

Spring 2005

Fern Creek Crier

www.ndhra.org

A Quarterly Newsletter by the North Druid Hills Residents Association

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

Quarterly Meeting

**Thursday, April 7
7:30 pm**

**Meet our new representatives
County Commissioner Kathie Gannon
and State Rep. Mike Jacobs**
Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation
2500 Clairmont Rd.

Come early for refreshments

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Join NDHRA...We've Got Reasons

Gayle Peebles

Thinking about joining NDHRA? We would welcome your membership and participation. Not sure what we do? Well here are some of the highlights of the past year.... • Hosting general community meetings featuring local leaders and elected officials, tree specialists, and more • Participating in county Board of Commissioners meetings to make sure homeowners' interests are heard and conveyed back to the association • Street and creek clean ups • Providing leadership to the county Infill Task Force to address oversized houses in established neighborhoods • Collaborating with neighboring associations for projects affecting our area of the county.

We've got more exciting projects underway and we hope you'll be a part of it. Use the membership form below to send in your 2005 dues - just \$25 a year. See you around the neighborhood!

North Druid Hills Residents Association 2005 Membership and Donation Form

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

- Zoning/Land use
- Environmental Enhancement
- 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. Contribution Amount \$ _____

Annual Membership is \$25 and runs from January through December.

All memberships received after October 1st are applied to 2005. Please make checks payable to NDHRA.

Payments can be mailed to the following address, or dropped off at the General Meeting.

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

Dogwood Days

Maureen Corley

For many decades clouds of pink and white dogwood blossoms have lined the streets of our North Druid Hills neighborhood. Most of these trees were planted back in the early 50's by the original homeowners. But time is taking a toll on our flowering dogwoods, which are dying in ever-increasing numbers. Some are victims of drought stress and disease, but invariably most are succumbing to old age. Unlike the towering oaks, the slow-growing dogwoods have relatively short life-spans – 50 to 80 years under ideal conditions, 20 to 30 years in urban environments.



So, what to do? Why not restore the classic look of our neighborhood by planting dogwoods this spring. The good news is that there are newer, hardier varieties available for the landscape. Here are a few tips from Jim Midcap, a horticulturalist with the University of Georgia:

- When selecting a dogwood to plant, always choose named selections. Some proven selections are Barton and Cloud Nine (white), Cherokee Brave and Cherokee Chief (red), rubra (pink) and Pygmaea (a white-bracted dwarf). These have been chosen because they have improved features.
- Most named selections bloom at a young age. A plant two to three feet tall will be covered with flowers, while seedlings will seldom even have even a single flower.
- Selections usually have large bracts that are bright white, pink or red. They're usually insect- and disease-resistant. With seedling dogwoods, you're not sure what will develop. Plants often don't flower for four to six years after planting.
- The flowering dogwood is best adapted to partial shade and does best with afternoon shade. However, many are grown in full sun and look great. The higher the light, the more flowers dogwoods will produce.
- The roots are naturally shallow and grow best in moist, organic, well-drained soils. Dogwoods suffer when subjected to drought. Water them thoroughly while they're young.
- Sun-planted dogwoods can suffer from drought when growing under heavy competition from plants such as turf grasses. These trees do much better when mulched and irrigated deeply during establishment and droughts.

For more information on dogwoods, check out this fact sheet at:
<http://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheets/HGIC1010.htm>

NDHRA Clean Up and Operation Fresh Start

Our first roadside clean up will be held in conjunction with the DeKalb county-wide clean up on **Saturday, April 16** (April 23 is the back up date). This is an ideal opportunity for our association to join up with others to Keep DeKalb Beautiful. NDHRA has registered the designated area of North Druid Hills Rd. from LaVista to Knob Hill for a trash pick up. DeKalb County will provide garbage bags and Youth volunteers to accommodate their need for National Youth Day projects.



Peter Laing
EEC Chair

scipl@comcast.net
(404) 321-7551

We be having our annual Fern Creek Walk to survey the condition of the stream and clean up any debris blocking the waterway. Volunteers are needed to try and cover as much as the creek as possible, please contact Peter Laing at 404-321-7551 or email scipl@comcast.net.

