Happy Holidays from the Druid Hills News!

Parks Alliance Formed
by Steve Elmore

The Parkwood Garden Club has formed an alliance with the South Fork Conservancy to help improve Parkwood Park. The South Fork Conservancy is coordinating efforts to restore, conserve, and protect the Peachtree Creek watershed and connect public green spaces along its many creeks with walking trails. Parkwood Park is the small 3-acre tract of land that begins at the intersection of Ponce de Leon Avenue and Scott Boulevard and flows between East and West Parkwood Roads along a tributary of Pravine creek. What used to simply be called "the ravine" is becoming a true woodland park, thanks to the hard work of the Parkwood neighborhood, under the leadership of Sheri Kennedy and Steve Elmore of the Parkwood Park Committee and the Board of Directors of the Parkwood Garden Club.

The first contributions under their new alliance are delivered by Parkwood Garden Club President Karna Candler (right) to Sally Sears as Steve Elmore (left) and George Ickes look on.

When asked why the South Fork Conservancy would be interested in an alliance to help Parkwood Park, Sally Sears, Executive Director of the South Fork Conservancy, said, "Parkwood Park is one of the pearls that we are stringing together into a long beautiful strand that is the Peachtree Creek watershed. The goals established for Parkwood Park are very much in line with the mission and goals of the South Fork Conservancy."

Druid Hills History
Plane Crashes Near Venetian Pools in 1942
by Jennifer J. Richardson

On September 23, 1942, two Army flyers were killed when a bomber crashed at 3:30 p.m. Five others on the plane narrowly escaped death by jumping before the plane hit the ground. The two victims had no time to escape before the bomber erupted in flames. Recall that as of December 7, 1941, and the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. was a participant in World War II.

The B-25 plane, housed at a Greenville, South Carolina, base, was making a routine training flight. At some point flying over the Druid Hills Golf Course, the plane was witnessed to be in obvious trouble, with one engine out and the other sputtering. At the Seaboard Airline railroad cut on Coventry Road, the plane bounced across the rails at the edge of the Chelsea Heights neighborhood and left part of its tail section where it first struck the earth there. It then smashed against the trees on the other side of the rail tracks, shearing off limbs and tree tops for another 300 yards until it climbed an eight-foot embankment before reaching the valley in back of Venetian Pools. There, it crashed into a one-room shack and burned in an open field behind the pools. The noise of the crash and explosions was heard all over Druid Hills, Emory, and Decatur. Many people thought it was a train wreck. Ambulances and fire trucks from Atlanta and Decatur rushed to the site of the burning plane. Once there, it was determined that the pilot and a passenger were dead at the scene, and five passengers, another pilot, a co-pilot, a navigator, an engineer, and a bombadier, were injured but alive after they bailed from the plane. The fire soon expanded from the burning wreckage to nearby grass and underbrush. The five survivors of the crash took fire equipment and helped Atlanta and Decatur firefighters extinguish the flames. Upon impact, the engine of the bomber was thrown more than 50 feet away from the plane itself.

The noise of the crash and the fire attracted spectators from nearby neighborhoods. Officials from Atlanta, DeKalb County, and Decatur, and Army and Navy personnel quickly placed guards around the wreckage to keep away the curious. The B-25 plane, housed at a Greenville, South Carolina, base, was making a routine training flight. At some point flying over the Druid Hills Golf Course, the plane was witnessed to be in obvious trouble, with one engine out and the other sputtering. At the Seaboard Airline railroad cut on Coventry Road, the plane bounced across the rails at the edge of the Chelsea Heights neighborhood and left part of its tail section where it first struck the earth there. It then smashed against the trees on the other side of the rail tracks, shearing off limbs and tree tops for another 300 yards until it climbed an eight-foot embankment before reaching the valley in back of Venetian Pools. There, it crashed into a one-room shack and burned in an open field behind the pools. The noise of the crash and explosions was heard all over Druid Hills, Emory, and Decatur. Many people thought it was a train wreck. Ambulances and fire trucks from Atlanta and Decatur rushed to the site of the burning plane. Once there, it was determined that the pilot and a passenger were dead at the scene, and five passengers, another pilot, a co-pilot, a navigator, an engineer, and a bombadier, were injured but alive after they bailed from the plane. The fire soon expanded from the burning wreckage to nearby grass and underbrush. The five survivors of the crash took fire equipment and helped Atlanta and Decatur firefighters extinguish the flames. Upon impact, the engine of the bomber was thrown more than 50 feet away from the plane itself.

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Huge amounts of black smoke poured from the burning plane. The sound of the crash and the fire attracted spectators from nearby neighborhoods. Officials from Atlanta, DeKalb County, and Decatur, and Army and Navy personnel quickly placed guards around the wreckage to keep away the curious. Three Decatur High School seniors witnessed the crash from a very close perspective. Fred Amster, Scotty Candler, and Russell Whaley were searching the woods for scrap metal when they heard the sound of the crippled plane. They were standing approximately 200 yards away when the big bomber hit the ground, and they raced to the scene to try to assist the injured.

