid Hills and at the interface of the historic district and Emory University. The Alliance to Improve Emory Village is a consortium of property and business owners, Emory University, and Druid Hills residents, established to promote the redevelopment of Emory Village. AIEV has recommended that the Village be redeveloped as a dense mixed use complex, with a modest increase in commercial space, up to 180 multifamily dwellings, and parking decks. The redevelopment will be accompanied by a traffic roundabout, reduction of North Decatur Rd to three lanes, and improved sidewalk and streetscapes (including underground utilities). The proposed zoning overlay allows for 60 ft buildings, reduced parking requirements, and 100% lot coverage. The overlay is currently planned to be voted on by the DeKalb County Commission in January 2007. Representatives of AIEV and the DHCA are currently discussing many aspects of the proposed plan, including height, lot coverage, and open space.

While major institutions are making dynamic plans, your DHCA is also involved on other land use fronts in the neighborhood: The Nunan property (Clifton Rd/ Oxford Rd) continues its way through the courts with a total of five lawsuits, at last count. The developer is attempting to build five houses on three lots by subdividing the property into “flag lots” so as to build five houses; two in front and three behind. In nearby Chelsea Heights (between Fernbank and Peavine Creek) numerous attempts are being made to resurrect non-conforming “ghost lots” from a 1914 plat in order to (surprise!) increase density.

Meanwhile, back in the City of Atlanta portion of Druid Hills, other wheels are turning. The City’s Ponce de Leon-Moreland Avenue Corridor study is currently underway, and the city is working on a new zoning ordinance. Some of the more significant land development projects include:

- Negotiations for purchase of the Howard School on Ponce de Leon by the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) are underway. APS has determined that the Howard school site is suitable for an elementary school of 450-480 students. If the site is redeveloped, the historic building will remain and be restored.
- Briarcliff Square Apartments on Briarcliff Rd. have been demolished and will be redeveloped as 51 townhouses. This area of Briarcliff is the only area of Druid Hills/Atlanta that lies outside the Druid Hills Landmark District, and is the first of the circa 1950-60’s apartment complexes to be redeveloped.
- In the many years I have been involved with DHCA, I have seen neither the number nor the magnitude of land use issues facing Druid Hills. Despite the allure of magical thinking, it is not possible for two things to occur at the same time. In my view, we cannot escape the future, but we can shape it. While we must adapt to the new realities, we must also unapologetically defend our interests. -An Old Druid.
Druid Hills Day  

Sunday, November 5

Druid Hills Day was a huge success, from the fabulous antique cars, to the popular rock climbing wall, to the yummy cotton candy. Neighbors from all corners of Druid Hills converged on Dellwood Park Sunday, November 5 for the annual neighborhood gathering. Young and old alike enjoyed the great weather, a variety of activities, good food, live music, and of course, as always, each other’s company! See you next year when we’ll have even more exciting activities for all ages!

SAT Scores Land Druid Hills Governor’s Cup Trophy

—DeKalb County Schools Press Release

Druid Hills High School met with a “Red Devil” welcome from Druid Hills’ cheerleaders, dance team, marching band and the Navy JROTC, Governor Sonny Perdue as he entered DeKalb County School System’s Druid Hills High School on the morning of October 12 on the first of his five visits to exceptional Georgia high schools. Governor Perdue, joined by State Superintendent Kathy Cox, Executive Director of Office of Student Achievement, Dr. Martha Reichrath, DeKalb Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Crawford Lewis, and Board of Education Members, visited Druid Hills to present the school with a high honor, the Governor’s Cup trophy. Druid Hills was one of five Georgia high schools to receive the commemorative trophy for most improved SAT scores.

Not only did the reward include the large trophy, Druid Hills was also awarded a $2,000 grant to help with SAT prep resources and promised a school-wide pizza party for all its students.

“We’ve got our mo-jo going and we’re going to keep going,” Governor Perdue relayed to the students in reference to their SAT improvements. Gov. Perdue said Druid Hills, “a champion of education,” was leading the charge—helping to take the state’s national ranking up 46 points from last year. He compelled the school to share their strategies with other schools in Georgia.

“Doing well on the SAT opens up doors and opportunities,” Gov. Perdue told the students, encouraging them to keep up the good work.

Now considered as “state champs of the SAT”, Druid Hills’ SAT scores yielded a 44.5 percent gain over the past three years. Druid Hills was also congratulated for their high percentage of students passing the Georgia High School Graduation Test.

