



# The Huntley Hills Herald

The Official Newsletter of the  
Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association

## President's Corner

As I look back over the events we have had in the past few months, I'm proud and excited to see how much is going on in our neighborhood and our community.

The Neighborhood Association sponsored our 5th Annual Neighborhood-Wide Block Party in September. This is our biggest event of the year and we had a record turnout of 230 people. The weather was perfect and it was great to see so many neighbors there, visiting with old friends and meeting new ones. Many of you have asked where your dues go. The Block Party is a good example. Although we try to get as much donated as possible, there are still many expenses associated with this event. See the article inside for some great pictures from the event. If you missed it this year, we hope to see you next year.

There have been some positive developments at Chamblee Plaza. Starting in late September, we began having a Food Truck Rally on Fridays for lunch. There are three or more trucks there every week – some the same each week, some different. It's been great seeing the support from Huntley Hills as well as others who work on Peachtree Boulevard. If you haven't been yet, please give it a try one week. The new owners have also been holding meetings and soliciting input via their Facebook page. Please take advantage of these opportunities to express your opinions on what businesses you would like to see in Chamblee Plaza.



Halloween brought more fun to our neighborhood. The Swim and Tennis club hosted their annual party at the pool. It was attended by over 50 families and oodles of children. We also had our first-ever Halloween decorating contest. Congratulations to the first place winner – the Deminskys! They not only decorated but had a large haunted house in their back yard. The screams could be heard a block away.

The HHNA also sponsored our inaugural Chili Cook-off this year. Details from the event were not available in time for this newsletter, but with 13 contestants, I'm sure it was a delicious event! Look for pictures and a list of winners in the March 2013 newsletter.

Now fall is almost over and we are rapidly moving towards the holiday season. The HHNA will be sponsoring our Second Annual Holiday Decorating contest. We had a great response to this last year and we expect to have even more houses enter this year. The top prize will be \$75, so don't miss out! Look for details to be sent out via the Yahoo group shortly.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who have worked so hard to make these events so successful. We couldn't do it without you! If you haven't volunteered yet, please consider doing so when you see the next email from the Yahoo group asking for assistance. Together we can make (and keep) Huntley Hills great! If you have any questions about the neighborhood association, or any ideas for future events, please contact me at carolyn\_weber@bellsouth.net. I wish all of you a joyful holiday season and extend my best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe new year.

**Carolyn Weber**  
HHNA President



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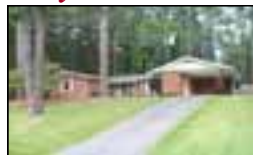


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## THE HUNTLEY HILLS HERALD

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## Communciations

*By Allison Metheny and Dick Patterson*

**Newsletter Info:** My term on the board will end in March 2013, so very soon the board will be looking for “new” energy and talent to take over or assist with future newsletters. If you are interested, send an email to me or Carolyn at [Carolyn\\_weber@bellsouth.net](mailto:Carolyn_weber@bellsouth.net). Also, please remember - the newsletter needs your input to make it interesting to read so please take the time to submit information! Send info to Allison at: [ametheny@comcast.net](mailto:ametheny@comcast.net). The deadline to submit information for the next newsletter is February 1st.

**Website News:** We have made some changes to the Huntley Hills website: [www.huntleyhills.net](http://www.huntleyhills.net). We now have a calendar to show upcoming activities. Four organizations can post to it: the Neighborhood Association, the Swim and Tennis Club, Huntley Hills Elementary School, and the Chamblee United Methodist Church. The posts will be of events open to the entire neighborhood.

In addition we have done some reorganization so now the Welcome page gives details for the upcoming events that we sponsor, important news affecting the neighborhood, and links to other useful information. Information about the Yahoo Group and Neighborhood Blog that used to be on the Welcome page has been moved to the Stay Connected page.

## Neighborhood Watch

*By Scott Gillispie, Neighborhood Watch Chair*

On August 18th, several block captains came over to my house for a discussion about the block captain organization, identification of new block captains, and activities in the near future.

