A History of Emory Village in Druid Hills: Part One
By J.J. Williams

In 1821, the area now known as Druid Hills was surrendered to the Georgia government by Native American inhabitants, who moved further north. The land was surveyed into land lots of 202.5 acres. In a land lottery, Georgians could draw for the new lots. John Gerdine Johnson won or amassed most of the land between present day streets of Ponce de Leon, Briarcliff, North Decatur and Lalawatter.

During the Civil War, Cox's Division of the Federal Army Corp camped along the bottom lands of Peavine Creek in 1864. The site of the encampment included part of the current Golf Course (then the Paden Farm) and what is now the CVS parking lot. On July 20 of 1864, General Sherman himself rode past this site and up the bottom lands of Peavine Creek in 1864. The site of the encampment included part of the current Golf Course (then the Paden Farm) and what is now the CVS parking lot.

Forrest Adair sold more lots, most close to or adjacent to the golf course. All extended from Ponce de Leon north to North Decatur Road. In 1912, George and joined the new Golf Club. The total acreage of the course was over 100 acres and purchased additional land for the course from Col. Z.D. Harrison (Harrison later golf course had been part of the original Druid Hills plan. The Druid Hills Company owned by the Druid Hills Company. A club house and charter was granted in May of 1913, and at that time, the property now known as the Druid Hills Golf Club. Sixty prominent Atlantans signed the petition, including the officers of the Druid Hills Company, Asa Candler, Forrest Adair and George Adair. The Druid Hills Golf Club was owned by the Druid Hills Company. A club house and charter was granted in May of 1913, and at that time, the property now known as the Druid Hills Golf Club. Sixty prominent Atlantans signed the petition, including the officers of the Druid Hills Company, Asa Candler, Forrest Adair and George Adair. The charter was granted in May of 1913, and at that time, the property now known as the Druid Hills Golf Course was owned by the Druid Hills Company. A club house and golf course had been part of the original Druid Hills plan. The Druid Hills Company purchased additional land for the course from Col. Z.D. Harrison (Harrison later joined the new Golf Club). The total acreage of the course was over 100 acres and extended from Ponce de Leon north to North Decatur Road. In 1912, George and Forrest Adair sold more lots, most close to or adjacent to the golf course. All purchasers except one became members of the golf club. The course was expected to be open for play by the summer of 1913.

THE DRUID HILLS NEWS
Volume 28, Number 1
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by Claudia Keenan
Tour Home Drawings by Rod Pittman

The Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens, established in 1968, celebrates the evocative landscape and architecture of a neighborhood whose design was first envisioned in 1893. The original, undulating 1,492 acres of Druid Hills – meadows, forest, and scrub, crisscrossed by streams and populated by deer, possum, and other animals – were amassed by Atlanta entrepreneur Joel Hurt. He invited the eminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to survey the terrain and create a plan for a residential neighborhood featuring parks and winding roads. After 1908, when Hurt sold the property to the Druid Hills Corporation led by Coca-Cola founder Asa G. Candler, the area began to develop quickly according to the design now shepherded by The Olmsted Brothers’ Firm.

The 2014 Tour draws the visitor’s attention to homes on three streets that are among the oldest in Druid Hills. With two exceptions, however – Callanwolde, built in 1920 and 965 Springdale, built in 1918 – all of the houses were constructed between 1920 and 1930 during a period of intensified residential construction nationwide. The diversity of architectural elements is exceptional, drawing on English Tudor, Italian Renaissance, Federal, cottage and other styles. All have been updated through renovation or restoration.

Special tour-related events include the Callanwolde Pottery & Artist Market, the Lullwater Garden Club’s Annual Plant Sale at 394 Springdale Road, and Bar Talks in Emory Village (see schedule on page 4). The Tour Committee encourages visitors to visit Emory Village, revitalized with a new streetscape, new restaurants and shops, for lunch and at the end of the day.

1198 Oakdale Road NE
Kelley Moore & Scott Godfrey

Three terraces, 25 camellia bushes, and a rustic brick wall surround this 1920 shingled cottage, which the owners began to renovate and restore in 2011. They were immediately smitten with the sunburst windows and triple-arched entrance. Original features include crystal and brass knobs, a multitude of pocket doors, and a wedding cake chandelier that casts light on a marble and steel dining table built by the owner. The fully paneled library, part of a 1935 addition designed by Atlanta architects Philip Schutze and Rudolph Adler, showcases the family’s collection of Southern crafts including pottery and antique sea grass baskets.

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In Memory of Druid Hills News Editor
Mary Angela Whyte

By Jennifer J. Richardson

Mary Angela Whyte, who was editor of the Druid Hills News for 20 years, had no succession plan. It wasn’t negligence; it’s just that she wasn’t planning on leaving her beloved paper any time soon. The Druid Hills News was a large part of her life—a volunteer position she took as seriously as if she were CEO of a Fortune 500 Corporation. Fate had other plans, and when MA, as I called her, died unexpectedly of a stroke last September, a few of us were left picking up the pieces of what had been an important part of her life. It was like flying blind or trying to swim laps in a muddy lake. MA and I worked on this paper together for ten years, and without her guidance I felt lost, sad, overwhelmed, inadequate, and paralyzed. But I also felt hopeful as colleagues and I tried to figure out what to do—what direction would the paper go now that its mother hen was gone? Would a print edition remain? Would it go online only?

And what about the tour of homes? A lot of what others wrote in this community was edited by MA—including all the articles for the paper and materials for the tour. Who would take on that role? As DHCA President Justin Crizt noted, we couldn’t just stop the print paper—it went out to 4,000 or more homes and this spring’s issue would be the tour issue. Not having a print issue for the tour would be unthinkable. And it would also be disrespectful to MA.