Bedros Sharian, whose family started Sharian Rugs in Decatur, was a student at Decatur High in 1942. He walked to the crash site but was kept well back from the plane. John Guess was also a student at Decatur and recalled the crash. Jim Van Buren and his brother went to the site and collected a piece of the plane as a souvenir. Joseph Bond, who lived on Clairmont, recalled the smell of the burning plane—a smell that has stayed with him all his life. Bill Harrington was riding his bicycle to Venetian Pools when the plane crashed. He had crossed the tracks and was heading down a dirt path to Venetian Pools when the plane suddenly appeared and he felt it would crash on top of him. He was terrified.

Much housing development and new streets have been added since the 1942 crash, but there are still extant landmarks from that era. Venetian Pools Community Association is still there, as is the railroad cut on Coventry. By examining a topographic map, a street map, and speaking to witnesses, I was able to come up with a ballpark estimate of where the plane ended up. There is an embankment and ravine behind and to the east of Venetian Pools (where the current condos are located) which was a field at the time of the crash. It's this general vicinity where the plane crashed and burned in 1942—though nothing remains of the plane itself.
Happy 80th Anniversary!

The contributing staff of the Druid Hills News wishes to Mary Angela Whyte, our fearless leader, for the past 20 years. Our fearless leader has competently edited 80 issues of the Druid Hills News!

Thank you, Mary Angela, for the thousands of volunteer hours you have selflessly given to ensure that the Druid Hills community receives a timely, well-rounded, and accurate newsletter each quarter. We hope you will continue your valued service to our community.

Important Numbers

- Police: 404-294-2000
- Animal Services—Stray Animals: 404-294-2996
- Animal Services—After Hours: 404-294-2519
- Board of Health—DeKalb: 404-294-3700
- Chamber of Commerce—DeKalb: 404-378-8000
- Code Enforcement: 770-747-9740
- DeKalb Community Relations (Police): 404-286-7955
- DeKalb Medical Center: 404-501-1000
- DeKalb Medical Center—Hillandale: 404-501-8000
- Elections: 404-298-4020
- Family & Children Service (DFACS): 404-370-5000
- Gov. Off. of Consumer Affairs: 404-656-3790
- Homeland Security/911: 770-216-4926
- Human & Community Affairs: 770-322-2950
- Keep DeKalb Beautiful: 404-371-2654
- Law Department: 404-371-3011
- MARTA-Complaint Line: 404-848-4800
- Mental Health Emergencies: 404-892-4646
- Neighborhood Watch: 404-286-7955
- Planning & Development: 404-371-2155
- Records (Police Information): 404-294-2912
- Recreation, Parks: 404-291-2451
- Roads, Drainage, Trees Down, Pot Holes: 404-297-3840
- After Hours: 404-294-2523
- Sanitation: 404-294-2990
- Sight Obstructions (Roads): 404-294-2941
- Sheriff’s Department: 404-294-8000
- Street Lights, Speed Humps: 470-592-4200
- Storm Water Management: 404-297-2570
- Tax Assessor’s Office: 404-371-2509
- Tax Commissioner (property tax): 404-208-8400
- Traffic Signal Malfunction: 404-297-3929
- Voter Registration: 404-298-4020
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- Women’s Resource Center: 404-688-8346
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The Druid Hills News is published in March, June, 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: 404-525-3422 (DHCA) www.druidhills.org/news/advertise.htm email: admin@druidhills.org

Subscribing to the DHCA Newsletter

Residents of Druid Hills receive the quarterly Druid Hills News by bulk mail. Former residents may still receive the News by subscribing. Here’s how:

2. Click the “subscribe today” button and complete the form.
3. Click “subscribe” button.

HELP WANTED

Two Druid Hills Civic Association Committees need volunteers!

Community and Lifestyle

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

To volunteer, please contact adminvp@druidhills.org.

Membership

• Welcome new DH residents
• Assist with administrative tasks
• Create new opportunities for residents to join DHCA
To volunteer, please contact Claudia Keenan at membership@dhca.org.

The DHCA is also looking for a Coordinator. To volunteer, please contact Mike Hellestein at 212-1855 or email admin@dhca.org.

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Houseplants for Health
by Judy Keenan

As the days grow shorter and we start spending more time indoors, it’s worth talking a little about indoor air quality. What does this have to do with gardening? In a word—houseplants. We all know they provide oxygen, but that’s just the beginning of what they can do for your home.