Some of the topics discussed include:

- Improving block captain coverage: As currently organized, we have between 15 and 20 blocks without block captains. One of the causes of this is that some of the blocks are a little small. In order to relieve this, we’re going to expand a few of the blocks – for example our block captains on either end of Commodore can split the houses in between them with no block captain. I’m going to look for a few other opportunities.
- In addition, we do need some additional block captains. Look for communication from me on the Yahoo group and the Neighborhood Association website in December to support this. If you have interest in becoming more involved in neighborhood issues, please contact me. The Neighborhood Association would like to organize more neighborhood events, as well as be more represented in community activities; volunteering as a block captain will help us to get you involved.
- Spring block parties: The block captains had some frustration with the neighborhood block parties this last spring; we had block captains who held parties where no one showed up, and we had residents with no block captain or one not planning a party, with no place to go.
- For 2013, I am going to try to better communicate the block party plan for the whole neighborhood. We will be looking for block captains – either by themselves, or 2 or 3 working together – to plan parties during April or May for their neighbors. I will act as a master clearing house for block parties, so that, for any residents who don’t know where or when they can go for a block party, I can help. Look for more information on this, on the Yahoo Group in the first quarter.

One additional area I plan to work on by the end of the year is to provide supplemental lists of neighborhood watch oriented resources on the HHNA website at <http://huntleyhills.net>. Please look for a refresh of the content on the ‘Safety’ page during December. If you have ideas or want to help move our neighborhood watch forward, please send me an e-mail at [scott\\_gillispie@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_gillispie@yahoo.com).





## HHNA Treasurer's Report

By Ann Tamli, Treasurer

For the period June 1st thru October 31st, the HHNA received \$1670 in membership dues, and spent \$860 on the following: tables (to be used for HHNA and HHSTC events), a Neighborhood Watch block captain party, a donation in memory of Tom Scott, and the neighborhood block party. November and December planned expenditures include the Chili Cook-Off on November 10 and the Holiday Decorating Contest in December. The board is still developing a budget plan and welcomes input from the neighbors. Send your suggestions to Ann Tamli at [ann.tamli@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.tamli@yahoo.com).

## Upcoming Event – Holiday Decorating Contest

By Carolyn Weber and Leslie Freymann

The Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club (HHSTC) and the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) will again be co-sponsoring our 2nd Annual Christmas Caroling Party and Holiday Decorating Contest this year. Our inaugural event last year drew over 15 contestants, vying for valuable prizes and the honor of Best Decorated House/Yard. Rumor has it some people went shopping the day after Christmas last year to stock up on decorations for this year's contest! So we expect the competition to be even stiffer this year. An email will be sent out soon to the Yahoo group with details on how to enter and what the prizes will be. But it's not early to start getting your decorations out. May the best house win :). Check the website, join the Yahoo group and/or like our Facebook pages to get all the details:

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## September Neighborhood-Wide Block Party – Lots of Fun

By Kevin Shannon and Carolyn Weber

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our 5th annual Huntley Hills Neighborhood Block party. There was great food, a bouncy house for the kids, wonderful door prizes and even a visit by the Chamblee police, who let the kids into their police car! As usual, the kids were most enthusiastic about the bouncy houses, and the Chick-fil-A chicken nuggets! A huge platter – a \$100 value – was gone in no time! The nuggets would have been gone even faster if it weren't for the gentle suggestion, "Don't you think 3 are enough?" from a retired teacher with 37 years of experience talking to children! There was plenty of beer, wine, pizza, pasta, barbeque, pita and hummus, and ice cream. The Rita's very blue ice was a big hit with the kids. We put the big container on the ground and they could help themselves! In addition to the great food that was donated, neighbors brought some yummy salads, appetizers, dips and desserts.

There were over 200 neighbors at the event, including our neighbor and City Council Representative, Leslie Robson. In addition, Eric Clarkson, Mayor of the City of Chamblee, stopped by to visit. A HHNA membership table was set up and a number of neighbors took the opportunity to join the neighborhood association or renew their memberships.

You have probably heard the new buzz lately that "it's all about local" these days. That can certainly apply to our neighborhood. We have great restaurants, shops and stores and many are within walking distance. Many of us go to these establishments often. We are thankful that so many of these businesses have been generous supporters of our Block Party for years. I hope that you will continue to support them by patronizing their businesses.

