

The North Druid Hills Residents Association (NDHRA) is a volunteer, not-for-profit, civic association incorporated under Georgia law and supported by membership dues.

Summer Membership Meeting & Social

**Monday September 23
7 pm**

*Join us for news about your neighborhood
Refreshments will be served*

Intown Community Church, 3rd Floor, 2059 LaVista Rd

To Catch a Thief

With help from the public, Atlanta police on August 30 arrested a suspected thief operating in our neighborhood. In July, e-mail from NDHRA alerted members about break-ins and warned about a man driving a gray Chevy pickup truck. Officers D.L. Smith and Pat Jackson of the DeKalb Police Department told NDHRA about the events leading to his arrest.

In late May, DeKalb police noticed a pattern of break-ins in areas southwest of Clairmont Rd. The busy thief was hitting 2-3 houses a day in both DeKalb and the city of Atlanta, police said. They estimated the break-in spree may have started in March or April and involved over 100 homes. The suspect eluded capture despite police patrols, including undercover vehicles. But as residents provided more descriptions of the truck officers were able to narrow the search.

The biggest break came from a woman who lives on Brookshire Ln. in Brookhaven. When she came home one day the suspect was at her house and claimed he was to clean gutters, but must be at the wrong address. She wasn't suspicious until she saw a broken window in the rear of her house. The resident supplied the police with a detailed description of fender and bumper damage on the suspect's truck. Atlanta police recognized it as a vehicle seen at a body shop on Moreland, so a sting was set up. When Officer T. C. Medlin arrested the suspect, he had already broken into three houses that day and had stolen property in the bed of his truck. It's still not known if he had an accomplice.

If you were robbed during the spree, getting your property back may be difficult, if not impossible. Officer Smith said the suspect is a heroin addict and sold most of the stolen items. Officer Jackson suggests that robbery victims contact Detective Mophet at (404) 294-2560 if you find serial numbers or other identification that wasn't given in your police report. The thief is currently being held in Atlanta's jail, but DeKalb officers hope to talk to him next, since he openly admits robbery locations he can remember.
Crime Update on page 6

Voting Surprises

To their surprise, many voters from the NDHRA area discovered they couldn't vote for some candidates in the August 20 primary election. The confusion arose from the new redistricting which places most of our neighborhood in the 5th Congressional District, which also includes the city of Atlanta. Only a small portion of the NDHRA area – between Briarcliff Road and I-85 – remains in the 4th Congressional District.

Still not sure who you can vote for? County election officials are required to provide sample ballots for voters in their district if requested. An easy way to get this information is to log onto <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/elections/locator.htm>. Enter your name and birthday and you will be shown which voting districts you are in and which candidates are running in those districts. The Web site also provides the address of your polling place, a map and registration deadline information.

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Standing by Your Mailbox?

Caren Feingold

Does this sound familiar? You come home from work (tired of course!) and reluctantly check the mail before heading in. As you get closer to the mailbox, you notice that there's a flyer attached to the outside. Slightly annoyed because you expect it to be one more piece of junk mail, you're pleasantly surprised when, instead, it turns out to be the quarterly neighborhood newsletter. Ten minutes later, you're standing in the exact same spot totally engrossed (ok - mildly engrossed) in reading the latest neighborhood news. Apparently you couldn't wait to bring it inside (remember how tired you were?)

If you enjoy reading these newsletters, you might be more interested than you think in what goes on in our neighborhood. It may be because you care about the property value of your house and so you want to know the latest on the new housing developments on Briarcliff and North Druid Hills Roads. Maybe you've heard a rumor about our possibly getting a park on the land adjacent to Margaret Harris School on Knob Hill and want to know if it's true. Or maybe you would just like to feel more connected to your neighbors...