Houseplants are homes are much more energy efficient. We have double-pane windows, airtight seals on our doors and thick layers of insulation, all in the name of reducing our energy costs and keeping our homes toasty warm in the winter and cool in the summer. These are all good things for many reasons—reduced carbon footprint and reduced energy bills, for starters—but these energy efficiency measures don’t necessarily lead to the cleanest air in our homes. That’s where houseplants come in. Not only do they provide oxygen, they actually can clean the air.

Houseplants reduce VOCs (volatile organic compounds) in our homes. VOCs are compounds, such as formaldehyde, solvents, and paint, found in many items in your home that turn to gas at low temperatures. Although they are not extremely toxic, long-term exposure can lead to respiratory problems and immune effects. In addition to reducing VOCs, studies have shown that plant-filled rooms contain 50 to 60 percent fewer airborne molds and bacteria. If that doesn’t get your attention, then listen to this: Houseplants have been shown to reduce cold-related illnesses by up to 30 percent, mostly by naturally increasing humidity and decreasing dust.

Clearly, houseplants can benefit our physical health, but they also can aid our mental health. On a basic level, the mere act of taking care of other living things has positive effects on mental health. Plants in the classroom, for instance, have consistently led to improved academic performance across the curriculum. An Australian study has demonstrated that plants in the classroom have consistently led to improved academic performance across the curriculum. In office settings, plants have been shown to increase productivity by 12 percent. Cleaning the air, keeping us healthier and happier and making us perform better also saves us money, easily offsetting the cost of a few plants. And, if you’re like me, you’ll find that the decorating impact of houseplants helps to make a house more of a home without breaking the bank. Many houseplants, such as pachyandra and cast iron plant, are easy for even the blackest of thumbed gardeners to keep alive (so long as you don’t forget to water occasionally). Wish you knew more about your plants, be sure to check what kind of light and moisture they like. Then fill in some empty corners and window sills and begin to breathe with them, knowing your home is better because of it.

President’s Column
by Bruce MacGregor

FIVE TO TWO

On November 13, the DeKalb Board of Commissioners overrode the objections of both commissioners representing Druid Hills, in order to overturn a Historic Preservation Commission denial of a proposal for the Nunan-Buckler property on Clifton Road. This was the first time ever that the other Commissioners have voted against Commissioners Rader and Gannon, against the nearby neighbors (who submitted a petition opposing the proposal), against the Friends of Bubanuck Park, and against the DHCA, on an appeal from the Historic Preservation Commission. The vote was 5-2-0. I do not believe this action will affect the ultimate outcome of this 10-year struggle against an illegal subdivision. However, it is very disturbing that the five members of our governing body who neither reside in nor represent Druid Hills showed so little regard for our interests. My hope is that this is an isolated decision, rather than the beginning of a trend for those of us in central DeKalb.

Coincidently, on Nov 12, I attended a meeting at Oak Grove Methodist regarding the desirability and technique for forming a City of Central DeKalb. Most attending were on the fence. Given recent events, a fresh look at governmental options may be in order. This could entail a new city, a new “city-lite”, annexation into Atlanta or Decatur, or some new way to maintain control over our future. The establishment of county authorities for services such as water and sewer, or parks, could also be assessed. Annexation into Atlanta or Decatur (assuming they would take us) is complicated by the school issue. It may be possible to annex and remain in the DeKalb School System.

On a more positive note, Park Pride recently awarded a significant grant to Rutledge Park, and the AIEV hosted a grand opening party for the Emory Village Park. As an initial skeptic of the Emory Village Park, I was most impressed by the excellent design. This will be a real center point for our community.

Other land use issues of note include:
- The Frazer Center Overlay district and Special Land Use Permit. This is deferred to January 2013, which gives time for more negotiations. We have made great headway and hope to resolve remaining issues, which include access and the number of evenings with alcohol service. The Frazer Center and the Cator Woolford Gardens have been a community resource for generations, and we want this to continue.
- The four parcels that make up the University Inn on North Decatur Rd have been proposed for demolition and redevelopment as 4-5-story student housing, strongly opposed by surrounding neighbors. Our hope and expectation is that cooler heads will prevail and smaller, general purpose residential buildings will be built.

On our Atlanta side, there has been movement regarding the road at the southeast corner of South Ponce de Leon and Clifton. Potential redevelopment plans are murky, but are being followed by the capable Atlanta Landmark subcommittee of the Land Use and Historic Preservation Committee.

As most know, the annual Homes and Gardens Tour is our major fundraiser and our best opportunity to showcase the benefits.

...continued on page 4

FEELING OVERWHELMED?