I’ve pondered in these last few months why one woman spent so much of her valuable time on a community newspaper. (As well as her other great loves: her family, Saint Thomas More Catholic Church, being a Master Gardener, and her teaching at DeVry University.) None of us will ever know all the reasons, but I do think the following considerations were important to MA:

* She loved Druid Hills and thought it was the greatest place on earth to live.
* She believed that good communication in a neighborhood is important. Issues, traditions, politics, development, interesting people in the community, rehabilitation of green spaces, gardening, our schools, our book clubs, opinions, organizations, local businesses, advertisers, and the good, bad and ugly in Druid Hills were all important to her and were represented in each edition of the paper. She especially loved the Fourth of July Parade, and seeing neighborhood youngsters receive Garden Club, school, or Eagle Scout awards.
* She believed in giving back to people and places that mattered to her.
* She always learned something new from every article submitted to the paper.
* She never stopped being a teacher and mentor, always nudging us toward excellence and perfection.
* Despite hardship, her public attitude was one of cheerfulness, encouragement, hope, and optimism.

This is a difficult article to write, because it’s an ending and a beginning. MA is gone, and now we go on with the journey without her. I know we will probably not see a volunteer like MA again. The paper may never be as excellent as it was during her tenure, though we will try. I will miss her, think of her with fondness, and recall all the wonderful stories she told the rest of my life. And so with great sadness, we say goodbye to MA with this, the first Druid Hills News issue without her. She loved Druid Hills News without her, assured that her influence on this community through the paper will be preserved in back issues and in memories. With enthusiasm and gratitude, I offer this first Druid Hills News issue on her behalf. May you be greeted in heaven with Cead mile failte.

From Jennie Richardson, Claudia Keenan and Julie Edwards—three of your staff
Emory University Update

Emory Point Phase Two Underway

Last fall, ground was broken on the site of the Emory Inn for Phase Two of Emory Point, which is expected to be completed by spring 2015. It will be quite similar in design to Phase One but about half the size. The new construction will feature approximately 300 additional units of apartments and 40,000 square feet of additional retail space, according to Daniel Payne, Senior Director of Operations, Emory University. Cousins Properties is constructing and managing Emory Point in conjunction with Gables Residential. The first phase of Emory Point opened in 2012. Today, about 90 percent of the retail space and all of the residential units are leased, the vast majority to people who work or study at the CDC or Emory.

Emory University Hospital Emergency Department Renovations

A new design and major renovations to Emory University Hospital’s Emergency Department (ED) on Clifton Road have nearly doubled the size of the ED (9,900 to 18,300 square feet), while the number of treatment spaces has increased from 21 to 34 beds. The new standard ED treatment room has also been enlarged. The renovation, which took 18 months to complete, occurred while emergency care was still continued and provided around the clock at Emory University Hospital. Construction took place in phases so that emergency services could be available at all times to those who came in for treatment.

Emory Continuing Education Relocates Offices and Classrooms

This spring, Emory Continuing Education (ECE) will relocate its administrative offices and begin to offer classes in a new location. For more than 60 years, ECE has served as Emory’s noncredit division, educating not only Emory faculty, students and staff, but also individuals from throughout metro Atlanta and beyond. In late December, the ECE staff began the process of moving out of its former home in Building B on the Briarcliff Property — a location which had provided administrative and classroom space for the program since 2000.

ECE classes will resume in new quarters on the ground floor of 12 Executive Park Drive NE, at the North Druid Hills Road exit off I-85. Although some classes will still be offered at the ECE’s Alpharetta, the new site provides both much-needed office space and updated classrooms, and brings most of the classes under one roof at Executive Park.

In addition to courses in professional development and personal enrichment, ECE classes will resume in new quarters on the ground floor of 12 Executive

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Touring the Twittens
By Lauretta Miller

Twittens? Twittings? Maids’ Walks? Whatever you call them, these paved pedestrian paths add to the charm of Druid Hills. If you jog, walk your dog or just ramble along the streets, you have certainly discovered some of the pleasant little walkways that run between the muds in our neighborhood.

Twittens to the Trolley
Three walkways extend from Oakdale Road through Oxford to Springdale, spaced at intervals from the Byway to North Decatur Road. The original plans for this area of Druid Hills (“plans”) include these walkways. The walkways form a square and are clearly separated from house lots.

Why were the walkways built? They were not allways designed for deliveries, and they are not customary rights-of-way. As a patron of the number six MARTA bus, I tripped onto the real purpose of these walkways.

In the early years of this century, prosperous families bought their first cars. Until after World War II, most families had only one car. The family car was often used for shopping, visiting, and Sunday drives rather than commuting. People took the streetcar (later the trolley) to work and school. Offices, banks, department stores, and other amenities were in downtown Atlanta. It may have been a long trip by today’s standards, but streetcars made Druid Hills an “accessible suburb.”

Wooden streetcars ran on rails from the Emory area downtown by way of Briarcliff Road, The Byway, and Oxford Road. The streetcar turned around on Oxford Road right in front of Horton’s. (Horton’s was a store on Oxford Road from the new Emory Bookstore. It sold virtually everything!) After World War II, the rails were ripped up. Streetcars gave way to trackless trolleys with overhead wires and streets were widened for cars.

The three walkways were designed to give commuters easy access to Springdale or Oakdale at three roughly equidistant points between the Byway and North Decatur. The trolley stops were right at two of the walkways on either side of Oxford.