Many, many **THANKS** to the companies that donated food and beer for this year's Block party:



*Thank You!*

We would also like to thank our other sponsors who gave gift cards, free meals and great door prizes:

**JH Design Studio in Roswell**  
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**IHOP**  
2 free meals

**KP Personal Touch Cleaners**  
2 \$15 gift cards

**Costco**  
large gift basket

**Pat Brower**  
Weekend at the Beach

**Jiffy Lube**  
Oil Change

**Starbucks**  
5 bags of coffee beans and 3 coffees

**Kroger**  
3 \$10 gift cards

**Realtor Becky Veal**  
2 \$25 iTunes gift cards

**Office Depot**  
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**Ted's Montana Grill**  
2 \$10 gift cards

**Atlanta Braves**  
hats, tote bag, Chipper Jones souvenir program

**Heni Sandoval**  
12 x 16" print matted and framed

The event would not have been possible without the hard work of the HHNA Board members who began planning the event and securing donations months ahead of time. A special THANK YOU to the following people: Kevin Shannon, who contacted many local restaurants and lined up a delicious assortment of food donations; Paige Perkins, who worked at the Welcome Table, and signed up 15 new families for the HHNA; Joan Varlan and Pat Brower, who coordinated the door prize drawings for kids. It was wonderful to see their smiles and as they ran up to select their prizes; Scott Gillispie, who recruited all of the volunteers, was in charge of set up, and was the very entertaining announcer for the adult door prize drawings; Ann Tamli and Joan Varlan, who pounded the pavement asking for door prizes - everything from oil changes to dry cleaning to free meals; and Dick Patterson, who led the clean-up crew and didn't go home until the last trash can was emptied.

We are planning more local neighborhood events where you can get to know your neighbors in a closer setting. We hope to see you at one of these activities and definitely at next year's 6th Annual Huntley Hills Neighborhood Block Party.





## Food Trucks Make Fridays Fabulous

By Carolyn Weber

The new owners of Chamblee Plaza have been taking steps to bring more life to the plaza. One of the first things they did was to introduce a lunchtime food truck rally on September 21. Each Friday, an array of food trucks gather in the parking lot, selling a wide assortment of food – including salads, wraps, burgers, fish and chips, shrimp tacos, chicken and desserts. Prices are in the \$4 - \$7 range. There are tables and chairs set up, or you can sit in the grass under the trees. There was a huge turnout the first week. It was probably more than they expected, which led to some long lines. But things were running more smoothly the second week. The food trucks continue to draw a crowd each week. They will be there through mid-December. It's nice that Huntley Hills residents and workers in the Chamblee area now have a new option for lunch. If you haven't been there yet, please give it a try one week and support your local small business.



## Welcome New Neighbors!

By Dick Patterson and Allison Metheny

The Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association has provided welcome packets to the following people this year. Please join us in welcoming them to the neighborhood! In the future, we will include this information each quarter.

If you have new neighbors, please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome them to the neighborhood.

**Welcome new neighbors** and if you haven't already – join the yahoo group (and the neighborhood association!) for up-to-date neighborhood information!

Beth Neal  
Michael and Amy Wardrop  
Gale McCoy-Finchum  
Nicole Leet  
Johannes and Moreen Leisen  
Harry Marshall & Jeanette Whittington

Katie Stutzman  
Brad & Jennifer Robbins  
Joshua Hecht  
David Eller  
Chris & Roberta Young  
Christopher and Teneisha Jones

Scott Lively  
Pamela Stern and Morgan Wurst  
Peter and Ren Geryak  
James and Tammy Reed  
Steve Lisi and Michael Riley  
David Logsdon

If you have moved to Huntley Hills recently and didn't receive a Welcome Packet, please contact Dick Patterson at [rpatters@math.iupui.edu](mailto:rpatters@math.iupui.edu) and he will see that you get one.

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## Spotlight on Kay Packard

By Allison Metheny

Kay and her husband Randy moved into the neighborhood in 1966. Randy was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in 1984. Kay did some gardening and bird feeding over the years but really got involved when she realized what pleasure it gave Randy! Although he was bedridden most of the time, he could look out the windows and enjoy watching the birds! So Kay began researching and gathering all the information she could about attracting birds to her garden. When he was up for it, she also took Randy on "fieldtrips" to visit garden spots in the state. Kay became involved with the Georgia Wildlife Federation, the National Wildlife Federation, Georgia Division of Natural Resources, the Chattahoochee Nature Preserve, and many other organizations.