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New Emory Village Park Celebrates Opening

by Marlene Goldman

The Alliance to Improve Emory Village dedicated Emory Village Park on November 8, honoring some 200 supporters of the new green space next to the mound shop. “Tonight we’re celebrating this lovely and safe gathering space that honors our history and looks to the future,” said former AIEV Chair Lois Berthaume, thanking County Commissioners Kathy Gannon and Jeff Rader for their leadership and support of the village revitalization and park. The dedication capped efforts to “Save the Village” that began in 1998 when the former Emory Kroger—the long-time unofficial gathering place for neighbors—closed. A coalition of neighbors, Emory representatives, and business and property owners envisioned a pedestrian and business friendly center, and the equal partnership grew stronger over the years with input from the Urban Land Institute and the Living Communities Initiative, grant, and DeKalb County. After more than a decade of “robust public inclusion and participation,” said Rader, cars are moving through the intersection, and people are moving among the cars and to the businesses. Some 40 trees and countless other plantings are in place, businesses are thriving, others are planned, and the stage is set for redevelopement of Village properties consistent with revitalization goals adopted by the community. AIEV Chair and park chair Todd Hill thanked the many donors who had given their time, talents and more than $70,000 to the park. Among those were Ted Kelly, owner of Architectural Fountains and Pools, who donated the “Mary Kelly Fountain” in honor of his wife and mother. Water from the nearby 465-foot well spurs the fountain and will irrigate the park and some Village landscaping—a 20-floor water fountain sculpture—created from trolley rails unearthed during streetscape construction—was donated by Charles Collum, Collum Design and Metal Works. Cousins Development diverted pavers from Emory Point to the park. Taylor Wright and Monty Rawls oversaw the streetscape and park project for DeKalb County; Steve Probst and J&K Landscape Architects created park documents; Lewellen Construction and FOSCO built the park; and Ruppert Landscape Co. installed the plantings. Besides financial support, Emory swapped land so Georgia Power could bury utility lines under North Decatur Road. Emory will maintain the park for seven years. “AIEV has set a great precedent with this party,” Gannon observed, predicting many more public gatherings in the new space.

Lullwater Conservation Garden

Most are aware of the quiet charms of the Lullwater Conservation Garden. A 6 1/2-acre woodland on Lullwater Road, it is a place of natural beauty for peaceful walks and children’s play. The louder sounds are birdsong and the quiet murmur of Lullwater Creek. But how many visitors know that this area was identified as parkland in Frederick Law Olmsted’s initial master plan of 1893? that it is a restoration site for the Georgia Native Plant Society? that it is home to 6 champion trees, as recognized by Trees Atlanta? that it is not a public park? The Lullwater Conservation Garden is owned by a non-profit group, the Lullwater Garden Club, which has maintained it since 1931 as permanent public greenspace. Generous donations from the community, including the Druid Hills Civic Association, have supported this group in its mission to keep the garden open, safe, and beautiful. The Lullwater Garden Club is now spearheading a garden restoration project to address the more serious issues, implementing a multi-year plan to remove non-native invasive plants. Terry Sutton continues a planned removal of English ivy, liriope, privet and other invasive plants threatening the natural biodiversity. Neighborhoods can help by ensuring no yard waste is blown into the garden. In addition, we have partnered with Spencer Tunnell, landscape architect for the Olmsted Linear Park, to create a master beautification plan addressing storm water runoff problems that have eroded the streambanks of Lullwater Creek, threatening the trees lining it. It ensures that the hardwoods within the park – paths, bridges, benches – will use materials appropriate to the garden’s history and its surrounding community and returns the park to biological health by maintaining a diverse landscape of native plants. Fundraising efforts have begun. Although we are actively pursuing grants from corporate donors and foundations, our most important support has always come from the Druid Hills community. The conservation garden lies in the heart of Druid Hills and symbolizes the natural beauty that distinguishes our community. Visit our website (www.lullwatergardenc.com) or better still, come see us in the garden!

Letter to the Editor:

I live with my family on Oxford Road in Druid Hills and am alarmed that we have cars speeding down our streets every day and have still done nothing to address the problem. I worry a great deal about our young son or other children on our street being endangered by these speeding vehicles. There have been multiple high-speed collisions involving parked cars in front of my home. Recently, a By Way resident made the news after personally paying for radar speed signs in an effort to slow traffic on his street. What are we waiting for? After more than two years, with organized support from Oxford Road residents, there are still no traffic calming elements in place or even agreed to. I understand other Druid Hills streets are also fighting for traffic calming, driven by the same concerns. Traffic calming is at its best using multiple methods, like speed tables in addition to bulb outs. The latest news is that the Historic Commission has deemed it out of historic character to have bulb outs and will support traffic ‘islands’ in the middle of the street, but these cannot be safely implemented due to driveway locations. We have recently been told that we could likely implement six speed tables and a small narrowing at the beginning and end of the street, and the residents must pay yearly to ‘upkeep’ the speed tables. Even this small, personally subsidized solution is now mired in county bureaucracy and has yet to move forward.

I’m saddened and horrified that we put the safety of our children below that of ‘historic character’ and that our elected officials will not take a stand to ensure our neighborhoods’ safety. If we are interpreting the intent of the creator of Druid Hills, Frederick Law Olmsted,we should not forget that he died in 1905 before the advent of cars, and himself had five children. I would think that he would have never intended to design a neighborhood where children cannot safely play. Please join me in insisting we immediately implement an effective traffic calming solution as quickly as possible in Druid Hills.

