The 2012 Druid Hills Artist Market

This year’s Artist Market takes place in the beautiful Stonehenge Mansion that currently serves as the home of St. Joe’s Lutheran Church. In its eighth year, the event hosts a juried group of artists from across Georgia and neighboring states. Offering creative and whimsical pieces alongside works with the style and precision of seasoned artists, the market has something for everyone.

The 2012 Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour & Artist Market – Druid Hills: The Second Century, April 20-22, 2012. The premiere tour of homes and gardens in Atlanta, the tour celebrates the beauty, tradition, and future of the Druid Hills neighborhood. This year’s tour features five spectacular homes, a “collector’s garden,” a native Plant Sale and the Druid Hills Artist Market. All of the homes display the unique attributes of architecture and design that date back to the 1900’s.

“We hope to inspire a new generation to learn about Druid Hills and build momentum for the ongoing preservation of one of Atlanta’s oldest neighborhoods,” said Claudia Keenan, chair of the Druid Hills Homes & Gardens Committee. Each year, the selection committee spends long hours putting together a diverse group of homes and gardens for the tour. Claudia notes “The homes this year feature a variety of architectural styles and interior designs that will create an engaging, interactive tour experience.”

794 Springdale – “BOXWOOD”
Dr. Doug Bremner & Dr. Viola Vaccarino

A French Manor style home, “Boxwood” originally encompassed three acres when it was built in 1912. One of the first grand Druid Hills estates, commissioned by Charles Veazey Rainwater, the Coca-Cola executive who standardized the company’s bottling business, Boxwood featured formal gardens, a horse track and stadium. Prominent architect and native son Edward Emmett Dougherty designed a light-filled airy home with plenty of room for the Rainwaters’ four active young sons. Two tiers of the original garden, a pool, paths, and statuary remain, with the stable and carriage house. Today, the spacious, bright house is enriched by family treasures from Italy and artwork belonging to owners Dr. Doug Bremner and Dr. Viola Vaccarino. The grand staircase is just one of many architectural highlights.

804 Springdale – “SOJOURNERS’ REST”
Dr. William & Dr. Sandra Sexson

The pale brick façade of this early twentieth-century, Craftsman-style home gleams brilliantly against the large old magnolia tree that shades its expansive front porch. Built in 1908 by P.J. Wesley & Son, one of Atlanta’s prominent pre-World War I contractors, it is thought to have been built for a sibling of #812 next door. The longtime owners, Drs. William & Sandra Sexson, have made few changes in the house’s original plan and decorative details. Built-in benches and shelves, leaded glass windows, wide pocket doorways, quarter-sawn oak floors, and Moorish archways count among the hallmarks of the Arts & Crafts aesthetic displayed here. The Sexsons, who named their home to recognize the extensive travel that has characterized their lives, have filled the sunny rooms with art photographs and family mementoes.

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After a workday in the Obstructed Linear Park, Paideia students and faculty members Madeleine Sullivan and Maggie Edmund presented OLPA President Kirk Elifson with a $5,000 contribution.

Get the Most Out of Your Advertising Dollars

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/advertising.htm
email: admin@druidhills.org
DHCA Annual Meeting

The Druid Hills Civic Association's annual meeting was February 12 at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Foremost on the agenda was the election of officers and class members of the Board for the next year. The nominations slate was accepted by acclamation and the following were elected.

President: Bruce MacGregor
First Vice President: Elliott Kyle
Administrative VP: Mike Helfenstein
Communications VP: Susan-Anne MacKenzie
Treasurer: Scott Storbeck
Secretary: Ken Gibson

Class of 2014

Class of 2013

Jeffery Baer
= Class of 2015

Thomas Winn (R)

Vivian Benich

Hugh Gallagher (R)

Tommy Greene

Miles Hall (R)

Carolyn Rondan (R)

Tyril Whitman (R)

After the election of officers and board members, retired Officer Turner's successor, Officer Osterhe, was introduced and spoke briefly. Updates on progress made by South Fork Conservancy in clearing walking trails along the north and South Forks of Peachtree Creek were presented by Sally Sears (www.southforkconservancy.org) and Lois Berhume reported on progress in Emory Village (www.emoryvillage.org). OLPDA President Kirk Elifson spoke of the latest work on the linear parks, including the last segment at Deepdene.

Commissioner Jeff Rader and Representative Howard Mosby reviewed the latest DeKalb County redistricting and the effect on Druid Hills. Issues facing Druid Hills in the coming year were noted, especially the effect of new residential annexation behind the main church building. All community members are invited to attend these visioning meetings.

Input from the community will determine the outcomes to be included in the conceptual plans. Visit the Park Pride website (www.parkpride.org) for more information about the role of Park Pride in park creation throughout the Atlanta area. Park Pride is the only non-profit organization that works with communities all over Atlanta to improve or create parks.