The number 6 Emory bus went down North Decatur, left on Oxford, right on the Byway, left on Briarcliff, and right on North Avenue, and then left on what was then Forrest Avenue – named for the notorious Klanman Nathan Bedford Forrest; now named Ralph McGill Blvd. From there it traveled into town, going left on Peachtree and down to Five Points where it turned around.

Twittens go to College
Additional paved walkways connect streets on the north side of Emory Road. These also appear to have been included in early plans. They run between Oxford, Cornell, and Emory Roads (across the intersection of Springdale and Harvard).

Frederick Law Olmsted’s original Druid Hills design called for common fields. For economic reasons, smaller lots and houses became the norm in later phases of development. Walkways provided common rights-of-way without taking up a lot of space.

A Twitten by Any Other Name
When I first moved to Druid Hills, I was told that these walkways were called “maids’ walks.” However, several longtime residents say this is a recent appellation.

People who went to school on the trolley may still use the term “trolley walks.” Other names include “Little Byway,” “Little Oxford,” “Little Druid Byway,” “little #1, #2, and #3” (#1 being the closest to the “big” Byway) for the three walkways to the south of North Decatur Road.

And what of the term “twitten”? “Twitten” is a Sussex variation of “twitting” — or but of course you knew that! The English term “twitting” (in this context) denotes a narrow path or passage between walls or hedges. The definition seems to fit here.

Twitten Preservation
An inquiry to DeKalb County’s Development and Public Works Departments brought out some interesting points on twitten maintenance. (You'd better say “public walkway” if you request maintenance.) A direct question about county responsibility for walkway maintenance yielded an unequivocal “yes and no.”

To expand on this, the county will do repairs and heavy cleaning on a paved walk if:

• the area’s original plan included it
• residents have been using it regularly (this is a bit vague)
• the county has been maintaining it over a period of years

County workers do not routinely inspect and clean up any walkways. If you find a twitten with broken pavement, covered with debris, or blocked by fallen limbs, call the county (see below). An inspector will do an on-site survey and write up a work order. Be forewarned that these jobs might be low priority. It could be months before you see a road crew at work. Where the Public Works Department has no records of past maintenance, budget constraints might make future maintenance “iffy.”

Minor cleanups have usually been done by residents of property abutting the twittens and other citizens who use them.

It occurred to me whilst typing this that I walked twittens for the five years I was a student at Druid Hills High School. I grew up in Emory Grove where we had little paths from the paved streets to common space behind the houses. The common nearest me was a picnic pavilion and rock grill set in the woods, while the one nearest the high school was a large recreation field where the band practiced for half-time football shows. Children used what we called the “band field” for baseball and other games. Now I wonder if these features were built in to mimic the twittens in Olmsted’s original design for Druid Hills or if the developers of the Emory Grove area thought of these features on their own.

Today, we’re grateful for the twittens, even if we never take the trolley. They let us walk through many parts of Druid Hills without traffic noise. Spring is a lovely time to stroll through the twittens. You can catch a glimpse of a blooming garden, a fresh green lawn, a gazebo, a swing, or a child’s playground. Daffodils and azaleas pop up along the path. Stone walls and wood fences will remind you of country lanes.

Note: This story first appeared in the spring 1991 issue of the Druid Hills News. The original article by Lauretta Miller was augmented by Jennifer Richardson for this issue.

To request repairs, removal of trash or cleaning, contact the DeKalb County Department of Public Works, Roads and Drainage, at (770) 414-6199.

Tour Bar Talks in Emory Village

• Frank G. Neely of Frank G. Neely Design Associates will discuss historic residential architecture renovation, and reinvention.

• Eric King and Holly Brooks of King Landscaping invite you to bring pictures of your own yard (preferably JPG on a thumb drive) and will choose examples for discussion.

• Larry Bosarge of Southern Outdoor Construction & Design will explain the significance of masonry maintenance in new and historic restoration projects. He specializes in highly detailed and custom hardscapes.

Tour Bar Talks are on Monday, May 4, 4:30 p.m. at Saba.

#1, #2, and #3 (‘#1 being the closest to the “big” Byway)

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A topographic map is a two-dimensional way of visualizing the three-dimensional terrain depicted on the map. In other words, by learning to read a topo map, you can determine from a flat piece of paper what to expect while you're walking around in the area shown by the map. The heights of various areas and their steepness or flatness; nearby roads, buildings, and water sources: these are just a few of the things you can learn from a topo map. Many people find maps to be daunting. However, it is relatively easy to learn how to use one. The brilliant landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed our neighborhood and the Linear Park, relied heavily on maps in his work.

Perhaps the most important term to learn is contour line. Contour lines are circular or meandering lines on your topo map and, if depicting terrain, are usually in red. A number there will tell you how far above sea level the summit is.

Colors are important. Blue represents water—a spring, river, small creek or stream is indicated by a blue line. Larger bodies of water such as lakes, swamps, and spring, river, small creek or stream is indicated by a blue line with the number 1011, it means that the corresponding point on the earth is 1011 feet above sea level. Contour lines form "v" shapes in valleys or along stream beds. The point of the "v" points uphill.

Colors are important. Blue represents water—a spring, river, small creek or stream is indicated by a blue line. Larger bodies of water such as lakes, swamps, and spring, river, small creek or stream is indicated by a blue line. Larger bodies of water such as lakes, swamps, and spring, river, small creek or stream is indicated by a blue line. Larger bodies of water such as lakes, swamps, and spring, river, small creek or stream is indicated by a blue line. Larger bodies of water such as lakes, swamps, and spring, river, small creek or stream is indicated by a blue line.