-Stephanie James

Lullwater Conservation Garden Club members create festive Christmas stockings for those spending the holidays in hospitals. This is an annual charitable activity of the Lullwater Garden Club.
It was Halloween when a wall of boxed amaryllis bulbs, stacked chest-high at a local big box store, got me thinking about the countless amaryllis I’ve purchased over the decades. I was also reminded that day of the mantra parroted by my four-year-old grandson: reduce, reuse, recycle. I cultivate about 12 amaryllis bulbs, most of which I coax into bloom every year. But I can never resist purchasing one more.

Amaryllis bulbs arrive locally just in time for holiday forcing. Afterward, thrifty gardeners undertake the challenge of producing flowers the following year. The instructions are simple: Remove spent flower stems, but not the foliage. Keep in a sunny window, water as needed, and fertilize lightly. Move the pot outdoors for summer, providing direct sunlight for up to six hours. The goal now is healthy foliage production, because photosynthesis provides nutrients for next year’s blooms.

In fall, withhold water and move the bulbs to a dark, cool place. Let the leaves wither. About eight weeks before the desired bloom time, bring the pots into bright light and resume watering. When the flower stalk emerges, stake it. Repot bulbs every three or four years, leaving an inch between the outside of the bulb and the inside of the pot. Always use a weighty clay or ceramic pot and good potting mix. Allow the top one-third to one-half of the bulbs to extend above the soil. What could be easier?

I can never synchronize my old amaryllis with Christmas, or even Thanksgiving. It’s as if each bulb has its own internal botanical clock, so I no longer try to manipulate them. Beginning in late winter I occasionally visit them in the basement, where they awaken one by one, each on its own schedule. Even in the dark, a bud’s nose will emerge. It’s my signal to bring that pot into the light and resume watering. The plants bloom in no predictable sequence sometime in spring. When they do, I add them to the cluster of containers near the front or back door. I love the way they tower over everything.

I had always read that a dormant period was essential for bulb production. But this is untrue according to horticulturists at Clemson. A rest period just allows the grower to time the appearance of flowers. If stored at 40–45º, an amaryllis bulb can be held for more than a year. This is how growers synchronize their bulbs for sale in the fall. The bulbs purchased recently were actually produced in Brazil.

A couple of diseases can disfigure a growing amaryllis. Mosaic virus causes unsightly streaks in the leaves. Red blotch is a fungus that produces sunken red lesions on the flower stem. Both can be treated, but it’s not something I’d try at home. I’ve had a few bulbs survive red blotch.

Mail order sources offer the widest selection and the highest quality bulbs. Locally, you’ll find pre-planted amaryllis bulbs packaged in colorful boxes or loose in bins. The boxes present some risk. It’s impossible to gauge the health of the bulbs immediately. Reports of emerging bud or even two. Size matters with all bulbs. Premium mail order bulbs can produce three bloom stalks, though sturdy enough to keep an amaryllis upright. I prefer to sort through a bin of bulbs, where I search for one that displays an emerging bud or even two. Size matters with all bulbs. Premium mail order bulbs can produce three bloom stalks, though even a single stem is glorious in blossom.

Years ago I decided to let my amaryllis bulbs bloom when they wanted. Our across-the-street neighbor then was Hebert Reece, an octogenarian and retired dean of students at Emory. In the 1970s he showed me a super-size pot filled with many red amaryllis in full bloom. They were descended from bulbs that had been his father’s. Instead of removing the offset bulbs when they appeared, Dean Reece just transplanted the colony, when needed, to a bigger pot. I’m pretty certain you won’t find this brilliant practice described in any book.

The Unnatural History of Amaryllis
by Paule Refi

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 SEE THE POSSIBILITIES WHEN CREATIVITY MEETS EXPERTISE

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Now let’s talk about what’s under the tree. I have three kids, so traditionally Christmas has been an expression of conspicuous consumption. Piles of shredded wrapping paper practically touch the ceiling by the end of what can best be described as a present-opening orgy. Not this year—I’m helping the environment. All that junk, they don’t really need or want got X’ed off my shopping list this year. My youngest finally caught on about Santa Claus, so I’m off the hook for the shock and awe aspects of Christmas morning. Instead, they’ll get a few choice toys that they really want and will actually play with. That means less shopping, less trash, less wrapping paper and more time to enjoy being together. No, really, I’m not cheap, just green.