There are still four months left in 2002. If you have not yet paid your membership dues for this calendar year, please consider doing so now (there's a form on the back page of this newsletter). If you have already paid your 2002 dues and would like to get a jumpstart on 2003, you can also use the form on the back. (Just check off the box for "2003".) You can also pay for both 2002 and 2003, if you so choose.

Still not convinced? Please join us at our next neighborhood meeting on Monday evening, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. The officers of the North Druid Hills Resident Association will be sharing their own reasons for becoming involved with our neighborhood association. Hope to see you there.

Peachtree DeKalb Airport Decision

DeKalb County commissioners voted August 27th to accept a \$1.4 million grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. DeKalb officials said they were concerned that the county could be held liable for plane damage or injuries caused by the aging asphalt taxiway and felt the concrete revision was necessary. Residents could not speak during the County meeting, but wore green stickers with the number "66,000" to show their opposition. Currently, planes heavier than 66,000 pounds are not allowed to land but are often given special permission. The proposed updated taxiway will accommodate even heavier planes and could open the door for further allowances in the future.

New Web Site Features

We have added some fantastic new features to the NDHRA web site. Available in the new Town Square are classifieds, an event calendar, discussion board and more. Simply go to www.ndhra.org, follow the link to "Town Square", register, and start enjoying these new features.



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Land Use Updates

Neighborhood Projects

John Steinichen

For more details on development in our neighborhood, visit our web site: www.ndbra.org/zoning

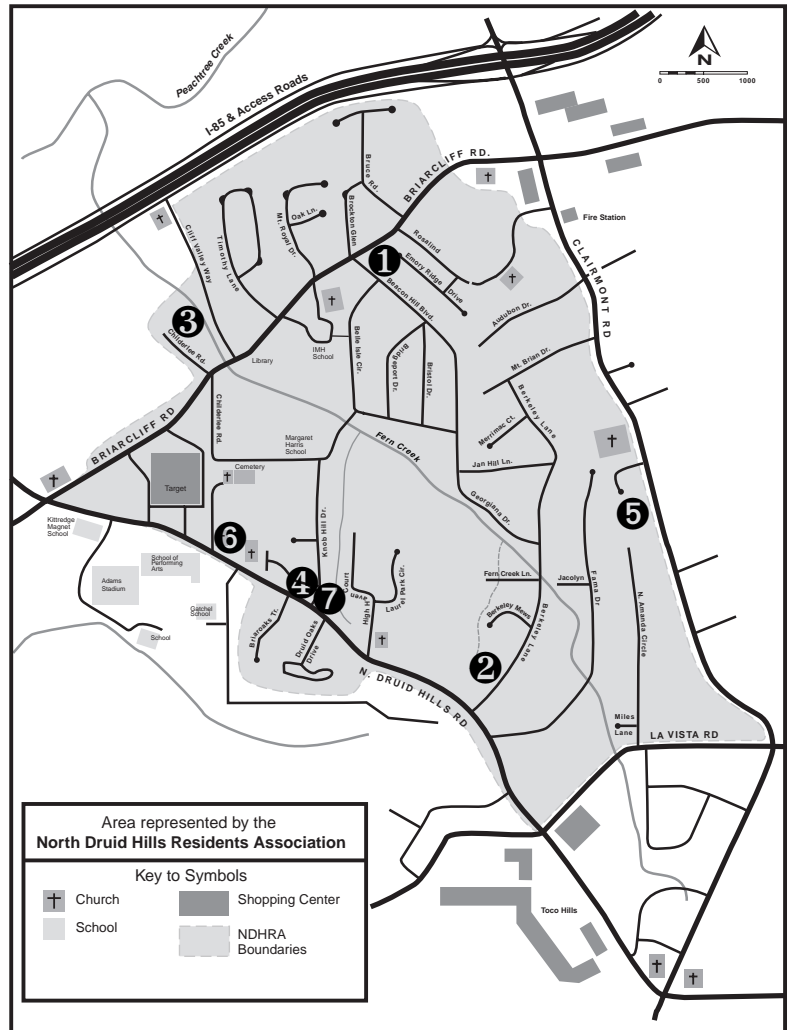
Nolan's Ridge: (#1 on map) Three massive houses are finished. Site cleanup and landscaping remains. This project illustrates the need for negotiating height and architectural features in relation to neighboring houses in conditional zoning. That is particularly important for small infill subdivisions.