Donations to Rutledge Park can be made on the Park Pride website (www.parkpride.org). On the Park Pride "Make a Donation" tab, be sure to go to the bottom of the page and note the "Please click here, to make a donation to a specific local park" drop-down tab.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Rutledge Park, or if you have questions about the effort, contact Tim Ralston at (404) 370-5773 or ralston@bellsouth.net.

President’s Column

by Bruce MacGregor

MOVING RIGHT ALONG

At the time of this writing, the Georgia General Assembly is still in session. So far, the General Assembly has redistricted Druid Hills (and the rest of Georgia) regarding State Senator, State House representatives, County Commissioners, City Council members, and local School Board districts.

Interestingly, our new State House districts are very similar to last year's proposed DeKalb County School attendance zones. That is, the area east of the golf course will remain in the House District represented by Mary Margaret Oliver. Druid Hills west of the golf course will be moved into a new district, represented by Howard Mushoy.

Our highly regarded State Representative Stephanie Stuckey Benfield will not seek reelection. She will assume the position of Executive Director of GreenLaw, where her energy and legal talents will be well used. We will miss her greatly, but our loss is her family's gain. State Senator Jason Carter will remain our State Senator. Jason is former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's grandson and former DHCA president Mike Terry's law partner.

At this writing, the County Commission districts and the DeKalb Board of Education districts were not settled. The Board of Education districts have been especially contentious. Amy Power is our point person for this issue, as she was on last year's attendance zone redistricting for Fernbank Elementary and Druid Hills High School.

The proposed City of Brookhaven (or Ashford) appears to be on its way through the General Assembly, and is likely to be the subject of a referendum by prospective residents in the July 2012 primary election. The proposed boundaries include the area roughly between the Fulton County line and the Clairmont Road/Chanblee-Dunwoody corridor, and between 1.85 and 1.285. The impact of removing this large area from unincorporated DeKalb is expected to have a great impact on the tax base and politics of the county.

DHCA is a member of the Civic Association Network (CAN), which is looking into the potential impact of this new city on those of us remaining in unincorporated Central DeKalb.

In 2011, we stopped legislation very detrimental to our historic district; re-surfaced as a stand-alone bill, HB 892, in 2012. If this bill passes, no Historic Preservation Commission in Georgia will be required to conduct subdivision. A Preservation Commission could regulate architectural details of a structure, but not its location. To date, we have successfully stopped this bill, with the help of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and local preservation groups. However, the session is far from over, and much mischief happens toward the end.

Other land use issues include the ongoing saga of the Norton/Buckler property on Clifton Road, adjacent to Burbanck Park. We hope this nine-year saga, with seven lawsuits and three appellate decisions results in additional greenspace adjoining Burbanck Park. The DHCA supports this, provided the land can be acquired at fair market value. Stay tuned.

DHCA is also working with the Frazer Center on South-Preventon to resolve a variety of operational (especially traffic and amplified music) and buffer issues. DHCA’s Division 2 chair Robert Ballou has done a great job coordinating nearby neighbors, in both DeKalb and Atlanta.

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Briar Vista Elementary

Fall started with the launch of “The Briar Patch,” Briar Vista’s new PTO organization. The Briar Patch was busy organizing many school improvement projects, including a new sign for the front of the school, considerable landscaping initiatives, and a new interior art program. The school held the traditional Internal Dinner, “Celebrating Our World and Unity through Food and Fun.” The dinner included traditional dances and entertainment featuring many of the school’s students. Plans for the spring include a first annual “Fun Run,” an extensive courtyard renovation, and a spring auction.

Mary Lin Elementary - no report

Springdale Park Elementary - no report

Ben Franklin Academy

College Counselor Tiasna Bailey has been nominated as an 11 Alive Community Awards recipient for her volunteer work in the community. Junior Coby Benveniste, recently competed and won first place in the Computer Science Division of the DeKalb County Science and Engineering Fair. Coby’s project, “An Investigation of Mutation Hot Spots in Human Mitochondrial DNA,” will also be entered in the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair on March 29. Senior Jeffrey Weiss will visit the Amazon Rainforest from March 9-18 with Professor Larry Wilson, Ph.D., and Emory University students as part of the class “Ecology of the Tropics.” Senior Miranda Lynch was named STAR student and Dr. Martha Burdette was named STAR teacher for DeKalb. His teacher, Dr. Melissa King-Ragen, received the STAR teacher award for DeKalb County. Junior Anna Dowling won first prize in the Physics and Astronomy division at the DeKalb Regional Science Fair and will represent our country at the Georgia State Science Fair in Athens during April. She also received a special award from the Yale Society for Engineering and Science. Juniors Mitzi Okon and Lan-Anh Vo became members of the All-State Orchestra. Last summer, six rising juniors and seniors attended the prestigious Georgia Governor’s Honors program, a four-week, all expenses paid opportunity available to the top students throughout the state. One student was a Gates Millennium Scholarship finalist, and two students received Quest Bridge Scholarships. DHHS also has three POSSE scholars who will attend Bard College or Boston University in the fall of 2012. Four students were selected for and graduated from the 2011 Youth Leadership DeKalb program. Four students received Honorable Mention designations in the national Scholastic Art and Writing competition. One DHHS senior received 1st place in the Art from Georgia Schools annual Exhibition at North Georgia College and State University. The school and its teaching faculty also receive significant recognition and awards each year: The College Board named Druid Hills High School both as an AP ACCESS AND SUPPORT SCHOOL and AP STEM School. Art teacher Erica Staton received a prestigious Fulbright Classroom Teacher Exchange Grant that allowed her to travel to England this current year to teach. The Fulbright organization selects recipients on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. Ms. Staton is one of approximately 60 U.S. citizens who won the award in 2011-2012. The DHHS Orchestra received superior ratings at the 2011 Georgia Large Group Performance Evaluation. A Druid Hills High School parent and active PTA member, Michael Dowling, was named DeKalb County’s system-wide Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012. Mr. Dowling teaches physics at Fernbank Science Center for the DeKalb system.