After Randy passed away in 1994, Kay found herself becoming more and more involved with wildlife habitat and gardening, and over the next 15 years became well known in the gardening community as a gardening expert, teacher, speaker, and advisor.

Kay went thru the Georgia Master Gardener Program in DeKalb County in 1996. Many of you probably don't know that the butterfly garden in the Huntley Hills Park was Kay's master gardener project. Kay designed and planted the butterfly garden. She said while she was working on the garden, she really started getting to know people in the neighborhood. During this time she also took gardening classes whenever she could and became very involved with numerous organizations. She began doing classes or programs for garden clubs, schools, and church groups. Kay's many jobs included tireless volunteering in Clairmont Park, in area stream cleanups and at Huntley Hills Elementary and Chamblee High School. In addition to the butterfly garden, Kay is responsible for getting the neighborhood involved in beautifying the neighborhood triangle at North Shallowford and Longview. For years there were regular Saturday workdays at the triangle.



*Kay at Waterford Gardens*

Kay started writing gardening articles for the Huntley hills newsletters, and at the urging of neighbors, started an informal, casual garden club with members from all over this area. Each month, she would write a gardening letter with monthly meeting information included, and generally at her own expense, mail it to a hundred or more gardeners. At last count she has accumulated over 500 email addresses from all over! Everyone looked forward to her newsletters – she is a beautiful writer. Meetings were held at various places over the years –Kay's home, Leslie Robson's driveway, the swim/tennis clubhouse, Lowe's employee conference room, Senior connections, and the D'Youville Condominiums clubhouse. The garden club dues were \$10/year – "optional" – per Kay!! The garden club always had great speakers/programs, and a number of times Kay paid for the speakers from her own money. Some of my favorite programs were: all about monarch butterflies and a slide show of a trip to Mexico where they migrate in the winter, nocturnal wildlife presented by the Georgia Conservancy, English Gardens, and a design plan for a small back yard. There were so many different gardening topics covered though – a great learning opportunity – pruning, container gardening, amending soil, composting, lawn care, vegetable gardening, native plants, and many other topics.

Kay started working with the neighborhood and community to become Certified Wildlife Habitats around 2000. As part of that program, she started the annual habitat garden tour – to show everyone they can have beautiful and wildlife friendly gardens. After much hard work, Chamblee (zip code 30341) became a Certified Wildlife Habitat Community in 2003.



*Kay in front of her Beautyberry Bush with gardening friends Dave and Jean Otness and Doris Wathen*

The City of Chamblee designated Monday, September 22, 2008 as "Kay Packard Appreciation Day" in Chamblee, Georgia to recognize Kay's contribution to the City's Community Wildlife Habitat program. The City, with the help of city council member Leslie Robson, had a reception for Kay at the Huntley Hills Park, and Kay's favorite tree, the Wax Myrtle, was planted in the park in her honor. Representatives from the National Wildlife Federation traveled from the Washington, DC area to attend the reception.

In the last couple of years, Kay has slowed down a bit, and finally decided it was time to step down from running the garden club. Since there was no one ready to take over the reins, the garden club stopped meeting, and donated most of their excess funds to the National Wildlife Federation in honor of Kay. Funds were also given to the HHNA to be used to encourage neighborhood wildlife habitats.

Kay says she always felt like all her work over the years was her "gift" to the community. And although she enjoys the beauty of the trees, shrubs and perennials, the gardening was/is **all about "wildlife habitat"** – providing shelter, food, water, and places to raise their young!!

Kay still gardens when she can, and says her inspiration for gardening came from Sara B. Stein's book "Noah's Garden". Another favorite of Kay's and the source of many of her newsletter "quotes" is the poet Gwen Frostic.

# Yard Weirdo has moved on to greener grass!

By Allison Metheny

Well, all good things must come to an end! In case you are curious, our Yard Weirdo ghost writer was Rob Swingle, an active Huntley Hills resident for a few years. Unfortunately for us, Rob's wife got a job in Seattle, Washington, and they have already sold their house on Admiral and relocated. We will miss Rob's humor and community involvement!