Berkeley Oaks Subdivision: (#2 on map) The developers appealed the Board of Commissioners' rejection of their subdivision proposal to the Superior Court. Judge Mallis held one hearing, and the next will be on 10/8 at 10 am. (The first hearing before the BOC was on 9/11/01). It has been a fight to get a complete record before the Court.

Cliff Valley Apartments: (#3 on map) This massive 272 unit apartment project is almost completed. We had no way to influence it. It is nothing to be proud of. Drive along Cliff Valley Way to see what developers will do when limited only by literal application of minimum County Codes. Further downstream where Fern Creek joins Peachtree Creek, on the other side of I-85, another huge apartment complex is under construction, and is also rearranging the environment.

Emory Place: (#4 on map) This is the original Jolly development at Knob Hill Dr. Construction is proceeding, and units are being sold. The corner house has been rehabilitated. Landscaping and tree planting should be completed in the next few months.

Schools: We lack public school services although we have the buildings. We are now getting a private elementary school – the Cliff Valley School (#5 on map). Their site on Clairmont Rd has been cleared and leveled. The impact of that on surrounding properties is severe. The County Administration went out of its way to facilitate this project without any hearing by issuing a tortured legal opinion allowing assumption of permits issued to another school two years ago, thus helping the school circumvent current zoning restrictions.



Churches: Of the nine churches in our area, four are expanding. This is a source of neighborhood conflict. First Alliance Church on North Druid Hills Rd (#6 on map) is the latest to seek expansion. They have requested a Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) to add a "family life center" (gymnasium) onto their principal building and to do landscaping. The SLUP hearings before the Planning Commission and the BOC will be in October. Recently, they applied for a variance to build a gymnasium on the west end of the main building (within 32 ft of the side property line).

Simsberry Park: A New Proposal: (#7 on map) This project would redevelop the two lots at the SE corner of North Druid Hills Rd. and Knob Hill Drive for townhouses. The total site area is 1.575 acres. Current zoning is R-85. After initial hearings the BOC sent it back for full cycle reconsideration. The rezoning application was then reduced to RA-5 for 7 townhouses. The Planning Commission hearing is on 9/10 and the BOC on 9/24. Both meetings begin at 7 pm. The Zoning Committee recommends the zoning remain R-85, which would allow 4 new houses.

Target Store: Target has completely rebuilt its store at Briarcliff and North Druid Hills. It is larger but essentially in the same configuration. It is expected to be open for the holiday shopping season. We are lobbying for better non-vehicular access from the neighborhood and out-parcel controls.

PEDS and Pace Cars Make a Difference

The simple act of crossing the street in metro Atlanta is too risky – an average of 84 pedestrians are killed here each year making Atlanta the nation's second most dangerous large metropolitan area for pedestrians. Pedestrian fatalities in metro Atlanta increased 13 percent from 1994 to 1998 – at the same time they declined nearly 10 percent nationwide. More than two-thirds of pedestrian fatalities in Georgia occur on neighborhood streets, which helps explain why pedestrian injury is the second leading cause of death for children aged five to nine.

When PEDS was founded in 1996, pedestrians were not yet on metro Atlanta's radar screen. Government agencies identified transportation safety exclusively with occupant safety, engineers lacked information about the needs of pedestrians, police officers ticketed crosswalk law violators only after someone had been hit, and media attention to pedestrians was limited to one-inch blurbs following fatal crashes. Worst of all, people rarely thought of themselves as pedestrians. Because of PEDS' efforts, all that is changing. PEDS is a member-based advocacy organization dedicated to making metro Atlanta safe and accessible for all pedestrians.