Contour lines form "v" shapes in valleys or along stream beds. The point of the "v" points uphill. A contour line that forms a circle indicates the top of a mountain or high point. A number there will tell you how far above sea level the summit is.

The scale of the map, which can be found at the bottom of the map, usually appears as the number one followed by a colon and a much larger number such as 24,000:1. In this case, it would mean that one inch on the map represents 24,000 inches on the ground. Trails and paths are clearly marked on topo maps, including names if there is one. A map of Springer Mountain, Georgia, would clearly show the Appalachian Trail starting at the top of the mountain and meandering down the north side. As illustrated above, one inch on this trail would be around 2,000 feet or a little less than one half mile.

How and why did Frederick Law Olmsted use topographic maps to design the Linear Park and Druid Hills? As a practice, he always examined the “lay of the land” as part of his landscaping design process. For example, he would not have wanted to site a park or house in a swampy area, on a steep hillside or with a creek running through the middle of the property.

Olmsted also relied on topo maps for siting important buildings and homes on the highest points in the area. The maps showed him where to plat roadways so that they are parallel and not perpendicular to contour lines. By following contour lines and ridge shoulders, Olmsted avoided placing roads that went straight up or down in steep areas which would increase erosion and create difficulty and danger for the automobiles of the early 1900s (and certainly horse-drawn wagons). In the absence of erosion, roads — especially dirt roads — tend to last much longer without having to be graded; amended with crushed rock, or repaved.

Think of building a sand mountain at the beach. Now, take one finger or a stick and make a “roadway” going straight down the sand mountain. Then, pour a cup of water on the top. What happens to the water? It goes directly down the indentation! If you pour enough water on the top, your road will soon be eroded and pock-marked. Now recreate your sand mountain. Starting at the top, draw a circular line around the mountain, going down just a bit each time you go around, until you reach the base. Try the cup of water again and you’ll see a much different picture of water run-off.

The roadways in Druid Hills are curving and meandering. That’s because they follow contour lines or the natural terrain of the area. Contrast winding Ponce de Leon Avenue through Druid Hills with straight-as-an-arrow Ponce de Leon west of Moreland/Briarcliff. OLPA has installed trails in all segments of the Linear Park. These are designed to avoid the erosion and maintenance problems illustrated above. Suppose, however, that you wish to take a stroll in a National Forest that does not have trails. You can use a topographic map to find the best places to walk; places that are not too steep or cut by deep streams; even nearby drinking water sources or points of interest such as a pioneer cemetery or the ruins of a stagecoach inn.

Topographic maps may appear confusing at first. But go ahead and buy one. Try it out in Druid Hills using the basic points above. You’ll not only begin to think like Mr. Olmsted; you’ll discover some interesting terrain in your own neighborhood. Topographic maps are available from the U.S. Geological Survey.
815 Oakdale Road NE
Katie & Sedgie Newsom
The dingy brick façade briefly discouraged the owners from purchasing this 1924 Mediterranean Revival home, but the exterior has been sandblasted back to soft yellow. Wandering around the backyard, they were delighted to stumble on the original iron Juliet balconies. By moving the staircase, the architect was able to enlarge the house with a new kitchen, family room, and terrace. From the front door, a long view opens through a series of archways into rooms that are decorated in hues of pink and green. Working with a decorator, the owners mixed traditional and contemporary furnishings to create color contrasts and harmony.

797 Springdale Road NE
Ann D. Critz
By the time this English Country-style Tudor home was built in 1921, several houses had occupied the ridge across the street for more than a decade. And in 1976, when the Drs. Critz moved in with their young family, some of those homes were in serious decline. Today, Druid Hills is flourishing and the house continues to reflect the homeowner’s passions inside and out. The vivid, evolving landscape features white and black gardens, blue hydrangeas, an outdoor fireplace, and hideaways where numerous grandchildren play. Branching off from the kitchen, which is the center of family life, the library, living room, and dining room are distinguished by a significant collection of Chinese export porcelain and antique rugs, as well as American Federal-style furniture.

965 Springdale Road NE
Gloria & Jim Boone
The porte cochere and intricately bordered floors of this Tudor style home are new. Yet the original staircase and rooms that face the street evoke 1918, the year the house was built. Working closely with architectural designer Frank Neely, the owners spent two years rebuilding and renovating the original space and adding complementary living areas to the rear of the home. Just before moving into their home in 2009, the couple was married before the arched brick fireplace. Today, Druid Hills is flourishing and the house continues to reflect the homeowner’s passions inside and out.

1209 Springdale Road NE
Susan Muller & Steve Budnick
Roses and peonies spill out of the gardens that grace the lawns of this 1920 Italian Renaissance-style home. The owners, who bought the house in 1996, invoke vision and love to characterize its renovation. The interior retains much of its original configuration in which every room leads into another. A gilt pier mirror dominates the entrance and the furnishings, décor, and palette, including American and English antiques, are classically understated. The extensive and carefully planned gardens which provide four seasons of interest were added by the owners, inspired by their time living in Charleston.

1236 Springdale Road NE
Claudia & Jeffrey Keenan
An unassuming white cottage perched on the crest of a broad green lawn, this house opens expansively into a multitude of light-filled rooms. Built in the late 1920s, and occupied during various years by a Sears Roebuck executive and an Emory University professor, it was renovated with additions, including a second floor, in 2006. The present owners have filled it with a family collection of early American antiques and modern furnishings that resonate with mid-century and Shaker styles. A pool and outdoor room with a wood-burning fireplace were completed in 2013. The whimsical exterior arch is original.