Scrooge—the Original Environmentalist
by Judy Keenan

Want to save money this Christmas without people thinking you’re cheap—it’s easy being green. What used to be considered stingy can now simply be good for the environment. Take our Christmas friend Scrooge. He didn’t waste his time and money on gift wrapping presents that nobody really wanted in the first place. His offices were kept at a nice cool temperature, thereby reducing his carbon footprint. And even when he did open his heart to the spirit of giving, what did he give—a turkey, and doubtless an organic one at that. Both practical and doesn’t need wrapping paper that would probably end up in a landfill anyway. Think about it—Tiny Tim didn’t have to pump lead-acid batteries into it and sit in the corner mesmerized by the electronic glow while ignoring the rest of the Cratchet family. No, instead, he joined his family and enjoyed a healthy meal and conversation. Fast forward to the 21st century. Want to save money on decorating your home for the holidays? Don’t rush out in your gas-guzzling car to buy Poinsettias shipped from south of the border. Instead, step out to your backyard and gather greens from your landscape. Taking the foliage and berries from Nandina and Chinese Hollies has the double benefit of helping prevent the spread of these common, non-native invasive species. Magnolia has beautiful branches for the mantle and can simply be tossed on the compost heap upon the new year. Instead of the Perth Poinsettias, this year I purchased hydrangeas for making the home feel more festive. Rather than getting chucked at the end of the season, I’ll plant them in my backyard come spring.

Don’t feel like stringing lights all over your front yard this year? Do what I do—put a wreath on the front door and espouse the virtues of not using unnecessary energy. Just can’t help yourself? It’s not Christmas without the flash? Well, at least make sure your lights are LED—they don’t make the electric meter spin quite so quickly and have the added benefit of being more fire safe, especially inside on a cut tree. Speaking of trees, environmentalists now agree that real trees are better than fake for the environment. Just buy a tree that doesn’t have to get shipped from too far away.

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Now let’s talk about what’s under the tree. I have three kids, so traditionally Christmas has been an expression of conspicuous consumption. Piles of shredded wrapping paper practically touch the ceiling by the end of what can best be described as a present-opening orgy. Not this year—I’m helping the environment. All that junk, they don’t really need or want got X’ed off my shopping list this year. My youngest finally caught on about Santa Claus, so I’m off the hook for the shock and awe aspects of Christmas morning. Instead, they’ll get a few choice toys that they really want and will actually play with. That means less shopping, less trash, less wrapping paper and more time to enjoy being together. No, really, I’m not cheap, just green.

SEE THE POSSIBILITIES WHEN CREATIVITY MEETS EXPERTISE

(404) 377-6006
www.moonbros.com
Celebrating 40 years
Time to Join or Renew

Founded in 1938, the Druid Hills Civic Association will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2013. When its leaders met for the first time at the Druid Hills High School, they set membership at $6 for individuals and $15 for households. Three-quarters of a century later, we are asking you to be generous. After all, the Druid Hills Civic Association has been working for free for a very long time.

Perhaps the best way to describe the association’s work across the years is that it has sought to maintain the original plan for Druid Hills designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted in 1893. For this reason, the association has worked hard to represent your interests.

We are not perfect but we have been effective in honoring the Olmsted legacy of winding streets and picturesque parks, perpetuating the neighborhood’s beauty and serenity in the face of residential and commercial development that accelerated after World War II.

Our leadership was further tested through a decade of resistance to various attempts to transform the Ponce de Leon corridor into an expressway. More recently, we have supported revitalization of parks, gardens, and creeks throughout Druid Hills. And we look forward to many more years of supporting our neighborhood by responding to your concerns and listening to your ideas.

Please take a moment to join or renew your DHCA membership. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

You’re invited!

DHCA Board Meetings are always open to Druid Hills neighbors. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Oakdale and Ponce de Leon.

Check www.druidhills.org for any changes in location.

Druid Hills Civic Association

Not yet a member of DHCA? Use the form below and join today!
Join online at http://druidhills.org/join-the-dhca/

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please [ ] enroll me. Please [ ] renew my membership in the DHCA.

Name ____________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________

City ________________________ State _____ Zip __________

Phone _______________________________

Email address ______________________________________________________________________________

Annual Dues

___ Basic Member ........................ $25.00 or higher
___ Sustaining Member ................ $50.00 or higher
___ Druid Hills Member ............... $100.00 or higher
___ Second Century Member ....... $250.00 or higher

Amount Contributed $_________

Please make checks payable to: “Druid Hills Civic Association.”

Please mail to: Druid Hills Civic Association, P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031.

All households that join or renew at $50 or higher will have their names printed in an honor roll in The Druid Hills News. Please indicate on the line below how you would prefer to be listed, if you wish to be listed anonymously or if you would prefer not to be listed at all.
__________________________________________________________________________________________

HOW ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN THE DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION?

Please indicate your area of interest.