To learn more about our neighborhood schools, visit their websites, listed below:

Briar Vista Elementary School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/briarvista
Mary Lin Elementary School: srt3.atlantapublicschools.us/lin
Ben Franklin Academy: www.benfranklinacademy.org
Druid Hills High School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/druiddhil
Fernbank Elementary School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/fernbank
Druid Hills Middle School: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/shamrock
Springdale Park Elementary School: srt3.atlantapublicschools.us/springdale

Wildlife Rescue

Discover how everyday people are becoming animal heroes.

Visit fernbankmuseum.org/wild for tickets and details.

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BOOK CLUB NEWS

Sometimes It Is All About the People

by Faye Andresen

All books are different. Sometimes we fall for the prose and mark passages to share with friends. Other times we fall for the plot, for the twists, turns, and cliffhangers. I fell for both in Hadley, by Kyong Sook Shin. A Korean woman who makes a journey on a train station and is not found. The reflections of the husband and three children reveal a woman who has totally sacrificed self for family. The book traces the fragility of human emotion, the tensions among people in a family, and offers insight into the Korean culture.

In The Warmth of the Other Sons, the Harvard Book Club met three people whom Isabel Wilkerson chose to chronicle one of the great modern-day migrations, as black Americans traveled north to escape the racism of the Jim Crow South. Historically factual and yet personal, the book is an epic telling of the stories of a people as they made their way north for a better future. From travel to a better place to travels in a better place, The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade is a collection of essays, ranging from serious to whimsical, by Thomas Lynch, concerning his vocation as funeral director in a small Michigan town. He is a poet and his reflections are insightful. The book is regarded by many as a beautifully written treasure. From one small town to another, DREFTLESS by David Rhodes is an action-packed story of the drama folks in one rural town experience. The cast of the novel is as compelling as Rhodes' own story of riding high on literary success in his twenties, to a motorcycle accident leaving him paralyzed, to this excellent contemporary novel thirty years later. One cannot help but changed by this story and the story of his townpeople.

In Molokai by Alan Brenner, Wine and Women meet seven-year-old Rose when she is found to have leprosy and is consigned to live in a Hawaiian quarantine settlement, and then follow her life of more than six decades in the small community of outcasts. This first novel is a moving historical account of Hawaii, the disease, and how human spirit lives on. In The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot, it is not the human spirit that lives on but the actual cells taken from Ms. Lacks, a poor southern tobacco farmer, while in the “colored” ward at Johns Hopkins Hospital, cells that have been grown in laboratories ever since and have gone on to help discover cures and advance medical science. Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games may be directed at a younger audience, but it follows the tradition of Brave New World and Fahrenheit 451 by offering a future society more brutal than today's. With America destroyed, the oppressive Panem nation requires two teens from each of 12 districts to fight to the death in televised Hunger Games. This is the story of sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen and her survival.

But the racism of the Jim Crow South is still felt today. The Healing of America by Atul Gawande tells of the life of Hadley, an American Woman Gone Behind the Veil. Rodriguez gives an unpersuasive personal account of the dangers and rewards of opening a beauty school in Kabul, Afghanistan. She is first a beautician and tells her story in a “girls just want to have good —and survive” way. In a very different time and place, but with just as true and honest a voice, Paula McLain's Paris Wife tells of the life of Hadley Hemingway's first wife and their life in Paris as he rose to fame in the 1920s. It gives meaty background to several of his most famous literary works and insight into the first of his many wives.

As in many cases, wives can often be victims and elicit sympathy, but underwhelmed by Elin Hilderbrand's tale of someone similar to Madeoff's wife was rather insipid and contrived. No one can help but become engrossed in James M. Cain's novel Mildred Pierce. (OK, younger readers can think Kate Winslet if they want but —sorry— Joan Crawford is Mildred to me.) Mildred kicks out her near-do-well husband, handles the ups and downs of business, but cannot earn the love of her indulged daughter. Readers were surprised by the racetrace of the 1941 novel and the meanness of the daughter. Another exploration of family is told in the stunning Please Look After Mom by Kyong Sook Shin. A Korean woman who goes missing is not found. The reflections of the husband and three children reveal a woman who has totally sacrificed self for family. The book traces the fragility of human emotion, the tensions among people in a family, and offers insight into the Korean culture.