Remember for those who live adjacent to the creek, please refrain from putting yard waste, tree limbs, and any other trash in the or near the creek.

See you all at the clean up!

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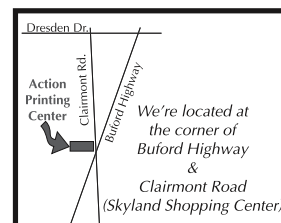
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*Acting Co-President
and Secretary*

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gpeeples@mindspring.com
(404) 315-7943



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Acting Co-President

Bristol Drive
connercan@comcast.net
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Treasurer

Fama Drive
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Peter Laing
*Environmental Enhancement
Chair/Board Member*

Berkeley Mews
scipl@comcast.net
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Tom Eidson
*Neighborhood Watch
Captain/Board Member*

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



Scott Wertime
Communications Chair

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



Liz Beyer
*Past President
Acting Zoning & Land Use
Committee Chair*

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

The Future Funding Commission (FFC)

Beth Nathan, Hawthorn Civic Association

The Future Funding Commission (FFC) is comprised of residents throughout DeKalb County. Each member of the Commission was appointed in the Fall of 2004 by a local civic organization, a county commissioner, or the CEO, Vernon Jones.

FFC Mission Statement: To establish a countywide vision in order to prioritize and identify infrastructure needs, projects and funding sources which will increase the value of the economic investments made by DeKalb citizens and businesses and improve the quality of life for all citizens. In accomplishing its mission, the committee will act with transparency and in compliance with the DeKalb County Code of Ethics in its effort to obtain community input and consensus, and in a non-partisan manner as responsible stewards of taxpayer funds.

Current Status: A series of 5 public meetings has been completed and the FFC is moving to come to a consensus on recommendations to be presented to the CEO and the County Commission. Fairly detailed background materials on unfunded capital projects (not operating funds nor funded capital projects) and potential funding mechanisms as presented by county staff to the FFC are posted at **www.dekalbpolitics.org**. Among posted items is a flow-chart of the major sources of county income and expense as prepared by a member of the FFC working with the Finance Dept. Boxes and arrows are done to scale so it's easy to interpret.

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 75 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

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dave Adelman | 404-463-1376 |
| State Senate Dist 42 | Fax: 404-463-1385 |
| | dadelman@legis.state.ga.us |
| Mike Jacobs | 404-656-0325 (Capitol) |
| State House Dist 80 | 404-321-1716 (Home) |
| | mike@meetmikejacobs.com |
| | www.MeetMikeJacobs.com |

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

Kathie Gannon 404-371-4909
Super District 6 kgannon@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

2005 Board of Directors:

Conner Allred (acting Co-President) .404-634-4165
Gayle Peoples
 (acting Co-President & Secretary) .404-315-7943
Maureen Corley (Treasurer) 404-634-9054
Liz Beyer (past President) 404-633-5700
Peter Laing 404-321-7551
Tom Eidson 404-579-1132

Communications Chair:

Scott Wertime 404-633-5700

Environmental Enhancement Chair:

Peter Laing 404-321-7551

Membership Chair:

(vacant)

Neighborhood Watch Captain Chair:

Tom Eidson 404-579-1132

Zoning/Land Use Chair:

Liz Beyer (acting Chair) 404-633-5700

DOT Public Hearings Update

Judge Johnny Panos

I was able to attend meetings in January that relate to two projects in our area. The first meeting was the North Druid Hills Road/Clairmont Road - State of Georgia Dept. of Transportation - Project. The second meeting was the second and final public meeting regarding the LaVista Road Streetscape project.

With regards to the N. Druid Hills Road project, here is what I learned:

The Georgia DOT is planning to make modifications to the intersection of N. Druid Hills and Clairmont Road as such:

