

*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**

**Saturday, June 18**  
**10 am - 11 am**  
**(9:30 for coffee and bagels)**

First Alliance Church  
 2512 N. Druid Hills Rd.  
 (at the traffic light at Holly Lane east of Target)

*News about your neighborhood*

### DeKalb Infill Task Force Needs Your Input

It has been over a year since 500 local residents met at Lakeside High School to present our issues with infill building to our elected county officials. The task force that was created in March 2004 has been meeting regularly to prepare recommendations for ordinance changes pertaining to one-for-one building (eg. tear down a ranch house and build a new oversized house). As co-chair of the DeKalb Infill Task Force, I've driven all over the county to study the egregious examples of infill, and take note of the ones that actually do fit within the established neighborhoods. We've been luckier than most in that the one-for-one phenomenon has hit harder in the neighborhoods abutting ours, but that's about to change with two nearing demolition within our boundaries - one on High Haven and another on Beacon Hill.



Liz Beyer  
Past President  
liz@wertime.com  
(404) 633-5700

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### Help Wanted

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank all of my neighbors who are members of NDHRA, both new and renewing. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Maureen Corley  
Treasurer  
ranchomo@hotmail.com  
(404) 634-9054

As of June 1, 2005, the NDHRA has 100 members, both new and renewals. That's down sharply by more than a third from 2003, when we had 160 paid members. As a voluntary neighborhood association, we're not alone; many similar neighborhood groups have similar membership struggles. We are currently experiencing a large turnover of the original 1950s homeowners as they age and need to move to assisted living facilities. Residents new to our neighborhood often take several years to become involved, so we are losing longtime members without replacements. NDHRA represents an area of nearly 1000 homes, yet only 10% of today's residents have seen the value of membership. We realize the NDHRA is at a disadvantage by representing such a large area with many cul-de-sac streets and rental properties (see map p.5); by contrast, Merry Hills, which is a fairly self-contained neighborhood of 352 homes with 131 members, enjoys a participation rate of 37%.

NDHRA is a volunteer, not-for-profit civic association. All of the current board members and officers have put in at least two years of service. We are all self-employed and run small businesses. In my case, I'm in my 5th year of service on the NDHRA board (and my 6th year of involvement). I have already decided that this will be my last year as a board member, as I need to devote more time to

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We have had our share of infill for new cul-de-sacs that may or may not require a zoning change. By the time you receive this newsletter, our task force will have just had our first public presentation at the Greek Cathedral. If you were able to make it – thanks for taking the time to hear our ideas and give your feedback. If you couldn't attend that meeting, there is a second one on June 29th at the Maloof Auditorium (Commerce street across from the county parking garage in downtown Decatur). If you attended and you want to give further input, please go to our web site at [www.dekalbinfill.org](http://www.dekalbinfill.org) and send us an email. These will be forwarded to all seven county commissioners and the county staff working on this project. They need to hear from you and know if you support the proposals that will help us maintain the quality of our neighborhoods by setting standards for how new infill construction can occur within our established communities.

The Task Force recommendations include changing the current work hours of 7 am - 10 pm to 7 am - 7 pm, with no work allowed on Sundays and specified holidays. (Currently, they can work 365 days a year.) There is also a new method for measuring height, as well as a suggested decrease in the height allowed that would limit new homes of 3 stories towering over the neighboring homes.

For more information, please visit our web site or head to the Maloof Auditorium June 29th at 7 pm - 9 pm.

running my business. I can't speak for my fellow board members, but each will be making that same decision about running for reelection.

It's conceivable that without new faces running for election to the board later this year, the NDHRA will have to go into hiatus. This has happened before due to lack of activity and/or interest (the board dissolved and funds were rolled into a bank CD).

Your current NDHRA was revived in the late 90's when the potential development known now as Berkeley Oaks was first proposed for development (see our Zoning and Land Use Report for an update). Then, as now, residents only became aware of the NDHRA when development projects loomed – in the 80's, it was the building of Arbor Hills; in the early 90's, the expansion of Toco Hills Shopping Center and the widening of Lavista). Our current Board is working harder than ever since we've expanded our scope to work with neighboring associations on county Greenspace applications, zoning and infill issues. It's become necessary to band together to be more effective with our county officials and we've made a lot of progress, but our resources are now stretched thin.

The North Druid Hills Residents Association is at a critical juncture. What NDHRA needs to survive is twofold: your support (by joining or renewing); but more importantly, your involvement, by volunteering to serve on the board and/or committees. Since the late 90's, many board members and residents past and present have devoted their time and energy to raise awareness of our unique North Druid Hills neighborhood with county and state elected officials. If the NDHRA goes on hiatus next year, that presence with your lawmakers will vanish. Without your involvement, there would be no NDHRA.