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. www.druhhills.org

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 the uninstructed move through the process. dekalbhistoric@druidhills.org

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.atlantaga.gov), including downloadable application forms. This link may be found on the Civic Association website.

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

Help With COA Approvals

by Betsy Marvein

The Landmark District Preservation Committee for the Atlanta portion of Druid Hills has had a busy few months. Members consult with homeowners and architects about proposed alterations and additions to exterior of houses and other buildings, as well as landscapes. In many cases, the committee can quickly approve well-considered plans for the Certificate of Appropriateness, while in others they provide the applicant with helpful suggestions to streamline the process. The committee is always happy to work with renovators to ensure a harmonious addition or alteration for our beautiful neighborhood.

After a mutually agreeable date is set, the committee schedules an onsite meeting, where the relevant comments can be exchanged, opening the way for the COA to be issued (by the Urban Design Commission). Recent onsite inspections have included offset parking on Oakdale Road, a re-vamped mudroom on Oakdale, a rear addition on Fairview Road, some special signage in one of the Linear Parks, and a handicapped ramp and driveway changes for a church on Ponce de Leon.

We invite interested neighbors to attend one of our ad hoc onsite meetings. Our new committee chair, Steven Cappell, may be reached at atlantahistoric@druhhills.org.

Phil Green, ASA

Greene Landscape Architect

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Valentines for Veterans

Caryn Madsen and Sarah Reilly Murphy display hand-made Valentines that they presented in Veterans on Valentine's Day as gifts from the Lullwater Garden Club.
812 Springdale Road
Krista Brewer and Gary Flack

The vast beveled door of this 1910 house opens into design and décor that evoke the past century. The overarching style is Craftsman, especially in such decorative features as the fireplaces. Homeowners Krista Brewer and Gary Flack have used the strong simple lines of the house as a backdrop for paintings, prints, and other works of art both contemporary and early twentieth-century. Many of the furnishings and lights are custom designs that resonate with Frank Lloyd Wright’s “Prairie” style. The story goes that #812 is one of two side-by-side houses commissioned for siblings (with #804). The spacious kitchen was created from a warren of rooms, including a two-story service porch and pantry. A double staircase and a tiered garden that can be enjoyed through double-hung windows in the breakfast room and second-floor sleeping porches are among the house’s special features.

984 Springdale Road NE
The Lullwater Garden Club’s Annual Native Plant Sale

The Lullwater Garden Club will once again hold its annual spring plant sale in conjunction with the tour of homes. Native perennials suited for Atlanta’s climate and drought-tolerant succulents will be available, as well as a variety of heirloom tomato plants for homegrown goodness in your garden. All proceeds benefit the Lullwater Conservation Garden, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports the care and maintenance of the Lullwater Conservation Garden located at the intersection of Lullwater Road and Lullwater Parkway.

1130 Springdale Road – Garden Only
Dr. Phil Edwards & Judi Edwards

The imaginative perennial garden that winds up and around Dr. Philip D. Edwards’ backyard has been the great enterprise of his retirement.

“I think of my garden as a series of rooms, each with its own character,” Dr. Edwards observed recently as he strolled and knelt along brick and stone pathways. When he and his wife Judi moved to the house 25 years ago, the yard consisted of a thicket of shrubs and trees and small rock garden. In 2001, he began to systematically weed, clear, and expand toward the back fence, where a woodland garden now reigns. Dr. Edwards travels throughout the South for special plants. Among his personal favorites are seven varieties of Redbud trees, a Japanese Paper Plant, native ginger, Hepatica, and Mayapples (now in full bloom).

1156 Springdale Road NE
Dr. Janet McNicholl & Dr. Robert Linkins

A stately white brick house overlooking a broad lawn, this home was built in 1917, in the style of the Italian Renaissance Revival. The tiled hipped roof and iron railing are typical of the time, though the brick detail is unusual, notes Cynthia Tauxe, a preservation architect. Ms. Tauxe redesigned the house after a large tree fell through its roof while the family was living in Bangkok in 2005. Working long-distance with the homeowners, she reconfigured the second floor and modified the first floor rooms without changing the footprint. The house features geothermal heating and cooling and a well for irrigation. Clean lines and neutral colors accentuate prints, photographs, paintings, and furnishings collected during five years in Thailand.

