

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

Special Multi-Neighborhood Meeting

Political Forum
Tuesday, October 21
7 pm

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation
2500 Clairmont Rd.

*Join us for news and a Q&A with county and state representatives.
This event is open to neighboring associations.*

Panel Representatives

DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones	Georgia House of Representatives, 42nd District:
DeKalb County Commissioner Gale Walldorff	Doug Teper
DeKalb County Commissioner Judy Yates	Kathy Ashe
	Pat Gardner
	Nick Moraitakis

Political Forum Combines Neighborhoods and Governments

Liz Beyer

In July, LaVista Park held its annual political forum and I was invited to attend. It was a rainy night and I was extremely tired, so I thought I would just sit back and listen to whatever topics were discussed and go on my way. Several hours later, I was at home explaining all I had learned to my husband and looking forward to creating a similar experience for our association and adjoining neighborhoods. I've tried to understand different issues affecting our area through the local media, but I had no idea how easy it was to grasp the issues when both the county and state representatives were there to share in the conversation. We might think of DeKalb County's issues as separate from the state, but there is overlap you might not expect — such as Clairmont and Briarcliff being state roads. The addition of a sidewalk or traffic light isn't simply determined by the county since they are in the jurisdiction of the state DOT.

Want to know what our four District 42 Georgia House of Representatives have done for us lately? Want to know why the sales tax-free weekends could make our county's homeowners pay more taxes?

This is your chance.

The forum is in place of our regular General Meeting. Our next meeting will be in December and will include elections. Please see the article on nominations on page 2.

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Call for Nominees

A year goes by so quickly – and it's time to request nominees for our board and officers. We have a few that can already be announced. Maureen Corley, who was treasurer in 2002, has agreed to handle the books again, Gayle Peebles is willing to continue the role as secretary and I'm up for a second year as president.

Our current need is for a vice president.

(All positions are open for nominees.) Please contact Caren Feingold at 404-320-6128 if you are interested in joining us.

So what do our officers and board members do? We hold four quarterly meetings with an occasional extra meeting thrown in when necessary, plan the quarterly General Meetings, vote on how to respond to various issues affecting our area, and discuss the latest news from the committee chairs. We're a pretty easy-going group of people that are involved because we want to make a difference in our neighborhood and help to build a sense of community in the area we call home.

Elections

We will have a General Meeting in early December in which elections will be held. In prior years, each office was uncontested, so it was more like a vote to accept those who volunteered for each of the positions.

Social-izer

Want to see more social events like picnics or street parties? Are you good at planning them? We need someone who can bring this talent to our association, working with our board as a member, or just as a volunteer occasionally heading an event. Please contact me or Caren Feingold if you are interested or have any ideas for events.

Pot Luck

No – I'm not referring to who ends up as your board and officers! I'm talking about our plans for our December Annual Meeting to include a pot luck dinner. This is still in the works, so if this is something you've had experience in organizing, please let us know.



Liz Beyer
President
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Arnold Property/Proposed Park Update

September 23 was the third hearing for the rezoning request of the Arnold property before the DeKalb County Commissioners. Their lawyer once again asked for a full-cycle deferral acknowledging the County's efforts to continue investigating options for a park at the Toco Hill Shopping Center location. Greenspace Coordinator Tina Arbes is working with Commissioner Gale Walldorff to find a solution that will benefit the property heirs as well as the community.

Kittredge Park on Our Radar

A new long-term project we are undertaking with Merry Hills Homeowners Association involves the land behind Kittredge Elementary and the DeKalb School of the Arts. Currently, the County has a facility with a public pool on Kittredge Park Road (this road has a traffic light to North Druid Hills near the Target entrance).

The adjacent property behind the stadium was once owned by Laurie Bell Stubbs Johns. In 1978 she donated seven acres of this property to the Atlanta Audubon Society for the "A. Elwyn Johns Wildlife Sanctuary" (named for her late husband) to be preserved as a permanent sanctuary. The other part of the property she willed to the Gatchell Home, a personal care home for non-ambulatory individuals with musculo-skeletal and neurological disabilities. The Gatchell Home and Audubon Society property access is off Holly Drive. The total acreage for these privately held properties is 28 acres, which is mostly a piedmont hardwood forest with many birds.

Interest has been shown by our county commissioners to upgrade the underutilized District 2 park area, and in a recent meeting with Tina Arbes, we expressed our desire for an expansion of the park to include the woodland areas once owned by Mrs. Johns. Our hope is that with money from the Greenspace fund, the county could purchase a portion of this for a mixed used park that would include trails. This endeavor will take time as the County looks into options and courts the Gatchell Home for usage of their property.