Later this summer we'll be seeking nominations for officers and board members at large for 2006. If you're willing to give some time to serve your neighborhood as a board member, please call Gayle Peeples at (404) 315-7943 or Conner Allred at (404) 634-4165. If there are no candidates for next year's board, there will be no NDHRA in 2006.

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## FreeCycle – the Website for Recycling

In the past, the Fern Creek Crier has offered information on recycling resources in and around the North Druid Hills area. This month, we'd like to tell you about a clever way to recycle stuff other than the usual cans and bottles. Got an old appliance or chair that you think someone could still use or fix? Don't throw it out – go online and Freecycle it! The Freecycle Network is a global internet phenomenon where people go online to give or get all kinds of unwanted items for free.

One enthusiastic Freecycle user is our own NDHRA treasurer, Maureen Corley. In the past 5 months, she's used Freecycle to give away a very old computer, a used bi-fold door left over from a remodeling project, even a stack of ancient aluminum patio chairs. Maureen found many people more than happy to take her stuff away. She's even had a friend give away old shrubs she dug up from her yard! That's the beauty of Freecycle – all of these items and more avoided winding up in the landfill. Since Freecycle began in Tucson in May 2003, over 1.3 million people have signed on in communities all over the world.

So, how does it work? Log on to [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) to sign up (it's free). Click on the "US Southern" group, then select the link either the Atlanta Metro area group or the Atlanta Inside The Perimeter group. Both are Yahoo Groups, which means you sign up to receive regular emails of postings (you must register with the group to post). One tip from Maureen: sign up for both lists and you'll get greater coverage.

Here's what happens next (according to the Freecycle website):

When you want to find a new home for something – whether it's a chair, a fax machine, piano, or an old door – you simply send an e-mail offering it to members of your Freecycle group.

Or, maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself. Simply respond to a member's offer, and you just might get it. After that, it's up to the giver to decide who receives the gift and to set up a pickup time for passing on the treasure.

One main rule: Everything posted must be free, legal, and appropriate for all ages. Non-profit organizations also benefit from The Freecycle Network. Post the item or items you want to give away and a local organization can help you get it to someone in need.

So, take the time to visit [Freecycle.org](http://Freecycle.org) – and at least look up the type of articles being offered for recycling. Help reduce our landfills. Sign up today!



**Tom Eidson**  
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## Expanded Curbside Recycling Coming

The county's expanded curbside recycling is coming this summer. Find out more about what you will be able to recycle at your curb (including all plastic beverage, food & household cleaner containers with symbols 1-7) by going to our web site: [www.ndhra.org](http://www.ndhra.org). There is a link on our home page.

You may also call the Sanitation Customer Service at (404) 294-2900 or email [sanitation@co.dekalb.ga.us](mailto:sanitation@co.dekalb.ga.us).

## Crier Volunteer Roster

Thanks, Crier Delivery Team!

The NDHRA Board would like to thank these volunteers who offer their time and shoe leather in delivering the Crier each issue:

Conner Allred	Brown Kitchens
Jesse Angell	Peter Laing
Maureen Corley	Jessica Linden
Margi Drysdale	Joe McCannon
Tom Eidson	Gayle Peeples
Anne Freedman	Eric Peterson
Rhalda Friedman	Sally Pinkster
Kerrie Gilbert	Judith Porter
Anne Glaser	Debbie Powe
Zinnia Johnston	Scott Wertime
Joan Karpeles	Laura Yamashita

We'd also like to thank those who had helped us with deliveries in the past:

Debbi Powe	Caren Feingold
Rhalda Friedman	Charolette Steinichen

If you'd like to deliver, e-mail your name and street name to [gpeeples@mindspring.com](mailto:gpeeples@mindspring.com).



## Operation Fresh Start Volunteers

Can't forget the residents who came out on April 16th to participate in the county-wide clean-up campaign. We tackled both sides of N. Druid Hills from LaVista to the DeKalb School of the Arts.

Jesse Angell	Ken McMillian
Samantha Rowe	Liz Beyer
Maureen Corley	Len ( <i>sorry we didn't</i>
Tom Eidson	<i>get your last name</i> )
Jessica Linton	

A thanks also to the gentleman from the Weatherstone condos who helped us set up.

## North Druid Hills Residents Association Contact Information

Mailing address:

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

2005 Board of Directors:

Conner Allred (acting Co-President)	. . . . .404-634-4165
Gayle Peeples	. . . . .
(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



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## Land Use Updates

Several developers have looked at the parcel on **Briarcliff Rd (#1 on map)** with high density townhouses in mind. A request from our committee and the neighboring residents for detached single family houses yielded one plan for 6 homes. Several meetings have been held with the developer, Bruce Rd. residents and our committee to review the plans to minimize the impact on the adjacent homeowners' properties. The proposal for the approx 2.5 acre lot is to rezone from R-85 to R-60 for homes approx 2500 sq. ft in size. The new lots would be narrow, but very deep due to the required stream buffer along the northeast perimeter of the property.