___ Communications ___ Membership ___ Flyer distribution
___ Historic Preservation ___ Traffic ___ Other _______________________________
___ Tour of Homes & Gardens ___ Land use/Zoning ___ Newsletter
___ Peavine Watershed ______________________________________

Atlanta Montessori International School nurtures the potential of the whole child and cultivates the growth of a diverse international community. In multi-age classrooms, children learn together in respectful, peaceful Montessori environments specifically designed to follow the child’s needs from 8 weeks to 15 years. Our programs promote independence, initiative, confidence, responsibility, strong academics, self discipline, leadership and a lifetime love of learning.

• AMI Accredited Teachers and Advanced (SAG) Accredited School
• Multi-age Classrooms in Peaceful Montessori Prepared Environments
• Year-Round School for Infant and Toddler Communities
• Multi-Cultural, Multi-Language Montessori Learning Atmosphere
• Diverse School Community with over 40 Cultures Represented
• AMIS Orchestras, AMIS Music, AMIS Voice & AMIS Visual Arts Programs
• Upper Elementary and Jr. High Annual International Travels
• After School Programs include: Ballet, Gymnastics, Soccer, Chess, Yoga, Piano, Guitar, and more
• Extended Day Option and Summer Programs

Now Accepting Applications for 2013-2014

OPEN HOUSES: Main Campus
Sunday, January 13th 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Candler Park Campus
Thursday, January 31st 7:00 - 8:30 pm

TOURS: Weekly from November – March

We ask you to RSVP for Open Houses and Tours
OLPA News
by Jennifer J. Richardson

The Olmsted Linear Park Gala is Coming Soon

Save the date of Sunday evening, February 17, 2013, for the annual OLPA gala. This is our one and only big fund-raiser of the year and you can help support OLPA’s work by attending and buying one of the wonderful auction items that will be featured in both live and silent auctions. The event will be held at Fernbank Museum of Natural History and will take place from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Gourmet hors d’oeuvres, an open bar including specialty drinks, live music, beautiful flowers and decor and fabulous auction items await your arrival. This year, the silent auction is returning. Bid on one of a-kind jewelry, artwork, vacation trips, restaurant coupons, and many other great silent auction items, then get ready to bid those numbered placards high to be assured of winning the best of the best-our live auction items. I’ll see you there on February 17.

Film on Olmsted in Production

A Florentine Films crew visited Atlanta in October to shoot film for a new documentary to be called “Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America.” The Olmsted Linear Park in Atlanta is one of Olmsted’s landscapes to be selected for inclusion in the film. Other film footage will be made of Buffalo, New York, Biltmore Estate, and Central Park in New York, as well as other historic Olmsted sites throughout the USA. When completed, the film will debut on PBS. Producer Larry Hott of Florentine has worked with documentary maker Ken Burns. Hott has produced a documentary on the War of 1812, and several films about nature. One of his next projects is a documentary on the revival of the Lakota Native American language.

Members of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance were interviewed about past and current threats to the Linear Park. OLPA administrator George Ickes was interviewed about the difficulty of maintaining the park; Olmsted scholar Sally Harbaugh was interviewed about her role in rehabilitating the park; and Paige Harvey and Jennie Richardson were interviewed about the threat of the “Presidential Parkway” to the Linear Park. Landscape architect Spencer Tunnell discussed decision making in selecting plant material, and other OLPA board members and friends led guided tours of the park, drove the film crew around town and supplied some meals. All these volunteers considered their work an “in-kind donation” to Public Broadcasting.

Assisting Mr. Hott was sound man Jake Slaney of near Atlanta, and cinematographer Steve McCarthy of Boston. Hott himself did the interviews and directed the film and sound crew.

Watch your Druid Hills News for an announcement of the premiere of the new Olmsted documentary. It will be announced in plenty of time for you plan to watch it on local PBS stations (8 and 16) or to order a DVD of the film to own.

Maintenance—the good and the bad news

The bad news is that we continue to lose large century-old trees due to disease, old age and a decade of drought. The most recent to fall is laying on its side in Dobbwood Park as this account is written. As soon as the county removes the tree, OLPA can determine if shrubs under the tree were damaged or managed to escape harm. The drought continues to threaten both trees and shrubs. OLPA is committed to replacing everything that is lost—but a huge tree lost today and replaced with a sapling will take many years to get big. OLPA likes to think that the new trees are being planted for the benefit of children and grandchildren of today!

The good news is that diseased or lost trees and shrubs are being regularly replaced. A daffodil bulb planting day was held recently and hundreds of the gorgeous yellow blooms should reward all in the springtime. A work day took place in Deepdene, primarily around the waterfall area. Privet, mahonia, honey suckle, and English ivy were attacked and many weeds pulled. An invasive removal team paid for by OLPA funds is at work addressing the non-native invasive species as well. Keeping our linear park looking well-groomed takes a lot of paid and volunteer labor. Replacing lost plants takes money. That’s why OLPA keeps asking for your donations, and we hope you will support us by membership, a gift, or by attending our fund-raising gala.