1137 Briarcliff Road NE
Heather Renfroe Johnson & Franklin Johnson
When this classic American Foursquare was built in 1930, it occupied a quiet corner along then tranquil Briarcliff Road. Today, the brick house has been partly restored by homeowners who enlisted the help of Property Brothers of the popular HGTV show. The six-week renovation involved five first-floor rooms and preserved the staircase, arches, crown moldings, and unusual cast concrete mantel. Newly decorated in neutral tones, the home features a massive wooden dining room table and coffee table that were hand-crafted by the homeowner. Visitors may view a video of the renovation.
Come One and All to Callanwolde!

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center is an essential institution in the Druid Hills community, a center for visual, literary, and performing arts education. Hundreds of course offerings, summer camp, poetry readings, jazz concerts, and much more draw participants from the entire Atlanta metro area. Glimpsed from Briarcliff Road, the 27,000-square foot Tudor Revival mansion, built in 1920 for Charles Howard Candler, once was part of a 27-acre estate. The eldest son of Coca-Cola founder Asa Griggs Candler, Charles Howard served as president of the company from 1916-1923. He died in 1957.

Saved from destruction in 1971 in a campaign led by the Druid Hills Civic Association, the mansion exemplifies an architectural style typical of the post-World War I era with multiple façade gables and a parapet. Designed by Pittsburgh architect Henry Hornbostel, the original rooms feature stained glass, a Romanesque fireplace, an Aeolian pipe organ, and a Tiffany chandelier.

Callanwolde is one of the highlights of the tour this year. Be sure to stop and shop at the Artist & Pottery Market, visit the onsite coffee shop and café, and tour the mansion. The market will feature the work of potters, photographers, jewelers, sculptors, woodworkers, painters, weavers, glassworkers, and more. For more information please visit www.callanwolde.org. Callanwolde is located at 980 Briarcliff Road, Atlanta.

Tour Stop Map

Thank you to our 2014 Tour Friends

Suzanne & Charles Aloisio
Lori & Don Berthaume
Mary & David Bower
Doug Bremer & Viola Vaccarino
Krista Brewer & Gary Fluck
Carol & Aubrey Busch
Jane & William Cates
Dorothy & Charlie Chitwood
Rosalie Cooper
Agnes DeBea
Patricia & Jeffrey Elam
Tammie Ellerbe
Becky & David Evans
Kathleen & Ron Everett
The Forde Family
Susan & Stephen Forte
Stacy & Tommy Gambrell
Paige & Bruce Harvey
Linda & Preston Herren
Marguerite Ingram
Nancy & Douglas James
Emily Katt
Jo Koch
Mary & Elliott Kyle
Cleo & Chris Larsen
Susan Gaunt & Kirk Larson
Faith & Howard Levy
Lorraine Lois
Dell & Bruce MacGregor
Betsy & Chuck Marvin
Darlene Mashman
Mary & Dan McCaughney
Pam Woodley & Perry Mitchell
Jean & Joe Moore
Eugene Nicholson
Mary Margaret Oliver
Mary Oxier
Alex Pearson
Carolyn & Bob Riondan
Deneta & Bryan Sells
Gayle & Richard Shuey
Carol Skelh & Don Kennaugh
Donna Jones & Mike St. Louis
Sandra J. Still
Kim & Scott Stobbe
Cathy & Arthur Vandenberg
Barbara Vogel
Fentress & Jim Waits
Anne Wallace & Henry Turner
Lauren & David Wattenmaker
Ellen & John Yates

2014 Tour Committee
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Ryan Graham – Chair
Phil Brane – Interactive Communications
Richard Burgess – House Management
Becky Evans – Friends & Patrons
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Frances Finegan – Scrapbooks
Emily Frater – Bar Talks
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Tina Ann Price – Group Recruitment
Kelli Taylor – Tickets
Clarke Weeks – Artist Market
Yvette Weatherly – Print Distribution
Suzanne White – Revenue
Thomas Winn – Operations
We Want Your News!

Do you have something special to share about your Druid Hills attendance zone school? Is there something happening over the summer at your school that you would like to share with the Druid Hills Community? E-mail that special school camp, event or happening to bdancsd@gmail.com and we will be happy to highlight your school in the coming issue.

Ben Franklin Academy
Way to Go! The Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) community is proud to have a National Merit Finalist attending school at Ben Franklin Academy; being a Finalist holds the distinction of being one of the top students in country! Congratulations to Mary-Kate Vian on her achievement as a National Merit Finalist! Support Ben Franklin Academy – It's such a wonderful thing when a student is able to attend a top-notch school that may have otherwise been out of reach. Contributing to the BFA Annual Fund helps these students, and the school. Consider making a gift to BFA today, or make your pledge and fulfill it by May 31, 2014. http://www.benfranklinacademy.org/support-BFA

Grady High School
Hats Off! Congratulations to Grady’s National Merit Finalists: Samuel Heller, Archer Kinnane, Tucker Lancaster, Raulston “Tiger” Li, Quinn Mulholland, and Zoe Schindler!

Paideia School
Eight Paideia high school students were finalists in the national Photographers Forum’s Best of High School and College Photography contest. Their work will appear in the book, “Best of 2014” that will be released this summer.

The work of five Paideia students was selected for the Atlanta High School Art Exhibition on display during the Dogwood Festival at Piedmont Park April 11-13.

The Paideia Junior High Academic Bowl team will compete in the NAQT National Championships in Atlanta in May. The Paideia A Team won a regional qualifying tournament with a 10-0 record.

The Paideia high school science Olympiad team will compete in the state tournament. The team tied for first in the region tournament in Macon on Feb. 22.