“You all are knocking the socks off of the Georgia High school graduation test,” Superintendent Kathy Cox told Druid Hills, commending them for their 94% passing rate in the English portion, 92% passing rate in math, 84% passing rate in social studies and high science scores.

Governor Perdue initiated the Governor’s Cup challenge in 2003 to generate friendly school competition and school spirit in raising Georgia’s SAT scores. Before shaking the hands of students and teachers and doing just a bit of a jig to the band’s ‘let’s go’ chorale, Governor Perdue gave Druid Hills Principal, Everett Patrick, an oak tree sapling saying, “I heard that there are two best times to plant an oak tree; one is 100 years ago and the other best time is today. I believe you are planting a forest of oak trees with these students.”

MARATHON!

Be sure to mark your calendar for March 25 when a brand new marathon, the ING, will be coming through Druid Hills. Of course we want to support these runners, and the Community & Lifestyle Committee (community@drudhills.org) is taking suggestions for what we as a neighborhood can do. Let us know your thoughts. E-lerts and our Spring issue will have more details. In the meantime, there is information on the Web about this race: www.INGgeorgiamarathon.com.

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THE INVASION OF DRUID HILLS

By J.J. Williams

Most southerners know the Kudzu story: it was imported to the United States from Japan in the early 1900s for erosion control and livestock feed. Now it’s known as the vine that smothered the south. But did you know that there are many other nonnative invasive plants that do great damage to the landscape? And that many of them continue to be sold at local nurseries? If you walk your property, you’ll probably see some of the more familiar nonnative offenders.

English Ivy seems benign enough at first glance, with its glossy dark green leaves and ability to cover the ground and choke out weeds. It was brought over from England during colonial times to be used as an ornamental. However, unless carefully monitored, English Ivy will get out of control and begin to take over your yard, pushing your trees, and maybe even your house. Start pulling!

Another invasive you may find in your yard or on your street is the Mimosa tree. Another visitor from Japan, Mimosas can thrive under the most difficult conditions. If left to spread, they choke out native plants and trees. Mimosas can be especially harmful along stream banks. As anyone who has ever cut a Mimosa knows, three or more Mimosas shoot up from the cut trunk. The best way to get rid of Mimosa is to dig it up.

Chinese Privet is located all over Druid Hills. Years ago, people who had little money in their landscaping budgets, often chose privet because it was cheap and grew quickly. Though a shrub, privet can grow to heights of 30 feet or more. Like Mimosa, cutting it down only encourages more growth, plus it’s spread by birds that eat the dark blue berries. Privet is another invader that choked out native plants. The best way to remove it is to dig it up, or to cut it and then spray a healthy amount of herbicide (such as “Round Up”) on the stump.

Who can resist the sweet smell of Honeysuckle permeating the summer nights of Atlanta? While fragrant and containing delicious nectar, honeysuckle is a real menace. Honeysuckle is dense and basically strangles all the plants it winds around. It can invade native shrubs, wildflowers and trees, and even cause them to topple if it gets too concentrated. Honeysuckle is also notorious for depleting the soil of moisture and nutrients, thus making a great challenge for neighboring plants. The best way to rid your yard of this Japanese vine? Pull it up or keep on cutting it back.

Chinese Yam (also known as Potato Vine) can mimic the worst characteristics of Honeysuckle. A fast grower, it sends small heart-shaped leaves around shrub trunks and climbs to the top, where it branches out and smothers the host plant. It’s easiest to attack Chinese Yam when you first spot it. Look for a vine with small heart-shaped leaves. It’s easy to pull up when young, but develops a woody stem later that will require clippers. Worst of all, it sets small fruit in late summer that look exactly like tiny potatoes. These potatoes will drop off if you look at the plant the wrong way so watch out! You’ll get a new Chinese Yam plant everywhere these mock potatoes fall.

One of the most common invaders in home yards is Japanese Stilt Grass. Stilt Grass appeared in the United States when it was used (when dried) as packing material for china and pottery being sent to Japan. We can recognize the plant by its pale green lance-like leaves on thin stems. It thrives most everywhere and in most all conditions. Species remain viable for three years, and are spread by foot, bicycle tire, motorcar tires, and by the wind. The best way to rid yourself of Stilt Grass is repeated pulling. If you don’t, you’ll soon find your expensive landscape plants choked out.

Chinese and Japanese Wisteria are beautiful. This traditional southern porch vine, with giant grape-like clusters of white or blue flowers, makes a beautiful display and smells delicious. Wisteria continues to look and smell great after they’ve climbed to the top of the tallest tree in your yard. (They can climb as far as 70 feet or more.) They can smother a tree in no time. As if one plant isn’t enough, they produce pods from July to November, and each pod may contain up to eight seeds. The best thing to do is to not purchase wisteria, no matter how much you love it. If you already have it on your property, you’ll need to cut...and cut...and cut.

