

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

NDHRA 2003 Membership Drive Underway!

To those of you who have already paid your 2003 membership dues - thank you! (That includes almost everyone who attended our December neighborhood meeting at the Intown Church on Lavista!) As of the writing of this article, we have received approximately 35 paid memberships which means we have a long way to go to reach our 2003 goal of 200. (A modest number considering the 850 plus houses in our neighborhood!)

Why is it important to become a dues-paying member of the North Druid Hills Resident Association? My answer is two-fold:

1. When your neighbors speak on your behalf at zoning meetings, or when negotiating with builders or when putting in an application for green-space, the "Powers That Be" always want to know how legitimate our spokespeople are. In other words, how many people do they represent. The strongest ammunition we can give them is to have as many of our neighbors as possible be dues-paying members of the association.
2. Being a dues-paying member increases your sense of commitment to the neighborhood. You will feel good about it (I promise you!) and it might, hopefully, somewhere down the road, increase the likelihood that you will become more involved with the association and your neighbors.

We currently have many exciting projects underway. Just a small sampling includes:

- A pilot Neighborhood Crime Watch program in the planning stages under the leadership of Tom Eidson. *Continued next page*

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North Druid Hills Residents Association 2003 Membership Form

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

- Zoning/Land use
- Environmental Enhancement
- Community Relations
- Newsletter/Communications
- Membership
- Neighborhood Watch Block Captain

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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. Please make your check payable to NDHRA.

Applications with payments can be mailed to:
NDHRA, Inc., P.O. Box 95965, Atlanta, GA 30347

- An application to have the greenspace adjacent to the Margaret Harris School on Knob Hill converted into a neighborhood park. (Environmental Enhancement Committee)
- A just completed "Guidelines for Developers" which outlines the procedures and standards that the NDHRA expects of developers in our neighborhood. It is an exceptional document and represents much hard work. You can read it at our web site – www.ndhra.org – on the Planning & Zoning page. (Zoning and Land Use Committee)
- Continuation of our quarterly newsletter, *The Fern Creek Crier*, and our web site both of which have garnered high praise from other community organizations. (Communications Committee)

Impressed? Then please show it. Use the membership form included in this newsletter and the preaddressed envelope to send in your 2003 dues now – at \$25 a year it is a bargain! Help us reach our membership goal of 200.

Hope the year ahead is a great one for you and your family. We hope to see more of you in the months ahead.

Caren Feingold - Membership Committee

Oak Grove Young Children's School 7th Annual Consignment Sale

Oak Grove Young Children's School will be having a consignment sale of children's clothing, toys, books, games, baby equipment, furniture, maternity clothes and more on Friday, March 14th and Saturday, March 15th. They offer this event as a community missions project as well as a fundraiser for the school. This is their seventh annual event and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. Their sale is open to the general public for consignors as well as purchasers. They are located at Oak Grove United Methodist Church, 1722 Fair Oaks Road (corner of Oak Grove and Fair Oaks Roads).

For information on consigning or general information, please call (404) 248-1527 or e-mail at Oakgroveconsign@earthlink.net.



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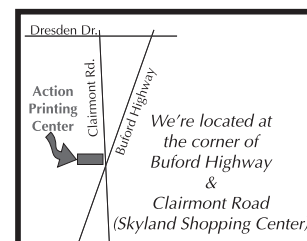
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Dave Thompson	Briarcliff Road
Conner Allred	Bristol Drive
Ken McMillian	Fama Drive
Jim Morris	Fama Drive
Tom Eidson	Fama Drive
Alice Ayliff	Merrimac Court
TBD / pending	Berkeley Mews

There are currently two approaches under consideration, insofar as determining the participating streets for this beta Watch program. First consideration is to have the beta participants be residents of contiguous streets. This approach, if the pilot program were successful, would possibly result in obtaining (and posting) Watch signs immediately. The second approach is to have the participating streets scattered throughout the NDHRA area. This — perhaps would be more representative of the entire area i.e., a truer sample; however, posting of signage (assuming successful completion of the beta program) would be an issue. The approach we choose is likely to be dictated by the subsequent Block Captain volunteers.