857 Oakdale
M. Evan Lindsay & Dr. Nancy Cox

The Tudor façade of this Neel Reid house looks exactly as it did in 1918, when it was newly built for the Druid Hills real estate executive Forrest Adair. The interior of the home, however, has undergone two renovations, including one following a terrible fire in 2009. A 25-month complete reconstruction by owners Evan Lindsay and Dr. Nancy Cox, who bought the home in 1989, has melded the best of the original design with many contemporary refinements, including a home theater and walk-in closets. Mệmlük and Herizde rugs from the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul lie on the custom-milled oak floors, a 1917 Steinway piano graces the living room, and a garden sculpture, pond, courtyard, and fountain are visible from two tiers of balconies.

Logistics
Friday, April 20, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Saturday, April 21, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Sunday, April 22, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

Tickets can be purchased in advance on the website druithills.org/tourofhomes/. As always, there will be trolley service provide to assist with getting from home to home.
The 2012 Druid Hills Artist Market
Opening Reception

Thursday April 19
6 to 8:30 p.m.

St. John’s Lutheran Church
1410 Ponce de Leon Avenue

Please join us under the big tent!

Food and drink provided by
Whole Foods & Sherlock’s Wine Merchants.

Live music from The John Wilingham Band

Artist Market booths will open at 7

A FREE EVENT FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF DRUID HILLS
AND TOUR & ARTIST MARKET SPONSORS, FRIENDS AND PATRONS
FAMILIES WELCOMED!
12TH VILLA DRIVE
Welcome to Villa Mira Flores. This stunning 2-story Mediterranean home, on beautifully planted and manicured lot that includes a fabulous pool and pool house (or home office, guest suite, etc.) and a 3-car garage, has been skillfully restored to period. The entry leads to a dramatic 2-story living room and boasts tile flooring, 21 foot ceilings, 4 hand painted murals and a magnificent custom chandelier. A formal dining room, custom kitchen, den plus study (easily converted to 4th BR) and powder room make up the main level. Graceful twin staircases lead to the second level which features 3 BRs and 2 BAs, including master suite with 2 walk-in closets and "magazine perfect" bath. $1,490,000

840 SPRINGDALE ROAD
Fabulous floor plan in this handsome 2-story brick & stucco over and over common spaces perfect for entertaining, gorgeous in laid floors, millwork, and molding, hi ceilings, huge rocking chair front porch, 2-car garage and very nice carriage house, all situated on a corner lot on sought after Springdale Road. Main floor features include LR w/ fpcl, columns to light filled music room, banquet-sized DR, den, study, powder room and eat in kitchen, while second story boasts 4BRs, 3BAs and original sleeping porch. Hard to find finished lower level features spacious media/work out or playroom, kitchenette and full bath. $1,399,900

2010 NORTH PONCE DE LEON AVE.
Absolutely gorgeous English Gothic, sitting on absolutely gorgeous 1 acre lot, w absolutely gorgeous pool. The centerpiece of this one of a kind home is an octagonal foyer, sitting on an elegant LR w/ leaded glass windows and fpcl, reading room off living room, formal dining room, den, powder room, screened porch and renovated kitchen. A beautiful staircase leads to 3 BRs and 3 BAs, including a comfortable master suite w/ fpcl, dressing room and well done bath. The home, owned by a landscape designer, is an outdoor paradise w/ the most exquisite lawns, planting and formal gardens. A new 3 car garage, done in the style of the home, adds the finishing touch to this fabulous home. $1,550,000

COPENHILL LOFTS
850 RALPH MCCULLOUGH BOULEVARD
This spectacular custom 2-story loft, the Atlanta home of actress Jane Fonda, is the ultimate in city living, with approx 5,000 square feet of perfect entertaining and living space and fabulous views of Midtown and downtown from floor to ceiling windows. Every detail, from the dramatic foyer with custom front doors, to the expansive common spaces, the cooks kitchen, 3 BRs/3 BAs including master bedroom w/ fpcl and custom glass mantel, hand blown glass tiles in the bath and room sized closet w/ built-ins and fabulous lighting throughout, has all been done with no expense spared and the best of material and craftsmanship. There is even a "pantry room" $1,599,000

1226 SPRINGDALE ROAD
Exquisite 1918 Neile Reid gem, flawlessly restored to period using the very best materials and craftsmanship, and perfectly placed on a 1.3 acre park like setting large enough for pool and tennis courts. The 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath classic beauty features grand, formal living spaces w/ gorgeous archways, moldings, millwork and hardwoods throughout, 7 fpcl, hi ceilings, slate roof, state of the art eat in kitchen/sitting room w/ center island and top of the line appliances, all marble baths redone to period, carriage house and lower level apt under 2-car garage, all new systems and more. Truly one of Druid Hills most beautiful homes. $1,700,000

1965 PONCE DE LEON AVE.
This circa 1912 traditional 2-story Druid Hills home, with fully finished basement and new 2-car garage, all situated high on the hill on a private 1 acre lot across from Deepdene Park, has been restored to perfection. Features include LR w/ fpcl, sep DR, light filled library/den, cooks kitchen w/ marble counters and stainless steel, first floor BR and BA plus 3BRs, 2BAs on second level, including master w/ luxurious bath and walk in closet AND basement w/ media room, bedroom, kitchenette and bath, with sep entrance, all in sought after Fernbank School District. Three stories of finished living space, on this much land and in this school district is hard to find at only $899,000