For more information, contact OLPA at 404-723-3118; AtlantaOlmstedPark.org; or OLPA.arlatt.net.

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NATALIE GREGORY
REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL
NatalieGregorySOLD.com • NatalieGregorySOLD.com
315 West Ponce de Leon, Suite 100, Decatur, Georgia 30030
#1 Real Estate Sales Team for DeKalb County 2009-2011

227 SUPERIOR AVENUE, DECATURE
Distinctive new construction inside the shell of an older historic home, this five bedroom, four bathroom total renovation incorporates all the cottage details you dream of from the magazines. The floor plan boasts three bedrooms (including the master) upstairs, two additional bedrooms downstairs (one currently used as a study), formal dining room, living room, family room, sunroom, and impressive state-of-the-art kitchen. Entertain under the trees by your slate back patio in the lush backyard. Best of all, walk to Clairemont Elementary, restaurants in downtown Decatur, and the park. Details such as period tiles, walkoutting, fine custom moldings, hardwood floors, double vanities, and even a new claw foot tub complete the package.

$785,000

2386 OAK GROVE MEADOW, OAK GROVE
This spacious six-bedroom, seven-bathroom estate is located in the exclusive Oak Grove Elementary school district, and is conveniently located to Emory, GAC, and I-405. The two-story entrance foyer and living room opens to a grand staircase, private dining room and library. The large kitchen, which opens to a family room with fireplace and built-ins, features a breakfast area and a breakfast bar with beautiful granite countertops. Upstairs you will find five bedrooms, each with a private bathroom. The owner's suite includes a sitting area, two spacious walk-in closets, and a bathroom with two vanities, whirlpool tub, and separate shower. The finished daylight basement with an interior and exterior entrance offers a terrific in-law suite with kitchen area, media room, and room for a second bedroom, office, or exercise room.

$789,000

1124 MEADOWDALE AVENUE, MOORINGSIDE
This Mooringside brick Tudor with arched stone entrance is sited across from the lovely Noble Park. This spacious five-bedroom, four-bath home has been completely renovated. The luxurious German kitchen with a sun-filled breakfast area opens to a stone patio and level fenced backyard. Kitchen adjoins a family room and private dining room that connects to a charming exposed brick sunroom. The formal living room offers a working fireplace and leads to the central stairway. The owner's suite includes and sitting area with custom built-in closets, cabinetry, and library shelving. The well appointed bathroom has limestone floors, six soaking tub separate shower and dual tiled shower and custom vanity. Terrace level includes a game suite with separate entrance.

$780,000 UNDER CONTRACT

721 CLAIREMONT AVENUE, DECATURE
Tremendous attention to detail in this beautifully renovated classic bungalow built in 1937 with four bedrooms and four bathrooms that is sited on more than 1/3 of an acre within walking distance to the Decatur Square. The light-filled, open floor plan is perfect for entertaining. Features include ten foot ceilings, expanded granite walls, tile flooring, large windows, stained glass transoms over doorways, fireplace in living room and bedrooms and washed ceilings in sunroom. The spacious master suite includes a walk-in closet and master bath with large shower, custom vanity with granite counter tops. Kitchen features custom maple cabinets and butcher block maple counter tops. Terracotta level includes 40 feet of custom bookshelves and a custom arched, Italian villa home from the owners' original island, oak, built-in wine refrigerator. The two car carriage house with an in-law suite features hardwood floors and cathedral ceiling and offers an additional ten, full kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom.

$575,000

515 COVENTRY ROAD, DECATURE
This renovated and expanded charming brick cottage with granite foundation is sited on a hilltop with large windows and great natural light. The foyer with archways leads to the living room with hardwood floors, beautiful moldings, built-in bookcases. Living room opens to the dining room and kitchen and leads to a sunroom currently used as a wine room. The main level also includes two spacious bedrooms. The hall bathroom is larger than most and was renovated to include a spa-like shower and large vanity. The kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops offers an entrance leading to the patio and private backyard. The second level provides a retreat-like master suite with private balcony, spacious walk-in closet, double vanity with Carrara marble, separate shower and spa tub.

$435,000

131 FAIRVIEW AVENUE, DECATURE
Located just half of a block from the outstanding restaurants and shopping of Downtown Decatur! Classic Craftsman bungalow perched atop a hill features two bedrooms and two bathrooms. From the large rocking chair front porch, guests enter into the formal living room with fireplace and built-in bookcases. Large light filled rooms throughout include the separate dining room, updated kitchen, butler's pantry with breakfast area, as well as the family room with brick floors and a wood-beamed ceiling. A central hallway leads to the master bedroom and bathrooms. Second bedroom and a charming guest bedroom have views of the pool and private backyard. The second level provides a retreat-like master suite with private balcony, spacious walk-in closet, double vanity with Carrara marble, separate shower and spa tub.

$389,000 UNDER CONTRACT