There are just a few of the most common invasive plants. There are many others. Some invasive plants actually extract chemicals into the soil which kill native plants. Others just take over and choke out their neighbors. What’s a homeowner to do? First, survey your landscape for nonnative invasives. Remove whatever you can, or chemically treat it if it’s safe and appropriate to do so.

Second, don’t purchase nonnative invasive plants no matter how cheap they might be, or how fragrant, or how attractive they may look. Third, educate yourself and your neighbors about the hazards of using nonnative invasives in the landscape, and in not removing the nonnatives you already have. Your native plants, and non- invasive shrubs and trees will thank you!
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- Housing near the workplace that allows employees to live close to their jobs and take advantage of alternative transportation

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.
Winter 2006-07
(for more information and events, check websites)

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Saturday, 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
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Discovering Rome: Maps and Monuments
Two important changes in Emory Village bring public breakfasts back to Druid Hills.
One favorite restaurant is now serving earlier, and another is re-opening with a change in menu and ownership.
Both will give locals a place for coffee and more before 8 a.m. One stars a UGA graduate turned restaurateur, the other a Georgia Tech engineer. And both new businesses promise great service to the neighborhood.
The well-liked Lebanese restaurant Cedar Tree is being replaced by a new concept called Rise-N-Dine. And already serving is the familiar restaurant on South Oxford once known as Burrito Art and now called Saba.
Saba is now open at seven a.m., serving gourmet, locally ground grits. When long-time Atlanta restaurateurs Shane Mixon and Kathy Cushing bought Saba this summer, they decided to prepare Loganville Turnpike grits from Blairsville alongside traditional and vegetarian breakfasts. The local touch comes naturally.
"I grew up in Rome, Georgia," Shane says, "and I’m a UGA Bulldog." His grits are sautéed in butter, and simmered in stock to a creamy, comforting mush. More than Emory students, his diners come from throughout the Druid Hills neighborhood.
Many return for the new, lighter items on the menu in the afternoons and evenings. But it is demand for breakfast that’s encouraged the new owners. Perhaps it’s the price: $5 dinners get two eggs or tofu, soyage or bacon or pancetta and the famous grits. Shane and Kathy are encouraged by the early rising business.
"Definitely enough to keep us interested!" Shane says. A block west on North Decatur Road, Marshall Happ is making breakfast an all day deal in the restaurant next door to All Fired Up.
We are going to serve with an emphasis on health-conscious breakfast and non-breakfast meals," says the Georgia Tech engineering graduate. "And, when I say health-conscious, I don’t mean ‘No Carb, High Fat,’ or any of the other fad diets. It’s easy to cook some eggs and slap some bacon on a plate. And, if that’s what you want, we’ll have it. But, we will also have very nutritious meals assembled without the ‘more is better’ mentality that seems to be so prevalent."
He’s putting together menus that include creative sandwiches with quinoa, hummus, and other foods with health and nutritional values.
"Definitely enough to keep us interested!" Shane says.
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New Plants for Historic Landscapes

By Paula Refi

In 1993, the Southern Garden History Society published an important monograph, Residential Work of the Olmsted Firm in Georgia, 1893-1937, written by Luci Lawlis and edited by Catherine M. Howett. It documents the contributions of Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted firm to the landscape character of our Druid Hills community. The “Olmsted vision” has matured along local streets and is occasionally invoked at monthly meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission.

While the Olmsted firm left its mark on the larger Druid Hills landscape—the sinuous curves of its streets, the open spaces of lawn bordered by shrubs, and trees planted in groves—the plant materials available at the time provided the details. The Lawlis monograph concludes with Olmsted’s lists of recommended plants, which makes fascinating reading for gardeners. The HPC Design Manual includes suggestions for plant materials drawn in, part, from Olmsted’s lists as a way of preserving “the look” in Druid Hills.

Landscapes are dynamic creations, and new versions of many historic Druid Hills trees and shrubs are available today. The latest forms of familiar species drive current trends in garden design, especially the increased desire for color. Adaptability is another consideration when selecting plants, and those heirloom plants, grown without the benefit of programmed irrigation systems and an arsenal of chemicals, remain among the most reliable performers. Modern introductions of proven species make a lot of sense. When a venerable oak dies or a foundation planting needs renewal, new selections of old favorites can update a landscape without sacrificing its classic footprint.