We need more volunteers! If you're interested in furthering this worthwhile endeavor, please contact Tom Eidson (404) 579-1132 or email at rthomaseidson@hotmail.com. All of those involved to date are anxious to move forward with this project.



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RECYCLING 101

Maureen Corley

Recycling does take a bit of effort, but it doesn't have to be an ordeal. The easiest way to start your home recycling program begins at your curb. Recycling is not (yet) mandatory in Dekalb County, but the Public Works department does offer pickup of aluminum cans on the first day of trash collection (Monday or Tuesday, depending on your street) as well as newspaper pickup on the second collection day (Thursday or Friday). If you're new to the neighborhood and unsure of your designated trash pickup days, call 404-294-2900. Remember, yard waste pickups are every Monday (do not use plastic bags for leaves).

Ready to tackle advanced recycling? Here's a list of places within a short drive of our neighborhood:

Kittredge Park: (behind the Kittredge Magnet school across from Arby's on N. Druid Hills Road) glass (sorted by color), aluminum cans, magazines, paper/phone books

Clairmont Presbyterian Church: (NW corner of Clairmont & N. Druid Hills Rd.) newspapers, magazines

Emory University: aluminum cans, tin cans, glass, type 1 and 2 plastic bottles, office paper, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, ink jet cartridges (see <http://www.emory.edu/FMD/web/Recycling/recycling.html> for directions and details)

Publix: plastic bags (clear or off-white only); foam egg cartons

Dekalb Farmers Market: (Decatur) glass, aluminum and tin cans, corrugated cardboard, type 1 and 2 plastic, magazines, newspaper, white paper

Whole Foods Market: (corner of Briarcliff and Lavista Rd.) regular paper and all colors of glass

Of course, the greenest form of recycling is composting. For details on how to compost yard waste and vegetable matter, see <http://www.oldgrowth.org/compost/>

Got a favorite recycling spot that's not listed here? Email Maureen Corley at ranchomo@hotmail.com and we'll add it to our list.



Grant Kitts, DC

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*All further treatment shall be agreed upon in writing and signed by both parties.

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NDHRA “Neighborhood Watch” Program

By now, most of you have probably seen the signs around the area, warning to be aware of a recent rash of crime activity in our immediate area. In part, to help thwart further intrusions of our property and privacy, the NDHRA has now embarked on pre-requisites to implement a Neighborhood Watch Program. In conjunction with the Dekalb County Police Department (Community Relations Unit), a resident NDHRA coordinator has been assigned, and will spearhead implementing a pilot (or “beta”) program in our community.

What is a Neighborhood Watch Program?

- A neighborhood communications network among neighbors
- A collaborative effort between community and the police
- An important tool that neighbors can use to help solve their crime concerns
- A program whereby neighbors are given: (a) training on how to detect suspicious activity, and (b) recommended action to take to deter certain crimes

How is a Neighborhood Watch Program organized?

The first step: The NDHRA invited Pat Jackson, a Crime Awareness Officer from Dekalb County (Community Relations Unit), to speak at the October NDHRA meeting. Ms. Jackson provided flyers explaining the program, offered advice on home security and gave information and updates on crime patterns in our neighborhood.

The second step: Volunteers! A resident community coordinator is assigned, and “block captains” are needed for every 12-15 homes – to distribute materials and (ideally) sign their assigned neighbors up for the “Watch” program. (block captain meetings, run by the Coordinator and often attended by the Crime Awareness Officer, are held as needed to distribute pertinent information and help ensure that everyone understands their duties / responsibilities).

The third step: block captains canvass the neighborhood. They make a personal visit to each home assigned to them, and discuss the Watch program. Each home is given informational material, and an opportunity to sign a “Neighborhood Watch Participation Form.” *Responsibilities of neighbors participating in Watch program:*

- Know your neighbors
- Exchange phone numbers, types of cars and other pertinent information with your neighbors (e.g., when you’re having construction / upgrades done to your home, which involves “work-trucks” and other work-vehicles coming and going)
- Let a trusted neighbor know when you are going to be away from home

- Make sure your home is secured (e.g., deadbolts on front and back doors).
- Watch out for suspicious persons, activities and vehicles
- Write down what you see (time, date, license plates)
- Inform your block captain anytime you have to call and make a police report

If the NDHRA can attain a 75% participation rate (i.e., 3 of 4 neighbors sign up to participate in the Watch program), then our community would receive signage indicating that we are involved in a Neighborhood Watch Program.