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Winter Gardening

Pansy tips:

- when selecting your plants from the nursery, go for the plants that are more compact and dense, versus "leggy" plants that have put up a number of long flower stems.
- varieties with smaller sized flowers will tend to be more cold-hardy through the winter.
- don't space 6-pack sized plants too far apart. It's ok to plant them a bit closer than the tag might recommend. If you want that instant color bed effect that you see at apartment complexes and office parks around town, you have to start with bigger (more expensive) 4-inch pots that already have established root systems.
- pansies, like almost any garden plant, grow better in areas where the soil has been turned and improved with organic matter. Before you plant, pick up a bag of humus or other soil amendment from the garden center and work it into the soil. Your plants will grow better even in a slightly raised bed where the soil drains well.
- water evenly the first week. Some horticulturists recommend waiting up to a week before using a quick release liquid fertilizer (like Miracle-Gro). This gives the roots a



Maureen Corley
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chance to establish in their new environment. Like any annual plant, pansies need regular fertilizer feedings to maintain their showy blooms. When shopping for fertilizer, look for one that has a higher concentration of nitrate nitrogen. It gets absorbed more quickly in colder weather.

- try planting violas instead of pansies. They are even more cold-tolerant than pansies. And while they aren't as showy as their pansy cousins, violas have small but abundant flowers and spread well.

To prune or not to prune:

- resist the urge to do heavy pruning now to your shrubs. Pruning triggers a plant to put on new growth, something you generally want to avoid this time of year. If you want to tackle that overgrown shrub – WAIT. Light shaping pruning is ok for now; save the heavy pruning for mid-winter.
- DON'T prune spring flowering shrubs like azaleas and forsythias now; you'll be removing next spring's blooms if you do. Wait until they finish blooming next spring to do any serious shaping.

Dig it!

Now is a terrific time to plant new trees and shrubs in your landscape. The ground rarely freezes in our climate, so anything planted now will still put out new root growth throughout the fall and winter. When planting, don't worry about digging deep; make the hole WIDE, at least three times wider than the root ball. With our clay soil, trees tend to have shallow root systems, so loosening the soil in a wide circle will help encourage root growth. And don't forget to water new plantings throughout the cold, dry winter months!

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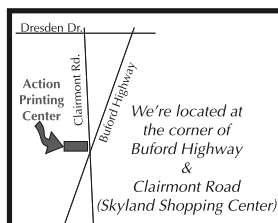
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Halloween is coming!

Are you interested in Trick-or-Treating together in our neighborhood this Halloween? If so, please contact Martha Simmons at: msimmonsturner@earthlink.net.

Adults welcome!



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Classifications of Organizations

A frequently asked question is whether membership or additional donations to NDHRA is tax deductible. We are a 501(c)(4), and therefore they aren't deductible. Ever wonder what allows contributions to some organizations to be tax deductible but not to others? (Or what in the world a 501(c)(4) organization is?) The terms used to distinguish an organization's status can be confusing, so here's a break down.

501(c)(3) is tax deductible, 501(c)(4) isn't.

Want more? Okay, let's take it a step further...

501(c)(3)

- Organizational requirement
- Assets must be dedicated to charitable purposes
- Social activities must be insubstantial
- Legislative activity must be insubstantial, or <20% if election made
- Absolute prohibition against political activity
- Must serve public purposes
- Donations are deductible as charitable contributions by donors on their tax returns
- Eligible for low cost non-profit bulk mailing permit
- Must take care to generate enough public support to avoid classification as a private foundation
- Exempt from Federal income tax unless the organization has unrelated business income

501(c)(4)

- No organizational requirement (or less stringent)
- No requirement to dedicate assets
- Social activity may be anything less than "primary"
- No limit on legislative activity as long as it furthers the exempt purpose
- Political activity permitted, but taxed
- Can serve community purposes, can be somewhat narrower than (c)(3)
- Donations not deductible as charitable contributions - businesses sometimes deduct as advertising
- Not eligible for lowest bulk mail
- Exempt from Federal income tax unless the organization has unrelated business income

Now, aren't you glad you asked?

If you're feeling daring and want to take it a step further to learn about 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(7), help yourself at <http://members.aol.com/irsform1023/misc/comp501s.html>

Church Throws a Line for Kids

Fishing with Conner



Conner Allred
connercan@attbi.com
(404) 634-4165

On September 28, a special multi-generation fishing event took place at the Chattahoochee Recreation Park off Roberts Dr. at the Island Ford Shoals.