RECENTLY SOLD
1056 LULLWATER R.D.
2014 NORTH PONCE DE LEON AVE.
815 OAKDALE R.D.
1075 LULLWATER R.D.
1996 NORTH PONCE DE LEON AVE.
1146 OXFORD R.D.
543 LAKESHORE DR.
640 GLEN IRIS DR.
2042 McLendon R.D.
633 SHERWOOD R.D.
603 Sycamore Ridge Dr.
1322 Ponce De Leon Ave.
Don’t Blame Pine Trees for Springtime Sneezes
With all the beauty of spring comes the nuisance of pollen.

Reprinted with permission from Kim Coder, University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

What is pollen?

DON’T BLAME THE PINES! Pine pollen, stained and photographed under a microscope, looks otherworldly. But those wings help it fly through the air to get to pine cones where it helps ensure next year’s young pine trees. It also carries it to your car, your windows and into your nose and eyes where it can irritate delicate membranes.

Coder said few people are allergic to pine pollen—mostly allergies are to other trees’ pollen.

Pollen is the male part of a plant’s life. It isn’t good or bad. It’s just there, in great volume, in the spring. Some people consider spring pollen season a bad time, especially if they are allergic to specific pollens.

Large pines surround us in our yards, along our streets and in our forests. These giant plants release huge amounts of pollen into the air every year to assure a new generation of pines.

Large pollens from trees like pine can get in the way and make a mess. But it’s the small pollens of other trees that cause various symptoms of hay fever.

Don’t blame the pines

Don’t blame the pines for allergy attacks. Look to mold spores and weed pollens that are around all summer. These large pollens can get in the way and make a mess. But it’s the small pollens of other trees that cause various symptoms of hay fever.

Pollen movement

As the wind blows, it sweeps pollen up into the air and carries it long distances. Pine pollen has its unique shape to perfectly match the aerodynamic shape of the female pine cone. The airborne pollen grains are swirled around the cone and tumble into the receptive base of each bract.

Because pine pollen is so big, we can see it is light yellow. Many windblown tree pollens are invisible.

The male pine cones, which dangle at the ends of lower branches, have many pollen sacks which produce and hold pollen. As the male cones mature, they nurture the pollen grains. Then on sunny, windy days with relatively low humidity, the pollen sacks split open.

Annoying, but not usually allergenic

The first place most people notice pine pollen is on their car. Smooth metal surfaces will sport a gritty, yellow dust. It accumulates in minute drifts on pavements, patios and porches, too.

This yellow dust can be breathed into your nose and mouth. Few people, though, are actually allergic to the pine pollen. But many find it irritating in their eyes and aggravating on their cars and patios.

Other trees

A number of other trees use wind to carry small pollens across the landscape. The trees people have the most trouble with are oaks, walnuts and hickories. These pollens are small enough to cause allergic reactions.

Fortunately, they’re only around for a short time in the spring.

Surviving pollen season

To protect yourself from pollen:

• Stay inside.
• Keep windows and doors shut.
• Rinse pollen off surfaces.

Pollen is a part of life. It’s the trees’ investment in the future. It also clearly shows that spring is here. Smile. As you sneeze—life is good.

Coyotes in Druid Hills

Advice from People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

Killing coyotes results in survivors breeding to replace those lost, as well as other animals moving in to use resources. Coyotes are attracted to residential areas that provide an adequate food source. The following will work to keep coyotes away:

• Evict animals from dens using ammonia-soaked rags (animals won’t like the smell and will leave) and seal affected areas once coyotes have left.
• Area residents should store all trash and compost in sealed containers (use burger cords to keep lids on tight) and pick up fallen fruit; residents should feed companion animals indoors, always keep companion animals on leashes, and never chain them or otherwise leave them unattended outdoors.

Motion activated sprinklers, flashing lights, and outdoor radios can be used to keep coyotes away.

• Vegetation should be trimmed back along paths and yards to reduce available hiding places.

Strict wildlife feeding prohibitions should be enforced.

If lethal methods are insisted upon, coyotes should be cage-trapped (traps must be checked daily and disabled when this isn’t possible) and eutanized. PETA’s wildlife biologist is available to advise further, if needed.

City Landmark District Update

by Alida Silverman

West End and Inman Park Historic Districts have completed theirs. Druid Hills Landmark District’s is underway. What’s going on? It’s the Text Amendment project of the City’s Office of Planning for the City’s designated neighborhood districts.

The goal is to clarify and simplify the district regulations and the Certificate of Appropriateness process. Once the draft regulations are received, each property owner in the City Landmark District will receive a copy in the mail. There will be at least a couple of meetings for questions, input, discussion. Then, the reviewed draft will go through the City’s legislative process.

What kind of changes for example? Fences will no longer require a hearing by the full Urban Design Commission: they will be reviewed and approved (or not) by the staff, according to the stated parameters in the regs.