PEDS has already made a difference in Atlanta. Some of their major accomplishments include:

- * Transforming pedestrian safety from a non-issue in metro Atlanta to one that attracts front-page headlines, lead editorials, and lead stories on local news broadcasts.
- * Prompting the Georgia Department of Transportation to adopt high visibility crosswalk markings as the state standard and to develop a Pedestrian Design Guidebook.
- * Presenting workshops on pedestrian facilities design to more than 300 transportation engineers, planners, landscape architects, and community activists.
- * Facilitating Police Sting Operations targeting motorists who failed to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

In addition to these, PEDS operates a Neighborhood Pace Car program that empowers people to calm traffic on residential streets and around schools dramatically, immediately, and free of charge. Pace Car drivers set the speed of traffic by driving within the speed limit and displaying the official Pace Car sticker on their vehicles. The Pace Car becomes a "mobile speed hump" compelling the traffic behind you to observe the speed limit.

In addition to these, PEDS operates a Neighborhood Pace Car Program that empowers people to calm traffic on residential streets and around schools dramatically and immediately. Pace Car drivers (neighborhood residents) set the speed of traffic by driving within the speed limit and displaying the official Pace Car sticker on their vehicles. The official Pace Car sticker tells other motorists why you're driving responsibly and deters tailgating. It shows you care about safety in your community.

At the September 23rd NDHRA General Meeting, Kimberly Mallard, the Director of Community Education from PEDS (Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety) will be our Guest Speaker. She will be there to speak in general about the PEDS program, but more specifically to educate us about the Pace Car program. She will have Official Pace Car Stickers for those who are interested. Please plan on attending. The Pace Car program offers a very simple yet effective solution to the speeders that are rampant in our Neighborhood! *All information reported is from www.peds.org*



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Useful Phone Numbers Covering the North Druid Hills Community

Emergencies and County Numbers

Emergencies . . . . .	.911
(Police, Fire and Ambulance)	
General Police Service . . . . .	.404-294-2000
Central Precinct . . . . .	.404-294-2590
DeKalb County Info . . . . .	.404-371-2000
Animal Control . . . . .	.404-294-2996
Roads/Drainage Emergency . . . . .	.404-297-3840
PDK Noise Hotline . . . . .	.770-936-5442
(Peachtree Dekalb Airport)	
Library: Briarcliff . . . . .	.404-679-4400
Downtown Decatur . . . . .	.404-370-3070
Avis Williams . . . . .	.404-679-4404
Sanitation Collections/Litter . . . . .	.404-294-2900
Illegal Dumping: State EPD . . . . .	.404-362-2671
(major stream or yard)	
Water/Sewer Leaks or Spills . . . . .	.770-270-6243
State EPD . . . . .	.404-362-2680
Hazardous Waste: EPD . . . . .	.404-656-7802
Spills and Other Suspected Pollution	
EPD Emergency Response . . . . .	.404-656-6905
Toll-free . . . . .	.1-800-241-4113
Erosion and Sedimentation (also land disturbance	
within 25 feet of stream buffer)	
DeKalb County . . . . .	.404-371-2517
State EPD . . . . .	.404-675-6232
Voter Registration . . . . .	.404-298-4020
Atlanta Gas Light Emergency . . . . .	.770-907-4231
Georgia Power Co. Emergency . . . . .	.1-888-891-0938

State Elected Officials

Mike Polak . . . . .	.912-961-0458
State Senate 42nd District	
446 Candler St. Atlanta 30307	
Doug Teper . . . . .	.404-347-9242
State House Rep, 61st District	
1145 Zonolite Road, #12, Atlanta 30306	

County Commissioners

Chief Executive Officer:

Vernon Jones404-371-2881
.ceo@co.dekalb.ga.us

Commissioners:

Gale Walldorff404-371-2863
District 2galew@co.dekalb.ga.us

Judy Yates404-371-4909
Super District 6jayates@co.dekalb.ga.us

All Commissioners share the same address, title, and fax number. When sending a fax, address it to the attention of a specific commissioner.