Members of Jr. GOYA and the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation sent invitations, supplied a great picnic lunch, provided fishing bait, and awarded prizes for the 1st fish caught, the biggest fish, and the tallest fish tale. It was an absolutely beautiful day, sunny and cool, and everyone had a great time. Too bad the fish were not cooperating! The water on the river was a little murky that day. We will have to go back again soon, thanks Kathy for the invite.

My Dad always looks at the Farmer's Almanac for the best fishing days but my brother and I decided a long time ago that the fish would just have to bite when we had a chance to get out there, and sometimes it doesn't work out. But the old saying that a bad day on the lake is better than a good day at the office still holds true! The cooler fall weather should be great for bass and bream and soon the striped bass will start running. For an exciting day of big game fishing hire a guide to take you striper fishing on Lake Lanier, it will be worth it when you hook into one of those monsters! — Happy Fishing!

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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

Dave Adelman	404-463-1376
State Senate Dist 42	dadelman@legis.state.ga.us
Doug Teper	404-347-9242
State House Dist 42	repteper@mindspring.com
Kathy Ashe	404-656-5064
State House Dist 42	kashe42-2@mindspring.com
Pat Gardner	404-656-0305
State House Dist 42	pat@patgardner.org
Nick Moraitakis	404-656-0202
State House Dist 42	nmoraita@legis.state.ga.us

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

2003 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
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Caren Feingold 404-320-6128

Neighborhood Watch Captain Chair:

Tom Eidson 404-579-1132

Zoning/Land Use Chair:

John Steinichen 404-636-2723

Mixed Bag

Curbside aluminum recycling

You usually think of soda cans when recycling aluminum, but what about the cat food cans? A county employee reported that the Tuesday curbside recycling can include any aluminum cans, as long as they are clean of food. Check the label on the can first – if they have too many intrusions of non-aluminum cans, their recycler could pull the plug on it. (Friskies cat food is in aluminum and can be recycled curbside, while 9 Lives and most dog foods are in tin cans. These can be recycled at the Emory center or at the Dekalb Farmer's Market.)

Pets are plentiful

Several residents asked that a plea be made to dog walkers to use a bag to pick up after your pet. It's frustrating when walking on your lawn and you get a "surprise" on your shoes or on the lawn mower tires. Another request is to keep your dogs on a leash. Although you may think that your dog won't hurt the cat it is chasing, the cat doesn't know that! Injuries to other pets have resulted from the mere chase that ensues (and many have aging animals that aren't able to get away). Please be respectful of the other residents and pet owners.

Volunteers cleaning our streets

The Environmental Enhancement Committee hit the streets again in August for another clean up. Peter Laing was helped by Ken McMillian, Maureen Corley, Tom Eidson, and Brown Kitchens.

Mike Pastirik on Jan Hill, has put in many hours working to keep the property on the corner of Jan Hill and Georgiana from being overgrown. The property is owned by Arbor Hill Apartments, but is left unmaintained by them. Helping him this month was Alan and Valerie Craven, also of Jan Hill. (Thanks for the clean up at the Fama cul-de-sac too.) Also frequently seen working is James Watson of Georgiana Drive.

You're a great host!

It's an easy thing to overlook or take for granted, so we would like to extend our appreciation to Stewart Dickerson of Fama Drive for hosting our Association's web site free of charge for the past several years.

Evening Aerobics Classes Offered at the Greek Cathedral

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Land Use Updates

Neighborhood Planning

The Planning and Zoning Committee is preparing a series of maps illustrating neighborhood conditions and needs. Subjects are parks, open space, public facilities, traffic conditions, sidewalks, zoning, and potential development areas. This area is deficient in most of those items. These maps will be presented at neighborhood meetings and published on our web site as they evolve. Plans and improvement proposals based on accurate surveys should generate greater assistance for this area

Neighborhood Opinion Survey

Forms asking for opinions on neighborhood conditions were passed out at the last neighborhood meeting and published on our web site. The response was not significant, although it appears there is support for parks and sidewalks, but not much for street interconnectivity. We will try again at the next neighborhood meeting with revised forms. Apparently the web site is not a good opinion survey vehicle - only five responses and subject to ballot stuffing.