(Note: while this may not seem like a great advantage to some, others may see these “postings” as a potential crime-deterrent in and of itself – perhaps similar to seeing signs noting that “...these premises are protected by ABC Security, Inc.”).

How does the Neighborhood Watch Program actually work?

1. If a neighbor sees or suspects criminal activity taking place, they should first call the police at 911.
2. Next, they should contact their block captain, and relay what happened.
3. The block captain should in turn contact the Coordinator.
4. Information passed from resident to block captain to Coordinator concerning a suspicious car or person in the community, or isolated incidents (such as theft of car, lawn mower, etc.) need not be reported to the Crime Awareness Officer. However: **several incidents**, such as numerous thefts from cars, or an aggravated situation (such as burglary) warrant the Coordinator contacting the Crime Awareness Officer ASAP.
5. The Crime Awareness Officer would then investigate the reported incident(s), discuss it with the Coordinator and determine whether an “Alert” should go out to the entire community.

Current Status of the NDHRA Neighborhood Watch Program

The NDHRA covers an area encompassing almost 900 residences. A Neighborhood Watch Program for an entire community of this size is currently not feasible; however, our Crime Awareness Officer, Ms. Jackson, has agreed that a pilot (“beta”) program that will include approximately 150 to 200 homes, for NDHRA, would be appropriate.

An NDHRA Coordinator has been assigned (Tom Eidson, Fama Drive), and met with Ms. Jackson back in December (when arrangements for a NDHRA beta Watch program was agreed to). It has been determined that 10 to 15 block captains will be needed to implement this beta program. Several residents have either volunteered or agreed to serve in the capacity of Block Captain:

Meet Your 2003 Board



Liz Beyer
President

Fama Drive
liz@wertime.com
(404) 633-5700



Maureen Corley
Vice President

Fama Drive
ranchomo@hotmail.com
(404) 634-9054



Dave Thompson
Treasurer

Briarcliff Road
dave@ijmc.com
(404) 486-8375



Gayle Peoples
Secretary

Laurel Park Circle
gpeoples@mindspring.com
(404) 315-7943



Conner Allred
Board Member

Bristol Drive
connercan@attbi.com
(404) 634-4165



Peter Laing
*Environmental Enhancement
Chair/Board Member*

Berkeley Mews
scipl@attbi.com
(404) 321-7551



Tom Eidson
*Neighborhood Watch
Captain/Board Member*

Fama Drive
rthomaseidson@hotmail.com
(404) 579-1132



Caren Feingold
Membership Chair

Bridgeport Drive
c_feingold@hotmail.com
(404) 320-6128



Scott Wertime
Communications Chair

Fama Drive
scott@wertime.com
404-633-5700



John Steinichen
*Zoning and
Land Use Chair*

Merrimac Court
stein@mindspring.com
(404) 636-2723

A Test in Patience

We've all shared the frustration with the traffic congestion – difficulty pulling out onto a major road from your street, drivers blocking intersections, speed, cut-throughs, etc.

Since our Association covers over 850 houses with many having multiple cars, we have an opportunity to affect the streets in our area in a positive or negative way. Instead of waiting for everyone else to change, why not make some changes with how we drive?

Studies show that our behavior becomes less civil when we think of ourselves as anonymous in our cars. The best way to counter that is to acknowledge that we can give the same respect to other drivers that we would like to receive. Treat each driver as you would like him or her to treat you. Think how differently you might drive if the person in front of you was your best friend.

So, give it a try for a week. See how you feel after driving just one trip. Expand it to more days as you notice your stress level go down.