Instead of a $100 fee, the cost will be $10. The City Tree Ordinance will be handled by the ZD regs. This ordinance did not exist when Druid Hills was first designated in 1982 (and was the only residential district with tree protection). We will also have a map showing contributing (and non-contributing) structures, i.e., structures built during the historic period of development of Druid Hills. Such a map was not required for designations in 1982.

By the time you read this, we should be much further along in the process.
Local Teens Get Grounded
Clifton Community Partnership Update
Spring 2012

The opening of a new teen center plans to provide a safe haven for local youths to come together through laughter, enrichment and service.

“Get Grounded is the place to be for sixth to twelfth graders,” says Angie Waddell, co-founder and executive director of Get Grounded. “We offer a number of different enrichment programs and workshops designed for participants to explore something new and unique.”

Located just off North Decatur Road at 1944 Ridgewood Drive, the teen center will offer programs for youths that promote positive peer connection and interaction; promote teen health through proper nutrition and physical and emotional exercise; and training for specific trade that will impart knowledge and/or develop skills among other things.

Get Grounded is a distinctive teen center because it has two teen advisory boards that work together to lead the center. “We want to empower teens to take responsibility for their choices so they realize and achieve their full potential,” says Waddell. “The teen advisory boards are supported by adult facilitators that guide the teens in making the decisions consistent with the center’s objectives.”

As Get Grounded grows its roots in the Druid Hills community, the teen center will evolve into a facility that offers an art studio, community outreach, game room, lounge, music studio, performance theatre, recording studio, study room and yoga.

Volunteers are encouraged to contact Waddell at 404-312-2504 or info@groundme.org.

Thank You, Stephanie!
By Mary Angela Whyte

Tour to the 14 years of service she has given Druid Hills in the State House of Representatives, Stephanie Stuckey Benfield was reluctant to talk about herself. Instead, she wanted to focus on problems our community is facing or will face, especially the effects of the current redistricting and the formation of new cities within unincorporated DeKalb County.

The redistricting will put current representatives in the position of running again for their posts or even finding themselves no longer in a Druid Hills district. The new cities, if allowed, will adversely affect the County’s tax base and raise our taxes. In response, talk of a Druid Hills City is brewing. Much of this is discussed by DHCA president Bruce MacGregor in his column on p. 3, as is what Stephanie calls her major project this season, defeating House Bill 802. She, husband Rob Benfield, Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver, and Bruce MacGregor are closely monitoring this threat to our historic district.

Stephanie will finish out her term, leaving the legislature on January 8, 2013, but she will not be idle. On April 9, 2013, she will assume her new position as Executive Director of GreenLaw, an environmental law firm dedicated to clean air and water litigation in Georgia. The firm’s environmental justice project is to help represent, primarily, minorities in communities adversely affected by pollution, such as toxic waste dumps. Clients include Sierra Club and Riverkeeper. Working with staff attorneys, Stephanie’s job will focus mainly on fundraising, communication, and grassroots organization, responsibilities that suit her well.

On a personal note, after prodding, Stephanie grew up in Washington, DC, the daughter of US Congressman Billy Stuckey, who served Georgia’s 8th District from 1966-1976. She graduated in 1992 from the University of Georgia School of Law and was staff attorney for Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver from 1996-1998, elected herself, to the House in 1999. Introducing her candidacy at the DHCA annual meeting in January 1998, she met DHCA president and fellow attorney Rob Benfield, who recruited her as a docent for the spring Tour of Homes. She laughingly refers to that as their first date. Married in 2001, the busy Benfields have a son, Robert, age 10, and a daughter, Beverly, age 6, who attend Fernbank Elementary.

We will miss Stephanie’s advocacy and her commitment to her constituents, but she will still be our neighbor and, no doubt, active in our community. We wish her well in her new position, where she will continue to use her talents for the good of others.
Atlanta Boy Choir Auditioning

It’s that time of year when the Atlanta Boy Choir is actively looking for new members for the 2012 Season. This year is a special one, with a concert at The Temple for Holocaust Remembrance Day, and the Concert Choir (the uppermost level) having been invited to sing with The Glinka School of Music in St. Petersburg, Russia, in The Great Hall of the Philharmonic. The Choir will travel to Russia this June and will give concerts and tour the country for about 10 days. Auditions are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at The Atlanta Boy Choir House, 1215 South Ponce de Leon Avenue. Parents and/or students should call 404-378-0064 for an appointment, and ask for Mr. Neil Cardwell, or email info@atlantaboychoir.org. The Spring Concert, commemorating The Holocaust is April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at The Temple, in Buckhead. The unique, fabulous Tour to St. Petersburg, Russia, where the Choir will sing in The Great Hall of the Philharmonic, is a once-in-a-lifetime event!