1. Right turn lane extension - Assume you are traveling on N. Druid Hills Rd. from the N. DeKalb Mall area and heading towards Clairmont Rd. The DOT wants to take the existing right turn lane as you approach the N. Druid Hills and Clairmont Rd intersection and enlarge it or expand it so that it starts at the intersection of Clairmont and N. Druid Hills and goes back towards N. DeKalb Mall some 350-400 feet.
2. Place a sidewalk in the area in front of the gas station abutting N. Druid Hills Road.
3. Create or modify crosswalks and pedestrian improvements at the triangle area
4. Create a sidewalk at the intersection of N. Druid Hills Rd. and Clairmont Road. The sidewalk would start at Clairmont Rd and extend to the upper parking lot of the Clairmont Baptist Church.
5. Create a sidewalk on the Clairmont Baptist Church side of N. Druid Hills. This sidewalk would start at the corner of the Church on Clairmont Rd and extend south on N. Druid Hills ending about the 5th house from the church or approximately at the street where the Longwood Vista condos or apartments are located.
6. Presumably the project will start sometime in the fall of 2005 and take 6-12 months to complete with the average being about 9 months.
7. The initial price tag is estimated at \$450,000.00

With regards to the Public Meeting regarding the LaVista Road Streetscape project: The Georgia DOT is planning to make modifications to the area on LaVista Road from Harobi to Northlake Parkway. These modifications will be in 3 phases as such:

1. Phase 1 – This phase involves the area somewhere around Henderson Rd (ie., the area between Michaels and Pizza Hut) and I-285. The design calls for creating 6 foot sidewalks for that entire area. Also in this phase, trees and shrubbery will be planted on islands to be created on LaVista Road.

2. Phase 2 – This phase involves the area somewhere around Harobi and Henderson Rd.

The design calls for creating 6 foot sidewalks for that entire area. Also in this phase, trees and shrubbery will be planted on islands to be created on LaVista Road.

3. Phase 3 – This phase involves the area somewhere around I-285 and N. Lake Pkwy.

The design calls for creating 6 foot sidewalks for that entire area. Also in this phase, trees and shrubbery will be planted on islands to be created on LaVista Road.

These were the main points I was able to take note of.

Expanded Curbside Recycling Coming

Liz Beyer

Tired of lugging your glass, cardboard and other recyclables to facilities? The Board of Commissioners recently approved a new service for DeKalb residents that will allow us to do more curbside. The plan utilizes existing vehicles and employees by having the pick ups on Wednesdays when garbage collections aren't scheduled. It will be a voluntary program for residents in which each household signs up and pays a yearly fee of \$25. It will also be necessary to purchase a recycling bin for a one-time fee of \$15 and a box of 100 special bags (estimated to last for 1-2 years) for \$15.

The expanded collection will include newspapers, mixed paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, tin, and aluminum cans. They will still have aluminum can collection on our Tuesday garbage pick up and newspapers on Friday's since not everyone will be participating in the new program.

The new curbside service will have a bonus – participants won't need to separate the different categories of items since the county proposes all containers be put in the bag together while all paper products go in the bin.

The key to the success of this program will be community education. Brochures and mail stuffers should be heading our way in the summer with more information. The county is currently in the bidding process for recycling vendors, so it is estimated that bins will be available for purchase in August.

Kudos to Leroy Scott and Billy Malone in the Sanitation Department for listening to residents' requests and creating this proposal.

Metro Atlanta Walk There! Challenge Starts April 1

Put a spring in your step – sign up for the Metro Atlanta Walk There! Challenge. During April, individuals across the region will sport pedometers, counting every step on their way to better air quality, better health and possibly an iPod shuffle or a trip to Aruba!

To sign up for the Challenge, you simply need to enroll online with 'CommuteTrak,' the web-based software that will be used to log steps each day throughout the contest's duration. To learn more about the Metro Atlanta Walk There! Challenge and to register to participate, go to <http://www.cleanaircampaign.org/walkThere.asp>.

Each week during the 4-week Walk There! Challenge, the region's 10 TMA's will each award 2 iPod Shuffles to the 2 individuals in their area who have logged the most steps the previous week. A total of 80 iPod Shuffles will be given away during this four-week period. It's sure to be great fun, and the region-wide winner gets an all-expense-paid trip for 2 to Aruba!

The challenge begins Friday April 1st – so register now!

Sally Flocks, President and CEO
PEDS 404-873-5667
info@peds.org www.peds.org

Clifton Corridor Transportation Study Public Workshop on April 14

The Clifton Corridor Transportation Study is being undertaken by Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Clifton Corridor Transportation Management Association (CCTMA) and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to identify transportation needs and improvement priorities within the Clifton Corridor area. The study, being prepared by Jacobs, was initiated in response to a growing frustration with traffic congestion in the corridor, and a concern that existing transportation facilities and services would be inadequate to handle future transportation demands.