- At every safe opportunity, allow someone who is waiting to enter traffic to go in front of you. If there is time, let in two...
- Look ahead when approaching a traffic light... will you block a frequently used business entrance or exit that people are waiting to turn into? Can you help the traffic opposite you flow better by waiting just a few seconds more – allowing someone making a left turn to get through and no longer block traffic?
- Is there someone waiting at a side street you could leave room for while you sit in the backed up traffic?
- Try making eye contact with people walking on your street as you drive by. Better yet, try a smile or wave – they'll appreciate the acknowledgement. You'll notice that you automatically

slow down when approaching them this way.

- Put a little note in your car as a reminder for those days you really feel less patient.

Who knows – maybe we can start a trend!

Street Clean-Up Scheduled for North Druid Hills Road

**Saturday, March 8th
8 - 11am**

(Rain date March 15th)

BYOT (bring your own tools!) We can supply the safety vests and refreshments. The location to meet will be announced, so please call or email if you are interested in participating.

Contact

Peter Laing at (404) 321-7551
or email at scipl@attbi.com.

Useful Phone Numbers Covering the North Druid Hills Community

Emergencies and County Numbers

Emergencies911
(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 Jones 404-371-2881
. ceo@co.dekalb.ga.us

Commissioners:

Gale Walldorff 404-371-2863
District 2 galew@co.dekalb.ga.us
Judy Yates 404-371-4909
Super District 6 jayates@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 30030 fax: 404-371-7004

North Druid Hills Residents Association

Mailing address:

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

Board of Directors:

Liz Beyer (President) 404-633-5700
Maureen Corley (Vice President) 404-634-9054
David Thompson (Treasurer) 404-486-8375
Gayle Peebles (Secretary) 404-315-7943
Conner Allred 404-634-4165
Peter Laing 404-321-7551
Tom Eidson 404-579-1132

Committee Chairs:

Communications:

Scott Wertime 404-633-5700

Environmental Enhancement:

Peter Laing 404-321-7551

Membership:

Caren Feingold 404-320-6128

Neighborhood Watch Captain:

Tom Eidson 404-579-1132

Zoning/Land Use:

John Steinichen 404-636-2723

Land Use Updates

Neighborhood Projects

John Steinichen

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

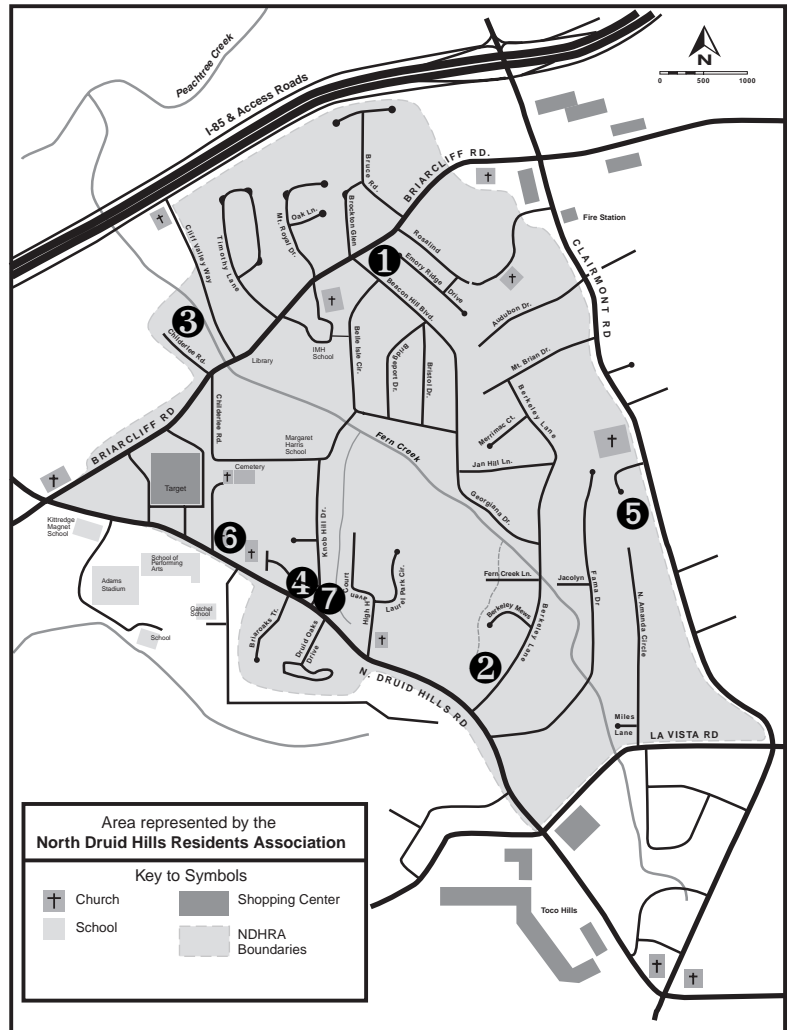
Nolan's Ridge: (#1 on map) The three new large house development on a private drive off Briarcliff Rd, is almost finished. The houses have been built and sales are underway. The drive was supposed to be built to street standards with a porous surface to alleviate runoff and the need for a detention facility, but only half of the surface is porous. Take a look.