If there are any other closet writers or comedians out there, we will keep your anonymity if that is your preference! Following is a recent submission that you will surely enjoy. Scott has a very quick wit, and is very funny!



## The Model Home #1

By Scott Gillespie

This column is not my fault.

I have been told (or at least been told that others have been told) that I'm quite funny – in an entertaining way, not in the 'that boy is kinda funny in the head' way; although come to think of it, that may also be true. Fortunately, I suffer from cognitive dissonance, so I can ignore all of the people who don't think I'm funny. But I thought I might try to amuse someone in the newsletter this time.

So, in writing, I of course decided to come up with a column name first. Because that's what you should do first, when you haven't written the first column of a series yet. It's more important than a topic, right? (As my High School English teacher always wrote on my papers, "Vague. B-").

So why 'the Model Home'? It's because (I've been told) my house was the model for the north end of the neighborhood, as well as being the sales office. The primary result of this was that we had 1966 vintage commercial phone wiring; when the technician came to install high speed internet, he looked at our wiring board – for about 45 minutes.

Also, I like the name because it has that feel of a 1960's sitcom ("It's The Model Home #1 Starring June Allyson and Wally Cox! Tonight's special guest star – Bob Denver!"), which seems completely appropriate to our neighborhood. I like to think so, anyway.

Now that I've spent most of the length of my column going on about the name of it, let me bring in the random topic I'd like to write about – am I the only one who has a problem just saying 'Peachtree Boulevard'? I completely understand why Chamblee deleted the 'Industrial' out of the middle of the name of PIB, but I've just spent too much time calling it that. I can shorten it to 'Peachtree' – that's OK; but I can't say only 'Peachtree Boulevard'. It's just not right.

Maybe Chamblee should have put something different in place of Industrial, instead of just deleting it – such as Peachtree Food Truck Boulevard; or perhaps Peachtree Hey-It's-A-Nice-Town-With-Nice-Shops-And-Friendly-People-Why-Don't-You-Stop-And-Visit-No-Don't-Go-Please-Don't-Keep-Driving-To-Doraville-Drat Boulevard.

At least, the renaming didn't leave a rump of PIB in Brookhaven – the new city probably would have renamed it Peachtree Grande Esplanade. Actually, they still might. Please, nobody pass this article over the city line.

Still waiting for my roundabout – Selah. (editor's note – roundabout in terms of traffic calming I think, and I have no idea how to define Selah. Maybe Scott will explain or we will come to understand at some point!)

## Bird Watching – Be on the look-out for Warblers

By Dick Patterson

Warblers are a family of colorful little birds that live by picking insects off the leaves and bark of trees. Most of the ones we see here spend the greater part of the year in Central or South America, but travel north in nesting season. Many of them can be found in Georgia in the Spring and Fall, on their way to places as far as northern Canada or Brazil. But there are three members of the family that spend their winters in Georgia. They can be attracted to your yard if you have a suet feeder. Two years ago during our especially cold winter I had three different species that were regular visitors.

The most common of these is the Yellow-rumped Warbler. The picture shows a male in spring plumage, but even in winter they are almost this colorful. The females and first year offspring are duller, but all sport a bright yellow rump patch.



**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

The Pine Warbler is usually harder to find as it lives high in the pines. It does have a fairly distinctive call, which is good for identifying it even if you can't see it. Notice the white wing bars, yellow eye ring, breast and throat.



**Orange-crowned Warbler**



**Pine Warbler**

The Orange-crowned Warbler is a bird that would seem to be misnamed – I have never seen this orange crown, although bird banders say it is buried under the greyish feathers and rarely shown. It looks so drab that for a long time I couldn't figure out how to identify it. – no wing bars, little color, just a faint dark bar through the eye. But then someone pointed out to me that the underside of the tail is bright yellow.

Get a suet feeder and look for these in your yard when the weather turns cold.

These photographs were taken by Stan Chapman, a long-time member of the Atlanta Audubon Society.

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## Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club Update

We've had another great year at the club! This Fall we painted our chain link fence and it looks much better! Come see it for yourself. We also removed our bathroom floor mats, acid washed the floors and gave them an all new paint job - and WOW – what an improvement! We are now working on a Master Plan, to help us plan and prioritize capital improvements over the next 15 years. If you think you might like to join to club, please visit [www.hhstc.com](http://www.hhstc.com) for all the details.