The Paideia Mock Trial team placed third in the Decatur Regional Mock Trial competition. The team won all three rounds of the DeKalb-Gwinnett District Championships on Saturday, Feb. 22, and will compete in the state championship in April.

Several Paideia students have been named to all-state music groups. Alexa Levy has been accepted into the All-State Concert Band. Two Paideia high school students, Anders Olsen and Avery Yang and one junior high student, Emma Lin, were named to the Georgia Music Educators All-State Orchestra.

Two Paideia seniors, Katharine Walls and Cole Sullivan, were selected for Atlanta Intown’s sixth annual “20 Under 20” which recognizes students from public schools, private schools and colleges under the age of 20 for their efforts to give back to their community in a significant way. Cole was nominated for his more than 200 volunteer hours participating in politics as an intern for his state representative Par Gandher. Katharine was recognized for her volunteer work at Zoo Atlanta, with over 900 hours as an exhibit interpreter and zookeeper’s assistant.

Junior, John Michael Boswell, represented Paideia and Georgia in the International Powers Showcases in Mumbai. John Michael won the underclass home run derby event and the overall championship in a hit-off. Community outreach is expected of the event’s participants. John Michael has chosen to raise money for a patient at the Good Samaritan Health Center in Atlanta.

Druid Hills Middle School
Congratulations, Dr. Schultz and the Druid Hills Middle School Orchestra! The 7th and 8th grade orchestras received Superior ratings at the Large Group Performance Evaluation Festival. The competition includes practiced and cold sight reading performances. Each grade level orchestra practiced three songs for two months with much attention given to exacting playing perfection. Three judges comment on the performances, assign ratings to a performance rubric and determine a final rating score for each performance group. The first part of the competition is intense but the sight reading portion is even more challenging as the performance group is presented with a brand new music to assimilate for 6 minutes; then, after a brief review with Dr. Schultz, they play it for the first and only time without stopping. Each orchestra’s overall rating was Superior – the highest rating achievable.

Recycle Your Shoes, Find Your Sole Mate! Druid Hills Middle School teamed with Girl Scout Troop 29410 for Shoebox Recycling. Shoes will be sent to people all over the globe who are in need of footwear.

Inman Middle School
Taste of Inman – April 5: 3. Hmm, something smells good! It must be Inman’s fundraising event which includes tasty dishes from more than 20 local restaurants. For more information, visit http://inmanmiddle.schoolart.org/pta-info/giving/

Fernbank Elementary School
Fernbank students competed and placed in the North Georgia Region and DeKalb County Georgia Chess Association’s Metro Atlanta State Qualifier Tournament.

Brick and Mortar – On February 19, the DeKalb County Board of Education presented a revised plan for the new Fernbank School. The new plan features an improved building line of sight from Heathon Park Drive, an underground storm detention system, earthen banks instead of retaining walls, a 100-foot wide tree buffer along Artwood Drive, and reduced parking spaces to accommodate 1500 cars.

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Chana’ Jackson, Asst. Principal for Instruction

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Dr. Keidra Taylor, Assistant Principal for Instruction

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Ms. Nancy Heitzenrater, Assistant Principal

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Yolonda C. Brown, Principal
Chante Blackwell, Asst. Principal

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(404) 577-3491 or see staff contact information detailed on the website http://www.paideiaschool.org

Paul Bianchi, Headmaster
Dorothy Craft Evans, Assistant Headmaster

The Ben Franklin Academy
1585 Clifton Rd
Atlanta, GA 30329
(404) 633-7404
http://www.benfranklinacademy.org/

Dr. Wood Smuthers, Headmaster

The Braves win a tough game in the series opener, 3-2. The Atlanta Braves take on the New York Mets in a crucial game for both teams.

Whales: Giants of the Deep
Make a bigger splash with tickets to the IMAX film Journey to the South Pacific.

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Dr. Wood Smuthers, Headmaster
Georgia Tech Students Complete Lullwater Conservation Garden Stream Restoration Study

Kim Storbeck for the Lullwater Garden Club

In spring of 2013, the Lullwater Garden Club (LGC) asked John Koon, Professor of the Practice in Environmental Engineering at Georgia Tech, to assist with two studies to support the Lullwater Conservation Garden Master Plan created by Spencer Tunnell in 2012. Assisted by several students, Professor Koon agreed to perform the studies and turned the project into a Spring Semester class in the Environmental Engineering School. He and four students presented their 288-page findings to the LGC Board and representatives of Tunnell and Tunnell Landscape Design in December of 2013. Their design report included recommendations for the following goals specified in the Master Plan:

- Install a six-inch granite curb around the Garden to control overland erosion,
- Redesign the storm drainage system to accommodate the new curb,
- Outline techniques for stream bank restoration and the prevention of further erosion.

The group had performed a flow analysis of the drainage basin surrounding the Conservation Garden. Additionally, they provided engineering guidance to complete the overall restoration of the Garden, including copies of all the permits required by local, state, and national organizations. Their analysis saved the LGC more than $20,000.

Don’t Leave a Scratch

By Jennifer J. Richardson

It’s on the Krog Street Bridge and the rail cars at Hulsey Yard in Cabbagetown. It’s regularly found on American Beech Trees. It’s on bridges and walls and the sides of buildings. It’s even in our State and National parks and on the signs, rocks and trail shelters of the Appalachian Trail. It’s in the Olmsted Linear Park. I’m speaking of graffiti—the word comes from nineteenth century Italian graffiato, which means scratched.