DeKalb County Offices:

1300 Commerce Dr.phone: 404-371-2881
Decatur, GA 30030fax: 404-371-7004

North Druid Hills Residents Association

Mailing address:

NDHRA, Inc., P.O. Box 95965, Atlanta, GA 30347

Board of Directors:

Liz Beyer404-633-5700
Diane Buch404-315-9977
Maureen Corley404-634-9054
Jo Kenney404-634-9398
Brown Kitchens404-634-4157
David Thompson404-486-8375

Committee Chairs:

Communications:

Scott Wertime404-633-5700

Community Relations:

open committee seat

Environmental Enhancement:

Diane Buch404-315-9977

Membership:

Caren Feingold404-320-6128

Zoning/Land Use:

John Steinichen404-636-2723

Calendar of Events

- 9/17 Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting
7:30 pm at First Alliance Church
- 9/23 NDHRA Neighborhood Meeting**
7 pm at Intown Community Church, 3rd floor
- 9/24 County Board of Commissioners hearing,
RE: Simsberry Park rehearing, 7 pm,
Malooof Auditorium
- 9/25 Community Councils meeting (all Councils),
7:30 pm, Malooof Auditorium
- 10/02 County Planning Commission hearing,
RE: First Alliance Church SLUP, 6:30 pm,
Malooof Auditorium
- 10/07 Environmental Enhancement Committee
meeting, 7 pm at residence of Diane Buch
- 10/08 Superior Court hearing, RE: Berkeley Oaks,
Judge Mallis, 10 am
- 10/15 Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting
7:30 pm at residence of Liz Beyer
- 10/22 County Board of Commissioners hearing,
RE: First Alliance Church SLUP, morning,
Malooof Auditorium
- 11/04 Environmental Enhancement Committee
meeting, 7 pm at residence of Diane Buch
- 11/05 Election Day — vote!**

Neighborhood Crime Update

Covering the North Druid Hills Community
June - September 4, 2002

Beacon Hill Blvd.

7/5/02 burglary, pried rear window, musical
equipment taken

Berkeley Lane

6/30/02 burglary, pried side door, television &
jewelry taken

Bristol Drive

7/25/02 stolen vehicle

8/5/02 entering, auto pilot headset taken

Miles Lane

8/18/02 burglary alarm went off, pried screen in
garage, took money from a purse in an
unlocked car inside garage
(car belonged to neighbor)

Brockton Glen

6/12/02 harassing phone call

Fama Drive

8/23/02 criminal trespass

Mt. Royal Drive

8/13/02 stolen vehicle

Timothy Drive

7/26/02 harassing phone call

(crime stats not listed for main streets:
N Druid Hills, Briarcliff, Lavista, and Clairmont)

**Although one thief has been caught, we are
still experiencing many new break-ins at the
time of this publication. Please keep up the
vigilance and report all crimes to the police
and update us via email at info@ndhra.org**

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Over 50 Years on Fama

Liz Beyer

We've all seen the iron and brick sign, the gaslights, and maybe you've even sat on one of the benches at the cul-de-sac, but have you ever wondered how these came to be? Fama has many of the original homeowners still living on the street, and equally as many stories about the beginning of this close-knit community.

When the street was first created in the late 1940s, the landowners and developers were the Fains and Mauldin families. Combining the first two letters of each of these last names created the street name, Fama. Approximately 40 brick and sided homes were built on Fama and Jacolyn. The Mauldin family moved into a house completed in 1949 and backing to Berkeley, the current residence of Maureen Corley and her husband Jim Morris. Jack Mauldin later extended the back yards of the houses along the Fern Creek tributary by deeding each of these Fama homeowners the additional property and embankment that lies between the Fama and Berkeley houses.