Berkeley Oaks Subdivision: (#2 on map) This is still inactive after the "voluntary dismissal" by developers of their appeal of the Board of Commissioners decision upholding our appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of the Preliminary Plat. The dismissal came after Superior Court rulings which allowed intervention by NDHRA and recognized that the briefs and exhibits NDHRA filed before the BOC were part of the official record before the Superior Court, and therefore had to be considered in support of the BOC decision. Status of the file is unclear – closed or open. More investigation will follow.

Cliff Valley Apartments: (#3 on map) These are built out and renting – all 272. Fairly good landscaping but overwhelming massiveness. What do you think? This development was totally beyond our influence.

Emory Place (Jolly/Centex): (#4 on map) Construction has stopped with about half of the units built awaiting more sales. Activity is expected to start back up this Spring. Adjacent neighbors on Knob Hill Ct are working with developers on a tree planting program along property lines. This is a contractual right granted by rezoning conditions.

Cliff Valley School: (#5 on map) Construction on Clairmont has been put on hold, supposedly until better weather. The delay of this major site disturbance project is having a brutal environmental impact and is being ignored. Ground cover planting during the interim was promised but not delivered. Protest to the County.



First Alliance Church: (#6 on map) The gymnasium project is being delayed due to County's request for more information and overall site plans. The Board of Commissioners approved a Special Land Use Permit for this project based upon an agreement between the church and the NDHRA listing 17 conditions aimed at protecting neighboring properties from noise, lighting, etc. and providing buffering. A major condition was a requirement for a site landscape plan emphasizing perimeter tree planting buffers subject to neighbor review.

Simsberry Park: (#7 on map) The rezoning project at Knob Hill Dr and North Druid Hills Rd has been deferred again at the request of the developers because they have sold property to someone else. We have not heard from the new owners.

Target Store: Target was rebuilt without provision for pedestrian access from surrounding area, but Environmental Committee is working on this.

Environmental Enhancement Committee

Hello neighbors! I'm Peter Laing, your EEC chairperson for 2003. We have some great projects planned for this year and most will require your participation. Some of these projects are:

- Street curb & trash clean-ups
- Margaret Harris School clean-up
- Fern Creek clean-up
- Walking access to Target from Childerlee Lane & Briarcliff Rd.
- Greenspace park at Margaret Harris vacant lot
- Neighborhood identity signs (sign toppers)

I hope to see you all out volunteering for some of these projects.

Remember, it's the responsibility of the individual resident to maintain their property within the Dekalb County code, i.e. cutting grass, removal of junk vehicles, and removal of household debris from carports and fronts of homes.

Be proud of your neighborhood!

Thanks

NDHRA would like to thank Intown Community Church for allowing us to use their facilities for our Annual Meeting last December.

Oops

If you recently mailed in your renewal and the letter was returned by the post office, please try resending it. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Become a contributor or an advertiser to the *Fern Creek Crier*!

Advertising Fees

1/8 page ad (business card size): \$25, 1/4 page ad: \$50
Above fees are for digital ads supplied by the advertiser. Ads can be created for an additional fee.

Distribution

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Contact

Scott Wertime or Liz Beyer at (404) 633-5700 for ad or article submissions or further information.

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