## Halloween Party

The Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club (HHSTC) hosted our 7th annual Neighborhood Halloween Party – and it was a big success! Over 70 families attended! We had a graveyard hunt, piñatas, costume contest, pictures and pizza for all. After the party, everyone left to begin trick-or-treating throughout the entire neighborhood.

The party was co-sponsored by Barbra Neuman Wollner of Keller Williams Reality. Many thanks to Barbra and the HHSTC Board members who helped plan, setup and clean up the party. Also, thanks to EVERYONE who spent the time and money to decorate their homes and pass out candy to the children. It was a GREAT Halloween in Huntley Hills!

Check Facebook for all the photos: <https://www.facebook.com/HHSTC>

## Winners of the Halloween Decorating Contest:

1st Place: 4044 Forrestal Drive (Deminskys)

2nd Place: 2070 Plantation Lane (Freymanns – with help from the Huckabees)

3rd Place: 2044 Elwyn Drive (Bregenzers)

4th Place: 4063 Admiral Drive (Leah Vinson)

Tied for 5th Place: 4133 Admiral Way (Overtons); 1968 Plantation Lane (Traceys); 2201 Seaman Circle (Armstrongs)

Prizes sponsored by Barbra Wollner, Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club and The Treasure Mart.

## Winners of the Costume Contest:

Best Child Under 6: Dhalia Gilbert

Best Child 6 and Over: Claire Snellgrove

Best Adult: Paul Beck

Best Family: The Tracys

Prizes sponsored by Barbra Wollner. Thanks to our judges, Carolyn Weber (HHNA President), Leslie Robson (Chamblee City Council), Niles Ford (Chamblee City Manager) and Marc Johnson (Chamblee Police Chief)



*Party Sponsor Barbra Neuman Wollner (on right) with husband Matt and Debbie Leonard*

## Facebook

Our HHNA Facebook Page is getting more popular – we now have over 260 people “liking” us! We try to keep it current with the most important and/or interesting neighborhood news, information and photos. So if you haven’t already, please “like” us!!

## Yahoo Group

Want more neighborhood news? Join our Yahoo Group! You can post info about your lost pet, promote a fundraiser you are organizing, advertise your yard sale, etc. You can also use this email group to immediately report any suspicious vehicles in the neighborhood and/or share any other crime related information. Send an email to [huntleyhills@gmail.com](mailto:huntleyhills@gmail.com) to join.

## Need a local, neighborhood recommended Handyman? Plumber? Computer Repair Service?

Check out our Neighborhood Services Blog, where you can view and write local recommendations for anything from automobile repair to yard work – there are more than 30 categories and dozens and dozens of comments – all from your neighbors. Check it out: <http://huntleyhillsneighborhood.blogspot.com>



*Officer Cushenan with trick or treaters!*



*Other neighborhood Halloween Decorations*

# Huntley Hills Elementary School News

## From the Principal:

Greetings, Huntley Hills Community:

What a fabulous fall we have begun! The neighborhood is lovely with the changing leaves. Thanks for the ongoing support you offer our school community.

We busily prepared for our Fall Festival, November 3 and it was a roaring success as usual. So far this school year, we have celebrated Math Night, Literacy Night, and very soon our first through fifth graders will be featured in our Winter Holiday program, December 20 at 6:30 PM.

We have received some great news! Our school has been selected as a grant recipient for Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program within DeKalb County. Safe Routes to School is a national program to encourage students to be active and live healthy by ensuring a safe environment for students to walk and bike to school. This award for SRTS implementation is being supported by the DeKalb County Board of Health (DCBOH) CPPW Obesity initiative and funds a grant award in the amount of \$5,000 for our school. Look for more information on this in the near future!

Finally, our choral students, The Huntley Hills Singers, have also been invited to sing at the Governor's Mansion on December 5. What an honor for our students!

Please help us by recycling your newspaper and collecting Box Tops for us! Newspapers can be placed in the bin on the side of the building. Drop your Box Tops off in the main office, and we will forward those on to the library.