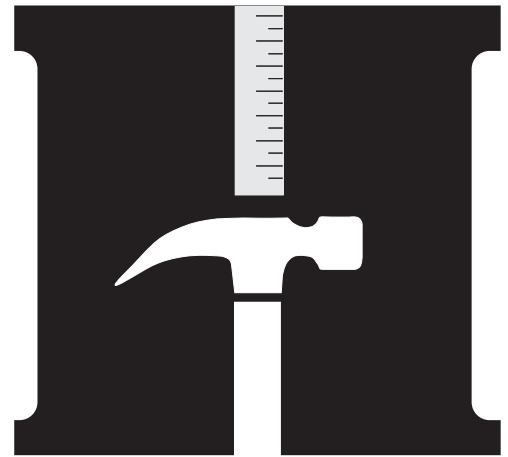
Don't miss your chance to voice your opinion and provide input. For additional information about the study, please call 404-727-5166.

Transportation Study Workshop 4:

Thurs, April 14th from 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Emory Conference Center, Hickory Room,
1615 Clifton Road, Atlanta

Transportation Study Workshop 5:

Wed, April 27th from 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Emory Conference Center Silverbell Pavilion



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Land Use Updates

The owner of the 4.6 acre property on **Berkeley Lane** near North Druid Hills Rd submitted his redevelopment plan to our committee last summer. (#1 on map). The zoning will remain R-100. The subdivision application is before the County and a plat review date will be posted on site. The plans are for 7 houses and a new street. Some items we negotiated: an arborist to check the save trees prior and during construction and lessened work hours in the evenings.

The property on the corner of Knob Hill Dr and North Druid Hills Rd, now known as **Knob Hill Trace** (#2), has received approval for rezoning by the Board of Commissioners from R85 to R60. The proposed plat includes 6 detached homes: 4 which will face N. Druid Hills Rd and 2 behind them. The homes will be more modest in size than many new developments with footprints around 1300 sq. feet (multi-storied).

Congregation Shaarei Shamayim (#3) has demolished the prior Christian Church building and is preparing the site for construction of their new temple at the corner of North Druid Hills Rd and Mt Mariah Rd (west of the First Alliance Church). Our committee supported the congregation's SLUP application with conditions, plus an accompanying parking space variance, in order to save trees.