Fama could have been like any other street in the early '50s, but the new residents were young and quick to build a sense of community. The Fama Pines Garden Club was created and continued to beautify the street for decades with group tree plantings, flower shows and street clean-ups. Fama was extended from Jacolyn to the current dead-end with most houses completed by 1954. Since many of these young families had children, the residents decided to do something unique. DeKalb County wasn't lighting residential streets at this time, so they paid Georgia Power to erect streetlights. The residents continued to pay the electric bill until about five years later when the county picked it up. The gaslights and brick sign at the entrance to the street were other touches the early residents added. The gas bill is still paid by donations from current homeowners on the street.

Paxton and Eldon Brewster moved into their home in April of 1954. When they were buying their house, a sewer line was being built under N. Druid Hills Rd. so Fama couldn't be accessed from the street entrance. A temporary dirt road was made, weaving through the woods just short of where the current cul-de-sac is, and connecting to Berkeley Lane. Virginia Loyd, who lives



close to the cul-de-sac, recalls having to drive very slowly to look at her house because the rural area had horses grazing along the dirt road.

In the late '50s, a fund-raiser for the garden club became a yearly street party on Jacolyn. These weren't simple gatherings. Rides were created for the children, including an elaborate swing. Georgia Power supplied the cable that was strung from one pine tree at a high area to another several houses away. The children would sit in a seat that hung about 10 feet from the ground, ride it to the end, and then pull it back by an attached rope. Later, dances and shrimp shucks were also held in the cul-de-sac.

Eldon Brewster recalls Fama was originally planned to cross Clairmont and connect with a street in Sagamore Hills. When those plans were abandoned, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation purchased the land on Clairmont and completed their church in 1964 — keeping Fama Drive's title as the longest dead end street in Atlanta. An agreement was made between the church, residents and the county that a cul-de-sac would be created, instead of a "T" turn-around proposed earlier.

The Brewsters also explained how the benches on the left side of the cul-de-sac came to be. A bachelor who lived on Clairmont babysat the Fama Drive children throughout the years. The cul-de-sac was their playground. When he died in the mid '70s, the benches were purchased in his honor. A worn plate on one of the benches reads: *Given in Loving Memory, Mr. Corny, 1906-1974, Children of Fama Drive.*

If you have great memories or information regarding the history of your street, please contact Liz Beyer at (404) 633-5700 or email Liz@wertime.com



Left: The Loyds and their relatives make the best of a winter storm in the early '60s.

Right: A group clean-up of the Fama cul-de-sac in the mid '70s. The bench is one dedicated by the Fama children to Mr. Corny. Note: the chain link fence around the circle wasn't erected yet.

Volunteerism Begins At Home

Want to know how you can help your neighborhood? We're looking for a few good neighbors to donate a little bit of their time and a lot of their enthusiasm by volunteering as an NDHRA board member for 2003. It's a great way to get involved in shaping the future of your North Druid Hills Community!

Nominations are now being accepted for all board positions, including president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary and at-large board members. You can find out more about the board by reading the by-laws, available at www.ndhra.org. If you would like to submit your name or suggest a neighbor, please contact board member Jo Kenney ASAP at jokenney@earthlink.net. Elections will be held at November's Annual Meeting.

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See our web site at www.ndhra.org

North Druid Hills Residents Association 2002/2003 Membership Form

Would you like to participate in one of the following Committees?

- Zoning/Land use
- Environmental Enhancement
- Community Relations
- Newsletter/Communications
- Membership

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How long have you lived in the neighborhood? _____

I'm a first time member. I'm a renewing member.

Annual Membership is \$25 and runs from January through December. Make your check payable to NDHRA.

Please mark the box below that applies to your enclosed check:

- 2002 Membership Fee (\$25) 2003 Membership Fee (\$25) 2002 & 2003 Membership Fees (\$50)

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