Conservation and Restoration Efforts Continue in the Lullwater Conservation Garden

The Lullwater Garden Club (LGC) continued their restoration and conservation efforts by undertaking two major projects this fall in the Lullwater Conservation Garden. Since 2007, the Club has worked diligently with community support to return this Piedmont Forest to its original grandeur. This year, the club partnered with Terry Sutton from Cascade Springs Forestry to develop a short, mid, and long-term plan for the garden and to continue removing invasive plants. The results have been dramatic.

Before After

Pictured here is one path of the Garden before and after Terry and his team completed their work. The LGC will continue to reach out funding opportunities to enable Terry's full plan to be implemented. They are also embarking on an educational labeling project for the six champion trees identified within the Garden. In addition, several knights in shining armor volunteered to restore the 60+ year-old wishing well roof and surround. This structure had become very dilapidated and was in danger of collapsing. It took longer than anticipated, as much of the lumber was original to the structure. However, the men persevered over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, achieving a beautiful result.

Before During and After

(Thanks to the generous contribution from the Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA), the Lullwater Garden Club (LGC) was able to fund this very important project. Additionally, the DHCA contribution will be used to install the educational tree identification makers for the six champion trees. Thanks to all for your support.)

Druid Hills Civic Association

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

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Druid Hills Civic Association—Membership Application

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION—MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s):_____________________________________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________________________________
City:___________________________________________   State:__________  ZIP:_________________
Home phone:______________________________    Work phone:_______________________________
Mobile phone:______________________________    Fax:______________________________________
E-mail:______________________________________     Occupation:____________________________

Membership Involvement and Interests
Please indicate your level of interest in the following areas on a scale from 0 to 10. (0 = Not at all interested     5 = Neutral     10 = Very interested)

Public Relations/Communications______Newsletter______Historic Preservation______Membership Planning______Traffic/Urban Design______Land Use/Zoning______Tour of Homes______Flyer Distribution______Peavine Watershed______Other—specify____________________

[ ] Please feel free to contact me for help

Annual Dues (Check one:)

[ ] Individual/Family Member $25 - $49 Amount Paid: $__________
[ ] Sustaining Member $50 - $99
[ ] Druid Member $100 - $249 Please make checks payable to Druid Hills Civic Association.
[ ] Olmsted Member $250 or more Made to: PO. Box 65, Decatur, GA 30031-0363

Before After

Pictured from left to right: George Clarke, Scott Storbeck, Jim Heerin and Zorno, Ivan Faulkenberry and Chase Storbeck

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Executive brick home with six bedrooms and five-and-a-half bathrooms situated on a quiet cul-de-sac street within walking distance to Emory and CDC. This home features 10-foot ceilings, an abundance of natural light, and spacious rooms. The main level offers a formal living room, dining room, kitchen with breakfast area leading to the deck, family room with fireplace flanked with built-in cabinetry, and an attached three-car garage. Upstairs features an owner’s suite with sitting area, two walk-in closets, double vanities, separate shower and whirlpool tub. Three more bedrooms are on the second level and each has a private bathroom. Terrace level, with separate entrance, offers a large media room, game room with fireplace, sitting area, two walk-in closets, double vanities, separate shower and whirlpool tub. Full finished basement with separate entrance offers great flexibility.

Well-appointed, renovated and expanded brick Tudor offers four bedrooms, four bathrooms and an office. The gourmet kitchen with Viking appliances and custom cabinetry features honed granite countertops and spacious center island. Kitchen opens to a breakfast area and family room with handsome mantle and fireplace flanked by bookcases. Step into the beautiful backyard through French doors in the den and office that open to a granite and flagstone back and side patio. Thoughtful storage throughout includes a Costo-sized pantry, mudroom lockers, and spacious closets. Home is conveniently located on an extra wide lot in Downtown Decatur's desirable Great Lakes neighborhood and is walking distance to Georgia School of Excellence, Clairmont Elementary and downtown Decatur. $829,000

Walking distance to Emory and CDC, this recently renovated brick traditional offers four bedrooms and three bathrooms. Craftsman style details include handsome moldings and 9-foot ceilings. Formal living room features brick fireplace and opens to a side porch and a sunroom. State-of-the-art gourmet kitchen incorporates the details that you dream of from the magazines. Owner’s suite offers walk-in closets, renovated bathroom, sitting area and an office. Ample storage is available with a full basement and a two-car garage. Multi-level deck with fire pit and deep private backyard offer plenty of room to play and entertain. $650,000

Located in the Ponce de Leon Heights neighborhood, this circa 1929 bungalow with three bedrooms and two bathrooms was recently remodeled to make the most of the cottage charm while adding modern amenities. Formal living room features a fireplace and opens to a sunroom and dining room. The renovated kitchen has Carrara marble countertops, subway tile backsplash, stainless steel appliances and opens to a keeping room. Main level offers a master bedroom with walk-in closet and a guest bedroom. The second level provides an office, additional bedroom and large bathroom with two vanities. Architectural details include large windows, dental crown moldings, and gleaming hardwood floors. $395,000