Several Druid Hills signature trees offer alternative forms. The native flowering dogwood, Cornus florida, has developed a variety of foliar diseases, but a series of modern hybrids between it and the Kousa dogwood perform better. Known as the Rutgers Hybrids, they include ‘Aurora’, ‘Cesital’, ‘Constellation’ and ‘Star Dust’. Another small native tree, the eastern redbud, Cercis canadensis, remains a good choice, but many gardeners prefer ‘Forest Pansy’ for its attractive burgundy leaves. ‘Hearts of Gold’ is a recent introduction. It displays striking yellow leaves that turn chartreuse in summer. The pale lavender-pink flowers appear in early spring.

Slender deutzia, Deutzia gracilis, is a Japanese native that has been grown here for more than a century. It’s arching stems produce sprays of white, bell-shaped flowers in April. Despite its size, it is easy to use in mixed borders because it rarely grows more than three feet high. ‘Nikko’ is even more compact, at well under two feet. Proven Winners, a valuable source for many innovative flowering shrubs, markets a similar cultivar, ‘Chardonnay Pearl’, named for its tiny pear-like buds and lime-yellow foliage. As an added bonus, its blossoms are fragrant.

Old-fashioned weigela, Weigela florida, is a mounded shrub that can exceed six feet with time. Its rosy pink flowers are effective for a couple of weeks in June. Choosing one of the new cultivars with colorful foliage extends the plant’s season of interest. Among the possibilities are ‘Goldflame’, whose light green leaves are edged with pale yellow, and ‘Midnight Wine’, with metallic burgundy foliage and deeper pink flowers. For small gardens, Proven Winners offers Weigela ‘Midnight Wine’, with burgundy foliage and a shorter, one-foot, habit.

Valued for its durability, shade tolerance, and year-round interest, heavenly bamboo (Nandina domestica) is a Druid Hills mainstay. A new introduction from Monrovia, ‘Plum Passion’, has deep purplish-red new growth and more narrow leaves. It turns green in summer, then reddish-purple in winter. The plant appears more finely textured than the heirloom nandina and lends itself to some creative color harmonies.

Garden History of Georgia 1733–1933, published in 1953 by the Peachtree Garden Club, describes two 100-foot hedges of spirea as “waterfalls of white blossoms” at Woodlands, the 25-acre estate of Mrs. Arthur Tafts. (The garden is now lost, but the residence survives, hidden by modern buildings on the Emory campus.) Many outstanding spireas are available that provide either early spring or summer flowers. Several spring bloomers produce arching stems of tiny white blossoms. Spiraea thunbergii ‘Ogon’ is a three- to four-footer with gold foliage that becomes brighter green in summer.

Old-timey pink Spiraea ‘Anthony Waterer’ flowers in summer. It has been overshadowed by dozens of newer selections with colorful leaves, like ‘Dolichca’, ‘Goldflame’ and ‘Lime mound’. Planting just a few spireas would honor the memory of those luscious hedges at Woodlands.

Fall and winter are the best seasons for planting most trees and shrubs. The cooler temperatures encourage root development, and they will require less attention to watering. The latest advice calls for digging a hole as deep as the root ball, but three times wider. Soil amendments are not required, unless planting in subsoil. Add two or three inches of mulch and water well. Plants have plenty of time to produce new roots that will contribute to their survival next summer.
Druid Hills High School
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~drushhdk

Druid Hills High School was one of five public schools in the state to receive a Governor’s Cup for standout improvement in average SAT scores between 2004 and 2006. The award came with a $2,000 grant and was delivered in a personal appearance by Governor and gubernatorial candidate Sonny Perdue himself, along with a fellow candidate, Georgia Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox, on October 11. As reported by DHHS correspondent Davey Devay, there was some wonderment by the junior and senior students at the VIP’s arrival by helicopter on the athletic field instead of, as she put it, “carpooling like civilians.” An explanation, however, may exist in the fact that the Governor and Ms. Cox were visiting three other of the winning schools (in the counties of Gwinnett, Walton and Berrien) all in the same day. Correspondent Davey also reports that there were no student protests over missing first period to attend the award presentation.

The Howard School
www.howardschool.org

The Howard School is leaving Druid Hills after 27 years at its Ponce de Leon location. The December move will take the school to the west side of Atlanta near the intersection of Huff and Howell Mill Roads. A dedication ceremony at the new site is set for Sunday January 7, 2p.m.-4p.m.