Humans seem to like to mark things with their name or symbols. Think of monogrammed towels, national flags, personalized stationary and initials carved in a tree. Some tagging is good; some is bad. Spray paint on the bridges of Deepdene, carving in the beech trees along Dellwood, and scratching in benches throughout the linear park is very bad. Not only does it detract from the outdoor experience that Frederick Law Olmsted envisioned, it also encourages others to add their mark. But the most serious consequence of graffiti in the Olmsted Linear Park is how much time, money and effort it takes to remove it. There are expensive chemicals that, with a bit of elbow grease, can remove tagging from signs and benches. Paint on granite bridges is much harder to remove. Some scratches on benches can be painted over but the mark still remains. Carving in a tree’s bark is forever.

As a long time lover of and volunteer for the Olmsted Linear Park, I have two requests of readers: don’t leave your mark; and report graffiti artists to 911 if you see them in action. While we call them “artists,” I prefer to call them vandals. They destroy something that many volunteers and donors of substantial amounts of money have worked hard to accomplish. As we say about the Appalachian Trail, “Don’t leave a trace.” That means don’t paint anything, don’t scratch anything, don’t drop trash, and don’t break off limbs or blooms. Leave the park as you found it—or even cleaner by picking up the trash of others—and don’t leave a trace of your passing there except in your memory.

We have this unbelievably beautiful linear park in our midst. As the shrubs and trees grow and thrive, the texture and pallet of the park changes weekly. In coming years, we’ll enjoy what the OLPA pioneers and their landscape architect saw in their mind’s eye as the park reaches maturity. When you scratch the park, you harm a place of serenity, inspiration, peace and natural beauty. Don’t leave a trace.

[Richardson is both an OLPA volunteer and a trail maintenance volunteer for the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club.]

This is the way the Olmsted Linear Park should look: pristine and unmarked by human graffiti. Photo by Jennie Richardson

Participating students Stephen Helmly, Christine Yi, Elizabeth Kornegay (project manager) and Luke Chambers

Druid Hills defines “neighborhood” in the most gracious of ways. Home, history, and community combine in this lush enclave of gorgeous parks and gardens, beautiful architecture, and acclaimed public and private schools. One of the last commissions designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Druid Hills embraces Emory Village, University, Hospital, and more. We love living and working here. And we hope you’ll call us when you’re considering buying or selling. More than 35 years of experience attest to our expertise. We’re committed. We care. Welcome home... to Druid Hills.

www.parisandassociates.com
Niki Paris and Kevin Steward
404.377.2869

Recently Sold

1039 Springdale Rd 1122 Springdale Rd
1466 N Decatur Rd 1714 Coventry Pl
1377 Cornell Rd 1284 Oakdale Rd
841 Lullwater Park Ln 848 Springdale Rd
2115 Ponce De Leon Ave 1099/1073 Woodbridge Hollow
1800 Oxford Rd 2075 Mason Mill Rd

Paris & Associates Realty

This is the way the Olmsted Linear Park should look: pristine and unmarked by human graffiti. Photo by Jennie Richardson

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[Richardson is both an OLPA volunteer and a trail maintenance volunteer for the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club.]
Rewilding in the City
By Judy Keenan

I recently heard a TED Talk (Technology, Entertainment and Design) about rewilding, which is similar to restoration but involves more than simply restoring a habitat. Rewilding entails re-establishing an extinct (at least to a given region) species. The TED speaker, George Monbiot, cited the re-introduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park as an excellent example of rewilding. Before the wolves re-populated, the park habitat was plagued by an overpopulation of hungry deer. Once the wolves returned, the deer stopped congregating in the valleys, where they are more vulnerable, and moved to the ridges. Consequently, vegetation flourished once more along with various species whose survival depended on those plants. By restoring one natural species—wolves—that humans had killed off, an entire habitat came back into equilibrium.

Although I haven’t re-introduced wolves to my backyard, I have restored many native plant species. In turn, these plants have helped repopulate our own little piece of land. During the past few years, we witnessed the re-appearance of garter snakes (of which I am a fan), skunks, possums, frogs, box turtles, lizards, and salamanders on our metro Atlanta property. We also welcomed more bird species than I can readily count, including owls and several species of hawks. For a while, we even had a fox who liked our backyard, which helped keep those squirrels in check.

The re-introduction of predatory species has not been welcomed by everyone. Cattle ranchers understandably don’t want their stocks shorted by wolves. That said, can the planet afford for us to short-circuit her system of checks and balances? Locally, there is an outcry against the urban coyotes that regularly prowl the area and kill the occasional cat or small dog along with the over-population of squirrels, rats, and other “undesirables.” Since coyotes didn’t come east until the highway system was built, I find it hard to argue that they are a native predator. Nevertheless, we need more large predators to keep the rodent population in check and I guess I would prefer a coyote over a panther or black bear prowling around my back yard.

The way I see it, we humans have taken over the world. We must learn to share with our planet-mates if we hope to keep our planet habitable for our own species. In part, my love of wildlife leads me to believe that we need to continue to create space for other species, even the ones that scare us. But I also believe it’s a matter of survival for all species and the entire ecosystem.

Note: To listen to the TED talk, visit http://www.ted.com/talks/george_monbiot_for_more_wonder_rewild_the_world.html

History of Emory Village - Part One...continued from page 1

Emory University

In 1915, Emory College re-located to Atlanta from its original Oxford, Georgia campus and was re-chartered as Emory University. Asa Candler was instrumental in bringing the college to Atlanta, donating 75 acres of land at the corner of North Decatur and Clifton Roads from the Druid Hills Land Company. Candler also donated one million dollars to establish the university. Subsequent gifts of land, inspired by the Candlers, brought the University’s land holdings to more than 400 acres by 1957. In 1923, The Druid Hills Company donated more land to Emory. The land was located at the corner of Oxford Road and North Decatur Road.