The Board of Commissioners approved the rezoning application for the **Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church (#2)**. 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 (#3)** 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.

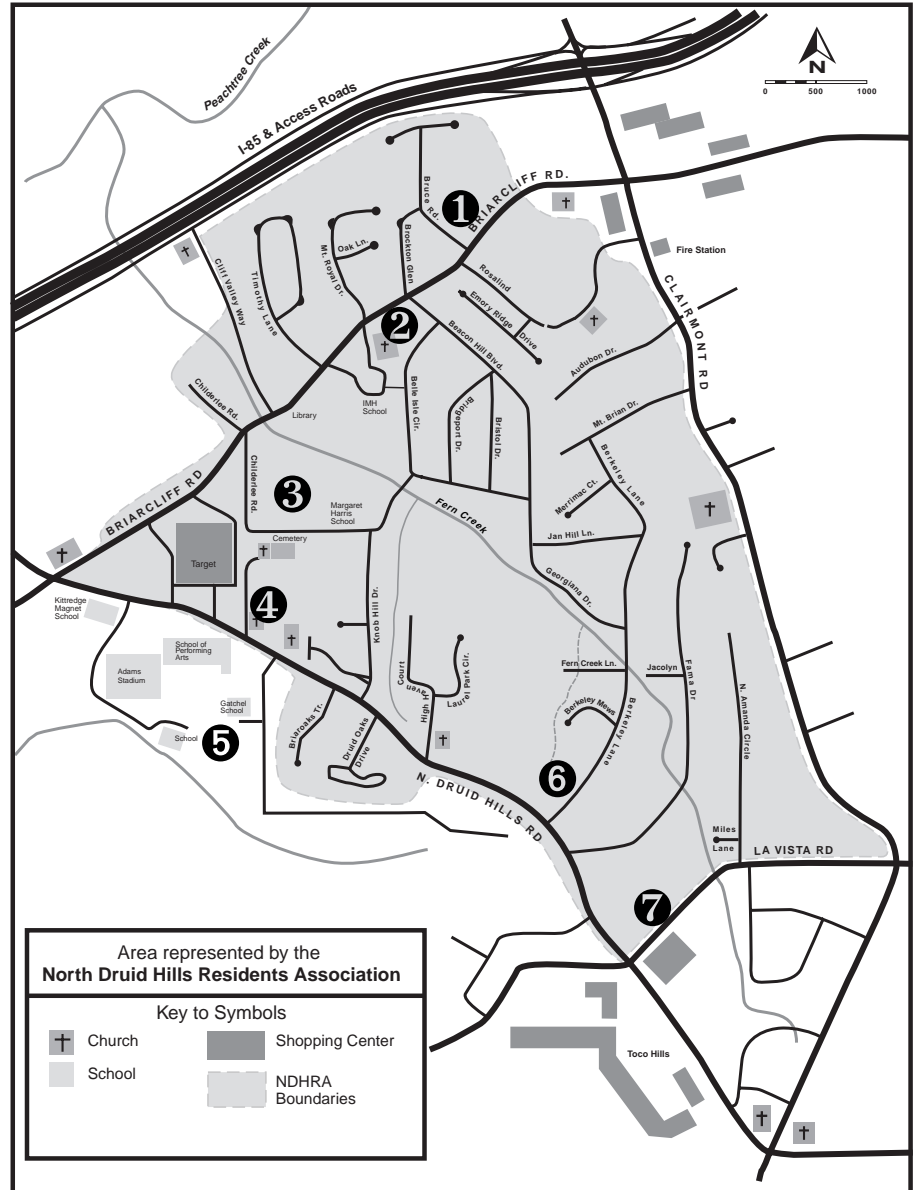
**Congregation Shaarei Shamayim (#4)** has demolished the prior Christian Church building and is preparing the site for construction of their new temple at the corner of North Druid Hills Rd and Mt Mariah Rd (west of the First Alliance Church).

DeKalb County has purchased 22 acres of **greenspace behind the Dekalb School of the Arts. (#5)**

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. (#6). 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.

The **Toco Hills Apartments** behind the CVS on LaVista (#7) are slated for demolition. The new development

will include 34 townhouses. There was no need for rezoning, however the owners did apply for a variance to reduce the setback on the property lines abutting The Druids offices on N. Druid Hills Rd. and the Kenco-LaVista Apartments on LaVista. Our request for a deferral was denied, even though the county staff considered the site plan inadequate as well. The likely result of the variance will be the cutting of the trees abutting the offices that currently buffer the commercial and residential areas at that corner.



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**Contacts**

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**Thanks**

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

**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 the following year.  
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