Paideia School
www.paideiaschool.org

Five new graduates of The Paideia School spent part of their summer playing for the 2006 U.S. national ultimate (as in frisbee) junior team at the 13th biennial Ultimate World Championships in Devens, Mass. The U.S. boys and girls teams both defeated their Canadian opponents for the Ultimate World Championship titles. The former Paideia varsity athletes were Leila Tunnell, Maisie Richards, Ollie Horderd, George Stubbs and Grant Lindley.

Shamrock Middle School
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~shamrock

Open House opportunity for any in the community to visit Shamrock Middle School will be Thursday, November 30, 4:30-7:30p.m. The occasion marks the exhibit of 5 blocks (each 12 feet square, with 8 panels) of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, portions of which travel the nation regularly. Each panel memorializes a life ended by AIDS. Through Tuesday, December 5. More information: Shamrock, Dr. Janice Stevens, 678.874.7627, jstevens247@yahoo.com, or www.aidsquilt.org.

Greenspace Vision Grows Through Interactive Mapping
by Julie Ralston

A months-long project to catalogue the region’s greenspace that started in 2005 is taking root with a unique technological twist: interactive mapping that allows users to identify greenspace in their neighborhood – and across the 20-county Atlanta region. The Atlanta Regional Commission’s Regional Greenspace Strategy for coordinated protection of greenspace, “Growing a Greenspace Vision,” has resulted in a protected lands inventory, a priorities map, a toolkit and an ongoing outreach effort.

But the interactive feature of the project includes a greenspace mapping Web site that allows users to search for parks, greenspace and publicly accessible properties in their area through aerial photography that also features some amenities found in the parks. The Web-based tool also lets partners throughout the region update the inventory.

The greenspace project was funded with grants from the Georgia Forestry Commission and a private foundation through the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. The Georgia Conservancy supported the strategy development, and the Trust for Public Land assisted with technical and organization tasks.

“ARC has worked in partnership with Georgia Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land for two years to begin a regional dialogue on the importance of greenspace in the Atlanta region,” said Dan Reuter, chief of ARC’s Land Use Division. “These resources now move us beyond dialogue to tangible progress.”

The Green Infrastructure Priorities Map identifies areas that can be protected in the future, including wetlands, agricultural and forestry lands, cultural and historic corridors and recreation sites. The map will also help to identify existing and future growth pressure and how areas might tie into a regional bicycle network. The toolkit details how interested parties and local governments can work toward a comprehensive green infrastructure by offering local case studies and best practices.

The project will lead to regional strategies to preserve and protect greenspace that builds on existing program and success stories.

To use ARC’s interactive greenspace map, go to www.atlantaregional.com.
2007 Druid Hills Home & Garden Tour ~April 20, 21, 22~
Mark Your Calendar!

Into the fall and winter months we go, but spring will once again work its magic on our lovely neighborhood just in time for the Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour, scheduled for April 20, 21 and 22, 2007.

A very special tour experience is in store – including a 5-acre woodland garden wonderland, a grand old dame of a home which enjoyed a cameo appearance in “Driving Miss Daisy,” and many other surprising and delightful treasures that only history can create.

The tour committee invites you to join this fun and rewarding experience by volunteering to help with the planning and festivities, by becoming a sponsor, or by serving as a docent on tour weekend.

Σ To volunteer on the tour committee, please contact Becky Evans at (404) 378-5288 or beckevans@minidspiring.com

Σ To become a sponsor, please contact Lisa Hill at (404) 377-4741 or lileu@bellsouth.net

Σ To serve as a docent during tour weekend and receive a free ticket to the tour, contact Nan Brinson at (404) 373-6071 or nanbrinson@printmail.com

Or, just mark your calendar and plan to spend a spring weekend discovering the delightful treasures of Druid Hills.

For more information, please contact by e-mail tour@druidhills.org or visit the web-site www.druidhills.org.

Look for more information and exciting previews in the spring edition of The Druid Hills News!

If you would like to learn more about the 2007 DHCA Tour of Homes, or volunteer to help plan the tour, we would love to hear from you. We have a wonderful mix of experienced leaders and “new blood” on our 2007 planning team, and we welcome your energy and ideas!

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Not yet a member of DHCA? Use the form below and join today!
Join online at www.druidhills.org/join/memberform.htm

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

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Σ Please feel free to contact me for help

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A source for officers and contact info, bylaws, DHCA board minutes, membership form, e-lert signup, Druid Hills News, historic guidelines, etc.

Try it out!

www.druidhills.org

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Winter 2006

The Druid Hills News
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