Zoning and Development in Our Neighborhood

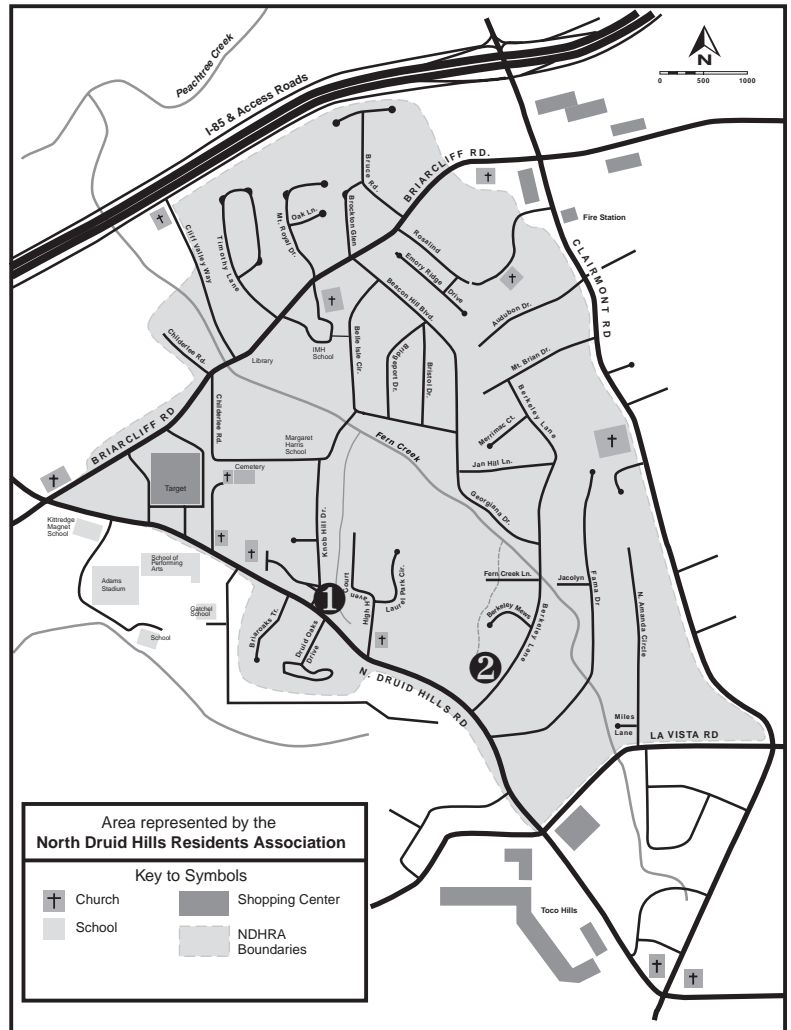
There have been no new subdivision or rezoning applications filed within our neighborhood. The Simsberry (#1 on map) and the Berkeley Oaks (#2) projects are closed or dormant. The Simsberry property is now being offered for sale by the current owners, rather than being redeveloped.

Nearby Planning and Zoning Projects

The Planning and Zoning Committee is monitoring development proposals in the broader surrounding community. At this time the most significant projects are along Oak Grove Rd. Some very important land use planning and traffic issues are involved. That is manifest in the County's review, approval and enforcement procedures. We are cooperating with adjoining neighborhood groups because these issues have significance for us all and we expect reciprocity when needed.

Emerging Issues

Infill Housing. The recent escalation of real estate values is making the demolition of older houses and replacement with new housing feasible. The compatibility of that new housing with the older houses in this area has become an issue. Lots are subdivided and huge new



houses are built on the smaller lots. The density increase impacts public infrastructure and traffic. The bulk and height overwhelm adjoining houses. Since the new houses fall within current development limitations, no public hearings are required. It appears that our standards need reconsideration.



John Steinichen
Zoning and Land Use Chair
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Dormitories. Some of our older housing has passed to heirs or has been purchased from the original owners for investment purposes. Renting to multiple tenants such as students is one way to generate a high cash flow income as opposed to selling for one-time capital gains. Generally, group housing is not permitted in our single family zoning districts but the regulations are vague and need tighter restrictions on occupancy. It doesn't make sense to not prohibit dormitories while prohibiting other forms of group housing in single-family districts.

Code Violations. Code enforcement in DeKalb is based on complaints. This is a serious flaw. The alternative is for inspectors to note violations and act on their own; this is called the survey approach. Inspector survey avoids neighbor conflict and is more consistent. This matter is receiving organized citizen investigation, mainly from South DeKalb.

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See our web site at www.ndhra.org

Thanks

NDHRA would like to thank the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation for hosting our July General Meeting. (And once again for the wonderful desserts and other refreshments!)

2004 Membership Drive Underway

NDHRA is starting the membership drive for next year. All membership dues received after October 1st are applied to the following year. We will be changing our dues from \$25 to \$30 this coming year, but anyone joining

or renewing for 2004 can pay the \$25 membership dues if we receive it before January 1st. Checks can be brought to the October 21st meeting, December meeting, or mailed to the address listed below the form.

North Druid Hills Residents Association 2004 Membership and Donation 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.

Donation Amount \$ _____

Annual Membership is \$30 and runs from January through December.

All memberships received after October 1st are applied to 2004. Please make checks payable to NDHRA.

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

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