Enjoy the holiday season-

Angela C. Leissa, Ph.D.  
Principal

## From the Huntley Hills Elementary and Montessori School PTA

Our Fall Festival on November 3rd was a wonderful success. It was a beautiful day and the kids had a blast with the bouncy houses, games, haunted house, cake walk, pony rides, and face painting. The food offered by our concessions – Galla's Pig-N-Chik, GNO Snoballs, and Frosty Caboose – was awesome!

The community and volunteers made the event great! Thanks again to all our sponsors, especially our Gold Sponsor Jim Ellis, and Silver Sponsors The Mad Italian, The Treasure Mart, and Armstrong and Weinstein, LLC.



# Chamblee High School Construction Update

By Kathy Kopplow

Construction of the new Chamblee High School is on schedule with the four story main building being "topped-out" (meaning the roof is finished) in December. The natatorium's foundation is cast and the structural steel in that location will be started soon. Most of the underground utilities are in and site work continues.

As you can see in the aerial photo, the new site, which includes the property where the former Highland Gardens Apartments once stood, will provide ample space for a modern, efficient campus for many years to come!



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## Life Events

### Deaths

Tom Scott, Beloved husband, father, neighbor, Huntley Hills Neighborhood Watch Coordinator - passed away September 11, 2012. He lived in the neighborhood for 41 years! Following are a few comments from friends and neighbors:

"It is with a sad heart that I pass along the news, that Tom Scott, our former Huntley Hills Neighborhood Board Member and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, ended his fight against cancer last night. Tom was a friend, the father of my dear friend Kathryn Scott Rodriguez, and the father-in-law to my friend Maria Scott, a teacher at Chamblee Middle. His loving and caring service to the neighborhood, Chamblee First UMC, and the Boy Scouts is eternally appreciated. Tom, you will be greatly missed by many, but now that you've reported for duty, it gives me great peace knowing that Heaven is a much safer place." Nick

"Aw, man...he was a great guy, and did a great job taking over the Neighborhood Watch. He will be missed, and sincerest of condolences to his family." Frank

"No way!!! I'm so sorry to hear that! My prayers and best wishes to his family." Unknown

"Tom found me somewhere and we connected immediately,,, I miss him terribly and will carry on his and my own legacy." Cindy

All of Huntley Hills, Chamblee, Sexton Woods, and so on and so on, will miss Tom's enthusiasm, energy, and love for pulling neighborhoods/groups together and teaching safety in numbers and how to look out for one another.

## Sanitation Holiday Schedules

**City of Chamblee:** I was unable to find the Christmas Holiday Schedule or the 2013 schedule at the website. I suggest you call Chamblee Public Works at 770-986-5019.

### DeKalb County Sanitation/Recycling Holiday Schedule:

December 25th Tuesday – garbage and yard waste will be on Wednesday, no blue box/bag recycle this week.

The 2013 Schedule was not available. January 1st will probably be the same as December 25th.

### City of Chamblee Leaf Round-Up

Per the City of Chamblee November 2012 Newsletter – the Signal, the City is now vacuuming leaves in the annexed area. The leaves will be vacuumed one day a week. Stay tuned to the yahoo group or [huntleyhills.net](http://huntleyhills.net) website for any additional information.

Previously I was told that the city was not going to vacuum leaves this fall. Apparently there was some confusion as to when the city will take over all of the sanitation pick up for the annexed area. Per the Signal and an email to the yahoo group from the City Manager, the city will not take over the annexed area sanitation until January 2014. Therefore, remember the annexed area is still under the DeKalb County sanitation, recycling and yard waste schedule.