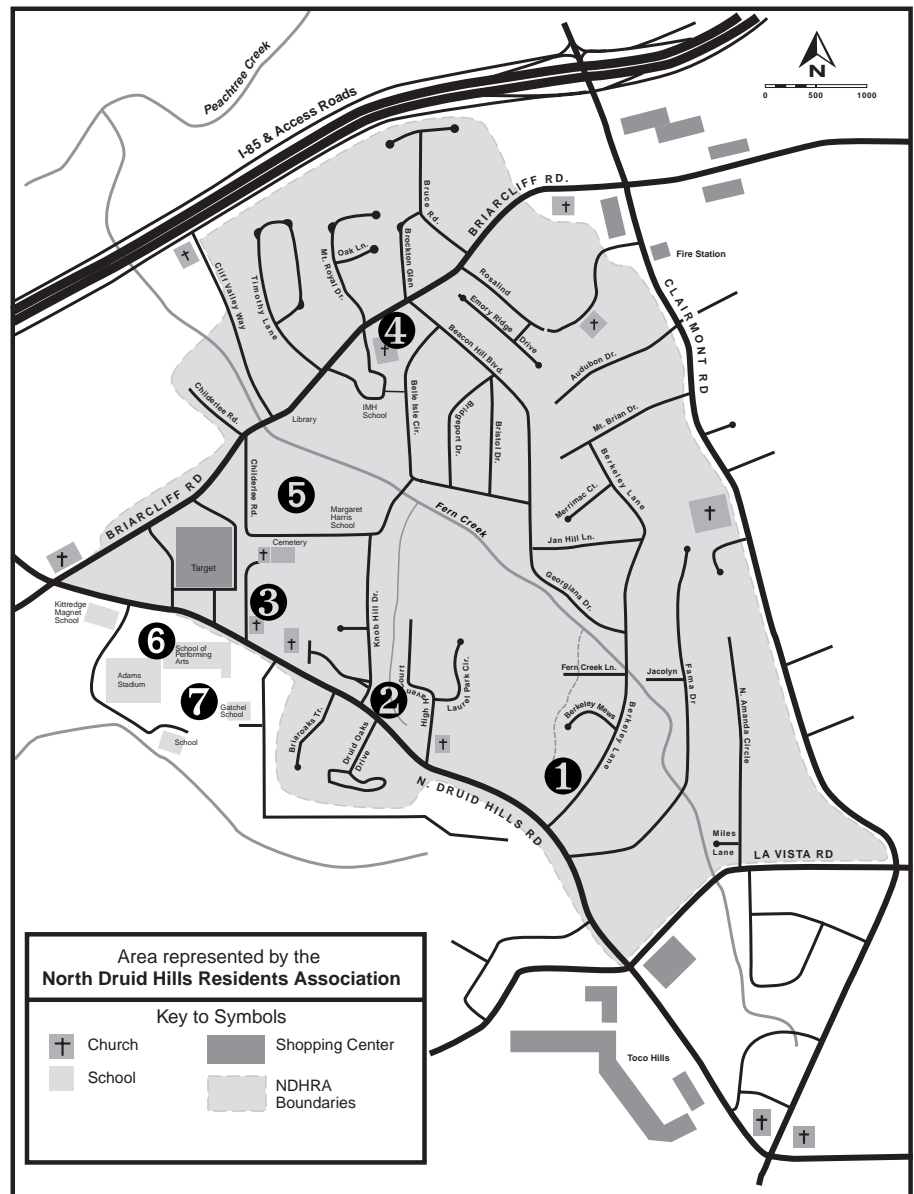
The Board of Commissioners approved the rezoning application for the **Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church** (#4). Our Board and committee supported the approved plans. IHM held several neighborhood meetings over the past 3 months to get residents' input on their site plan in addition to changes made at the request of our association. The new sanctuary will be built in the low area near Briarcliff where the current parking lot is. The school has no plans for expanding enrollment. The parcel abutting Belle Isle Circle currently used for parking will remain R-85.

The Highlands at Briarcliff apartments are fenced off and slated for demolition and reconstruction as condominiums. The property abuts Fern Creek, so we will need to monitor the construction around the required stream buffer area.

New Facility for **Open Campus High School**: (#6) *The Champion Free Press* on July 30, 2004, announced that the DeKalb School System has purchased the old American Fare property on Mountain Industrial Way for a new driver education facility, which will open Aug. 9.

Other uses of this property will include "A new 155,000-square-foot Open Campus High School to replace the existing Open Campus at the Jim Cherry Center." Designs are currently underway for the facility, but no time table was given. Open Campus at Jim Cherry shares the old Briarcliff High School with the DeKalb School of the Arts, 2415 N. Druid Hills Road.

DeKalb County has purchased 22 acres of **greenspace behind the Dekalb School of the Arts**. (#7)



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gusmach@mindspring.com

Article Submissions: Liz Beyer
(404) 633-5700
liz@wertime.com

See our web site at www.ndhra.org

Sagamore Hills Elementary School Carnival

The public is cordially welcomed to the Sagamore Hills Elementary School Carnival in celebration of Accelerated Reading accomplishments. Admission for the general public is \$2. Carnival tickets to participate in professional carnival games with prizes, hair/face painting, dunk tank, bungee run, food sponsored by Chick Fil A and Bruster's Ice Cream etc...can be purchased for 50 cents at the door.

The carnival is rain or shine! Please plan to join us for family fun on Saturday, April 30, 4 - 7pm at the Sagamore Hills Elementary School, 1865 Alderbrook Road, Atlanta, GA 30345. For more information, contact Barbara Pastirik at 404-463-7273.

Thanks

NDHRA would like to thank the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation for hosting our November Annual Meeting.

Conner Allred

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Atlanta, GA 30306

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(Briarcliff: turn on Zonolite at Briarcliff Animal Hospital, down hill to Dalon Rd.)

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Fax: 404-636-7332