The Stores

As Emory University grew, and in response to the new inhabitants of Druid Hills, a shopping area known first as “The Stores” and later as “The Village” or “Emory Village” was built. The first shops were built on the land donated to Emory, and presumably sold by Emory to individual shop owners. The roads around the stores were not paved until the mid-1920s and before “The Stores” came into being, the nearest market was a small country store located on the left side of Clifton Road between the railroad bridge and Gatewood Drive. The streetcar line came to the first crossing of North Decatur Road and Oxford Road, and was later extended to the log cabin trolley stop at the foot of campus. The log cabin was small and a shelter for persons awaiting the trolley. It was located near the intersection of Peavine Creek Bridge and Oxford Road. Part Two of Emory Village will include a history of the stores that were located there.

As at the DHCA Annual Meeting at Fernbank, Renie Faulkenberry (right) shows Betsy Marvin maps of the Lullwater Conservation Garden.

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Richard Sams Ignites the Past

By Claudia Keenan

In the living room of his boyhood home on N. Decatur Road, Richard Sams sits under a portrait of his parents who married and moved into the house soon after it was built in 1923. Yet his family extended its neighborhood roots even further back to before the Civil War. In 2006, Richard was inspired to write historically about his great-grandmother Catherine Houston. She was home alone at her plantation near the corner of Clairmont and N. Decatur Roads when General Sherman army’s advanced on Atlanta in July 1864. His novel, Atlanta is Ours, The Plot to Capture Sherman, is a work of fiction based on her story, and the area’s history as well.*

At the suggestion of her husband Washington Jackson Houston, who worked for the Western & Atlantic Railroad, the quick-witted Mrs. Houston confided to the Yankees that she was married to a Mason. For this reason the plantation was turned into a hospital rather than destroyed. There, Catherine Houston ministered to the wounded. Today, within walking distance of her now-vanished plantation home, just before the railroad overpass on Clairmont Road, a historical marker designates the site of Sherman’s headquarters on July 19, 1864.

Fascinated by the Civil War since childhood, Dr. Sams devised the plot of the book after coming across an original copy of the August 1864 issue of Harper’s Magazine in a Texas bookstore. Amazed to find an illustration of the war scene depicting Sherman’s presence so near to his great-grandparents’ plantation, he wondered what would have happened if Catherine Houston had been able to communicate to her husband the precise whereabouts of General Sherman. What if she had hatched a plot to capture Sherman? Atlanta is Ours tells that “what-if” story.

With Dr. Sams’ family entwined so deeply in the history of this area, it is not surprising to learn that Sams Crossing was named for his paternal great-grandfather, who came to live on Covington Road at Sycamore Drive in Decatur soon after the war ended. His ancestors also owned Houston Mill which first milled lumber, then later corn and also generated and delivered the first electricity to Decatur. His father – Augustine Sams – graduated from the School of Law at the University of Georgia in 1915 and married Eileen Dodd, literally the girl next door, on the very day that she graduated from Agnes Scott College.

During the early 1920s, the Sams residence was one of just four along the stretch of N. Decatur Road between Briarcliff Road and the entrance to Emory University. Bishop Arthur Moore, who presided at Glenn Memorial Church and was active in the movement to integrate the schools and other institutions after World War II, owned one of the homes. North Decatur Road, which has never been widened, was among the first paved roads in Druid Hills.

Although residential development increased through the 1930s, Richard Sams recalls how he and his friends roamed through the woods and fields that lay between Briarcliff and Springdale Roads. They camped and built forts, fished in Peavine Creek, explored Durand Falls and the Walter Candler estate (now the home of Emory’s president). They rode bicycles everywhere – though cautioned by their parents never to “ride double.” Dairies and cotton fields and pine and oak woods lay across the surrounding landscape during the 1950s.

Although he and his brothers attended a military school in Tennessee, Dr. Sams has maintained lifelong friendships with some of the children he met at Druid Hills Elementary School. Growing up in Druid Hills, he developed a strong interest in geology which he studied at Emory University. Later, he earned a PhD in geology at the University of Texas-Austin.

In remarks delivered to the Druid Hills High School Class of 1956, Richard Sams explained how General Sherman must have ridden on horseback from his Clairmont Road headquarters to the corner of N. Decatur and Briarcliff Roads where he headquartered for two additional nights before moving on to order the Siege of Atlanta on July 22, 1864. With such important history just around the corner from the house where Dr. Sams has spent so many years, it is not surprising that he perpetually finds the past alive in the present.

*Readers interested in purchasing Dr. Sams’ book should contact him at rhsams@comcast.net.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FAST FACTS


DeKalb County Druid Hills Historic District

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) hears applications for COAs and approves or denies based on the Druid Hills Historic District Guidelines. There are General Guidelines and there are Character Area Guidelines (certain specific areas). For more information, go to the Civic Association website’s links to downloadable application forms.

City of Atlanta Druid Hills Landmark District

The Urban Design Commission (UDC) hears applications for COAs and approves or denies based on the Druid Hills Landmark District regulations (Chapter 20B of the City zoning code). More information about the process is available on the UDC section of the City website (www.atlanta.gov), including downloadable application forms. This link may be found on the Civic Association website.

Note: A committee of neighbors reviews applications and comments to the HPC. Committee members are well versed in the Historic Preservation guidelines and are a helpful resource to help theInitiate move through the process. delkabhistoric@druidhills.org

Note: The Landmark District Preservation Committee (LDPC) is a committee of neighbors that comments on applications to the UDC after on-site meetings. Consider them a helpful resource.

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