## Teen Services

### Baby Sitting

John Beck–Age 13 years  
(770) 986-8306

Completed Red Cross  
Babysitting Class

Ashley Hegwood–Age 14  
(770) 558-4647

Cailey Miller–Age 13  
(770) 885-9402

Tamara Rattansingh–Age 16  
(770) 455-9552 • (404) 316-8933

### House Sitting

Jared Tench–Age 16  
(770) 265-5849

### Light Yard Work

John Beck–Age 13 years  
(770) 986-8306

Jared Tench–Age 16  
(770) 265-5849

### Mother's Helper

Gaby Hegwood–Age 11  
(770)-558-4647

### Pet Sitting/Walking

Cailey Miller–Age 13  
(770) 885-9402

Gabby Miller–Age 12  
(770) 885-9402

Jared Tench–Age 16  
(770) 265-5849

Tamara Rattansingh–Age 16  
(770) 455-9552 • (404) 316-8933

## Gardening in Huntley Hills

By Allison Metheny

Greetings fellow gardeners. I am in a rush to get this newsletter to print – as usual it seems! I don't really have much gardening news except that fall and winter are really great times to plant trees, and most shrubs and perennials. It is also a great time to "move" plants – you know that bush you planted that is getting too much sun, or the tree that is going to be too large for where it is planted. I have a list of several things I need to move this winter – including a tree, at least two shrubs, and several perennials. It seems most everything I plant ends up getting moved about 3 times before I find just the right spot!

My plant ID choice for this issue is the American Beautyberry Shrub – *Callicarpa Americana*. It is a sun loving native plant, grows to about 6 feet tall and wide but can and should be pruned back pretty severely in the early spring. This shrub is loaded with clusters of small berries in late summer, which turn a vibrant purple starting around late August/September. The birds love the berries – so

it is definitely a shrub that Kay has in her yard – food for wildlife. I have included a couple of pictures – one of the early berries, and then when they turn purple. There is also a variety that gets white berries.

And remember in the last issue I discussed the Virginia creeper and mentioned that it has pretty fall foliage – I am including one picture to show you.

In keeping with Kay's desire to take care of wildlife, and since Dick, in his article on Warbler's suggested everyone hang a suet feeder and watch for the Warblers, I am including a recipe for suet that maybe you will try. I think making your own suet would be a great activity to involve the children in, it is much less expensive than buying suet, and the birds love it!

I got the recipe on the following page from the October/November 2000 Birds and Blooms magazine. What a great magazine – I don't know why I stopped getting it – they had (have) the most spectacular photographs.





## Feed the Birds – Suet Recipe

1 lb lard (Publix has 1 pound bars of lard where the Crisco is)  
16-20 ounces crunchy peanut butter  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 cup raisins  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 cup sunflower meats  
6 cups cornmeal  
5 cups all-purpose flour

**Note:** Hasting's sells sunflower meats by the pound. I have also seen it in the birdfood section of the grocery store. I buy the cheapest cornmeal and flour I can find. And Yes – you have to use lard, not oil. Lard is solid at room temperature, oil is not!

The recipe was provided by a reader who lived in Florida and said the suet holds up to the hot Florida weather. I can attest to that – just don't hang it in direct sunlight. Woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, bluejays, brown thrashers and many more birds seem to enjoy the suet. If you try it, let me know how it turns out!!

[ametheny@comcast.net](mailto:ametheny@comcast.net)

On low heat, melt lard in a very large pan (soup pot size- 8-10 quarts). Remove from heat and add peanut butter until melted. Stir in raisins and sunflower seed. Gradually mix in the cornmeal and flour until it gets to the right consistency (you may not need all of it) – where you can make a ball that will stick together but is not too gooey. I just make fat hamburger size patties (suet doesn't have to be square!!) Any size or shape works fine as long as it will fit in the suet feeder. I place them on a cookie sheet and freeze them. Once frozen, I put in individual sandwich bags and keep in the freezer. You can put a frozen suet cake in the feeder and once the birds/squirrels find it – mine usually don't last long.

One last thing – I hope you enjoy the seasonal photographs – all taken in our neighborhood. I really hope they make you realize and appreciate how fortunate we are to live in a community with so much natural beauty! I expect that every home in Huntley hills has a view of “nature”. Although there are “niceties” in the newer homes and subdivisions – they will never have the beauty and tranquility that we enjoy in our older subdivision. Please take care of your trees – they are what make this subdivision special! So when we are suffering from lack of rain – I encourage you to water the trees (around the drip line – not near the trunk) – they are irreplaceable. Don't worry about the grass – it can be replaced instantly almost!! Also, I would love help with the photography – I'm not much of a photographer and have a very limited camera! Enjoy nature!!

1. Ginkgo tree – fan shaped leaves have gorgeous yellow fall color  
2. Huntley Hills Park Maples on Ensign Dr.  
3. Close up of sugar maple leaves and a Japanese Red Maple





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