



The Huntley Hills Herald

The Official Newsletter of the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association

President's Corner

Carolyn Weber, HHNA President

Our biggest event of the year is just a few weeks away. On Saturday, September 27, Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) will be sponsoring our 7th Annual Neighborhood Street Party. We'll close off the street in front of the pool, bring out the food, start the entertainment, and party with about 200 of our friends and neighbors! Mark your calendar now so you don't miss it. See page 6 for all the details.

There has been a lot happening in Huntley Hills and around Chamblee so far this year. In January, the area near Dresden Drive and Clairmont Road became part of the city of Chamblee. Our city now has about 27,000 residents. Also in January, the section of Huntley Hills that was annexed into Chamblee three years ago began getting its sanitation services from the city. One of the services they provide is vacuuming up leaves at the curb. As someone with a lot of large oak trees, I love it!

Chamblee is now handling our recycling as well. So, as part of our first Earth Day event, the HHNA distributed recycling bins to residents at the Huntley Hills Park. This event was very popular, and we ran out of bins in less than an hour. Also popular with the birds—and probably some squirrels as well—were the bird feeders both adults and children made out of pine cones, peanut butter and birdseed.

We have several other great events coming up this fall in addition to the big street party, including the Halloween Decorating Contest, sponsored by HHNA. Halloween also brings a

pizza party and costume contest down at the pool, sponsored by the Swim and Tennis Club. One of last year's costume winners was an adorable baby dressed as a bag of popcorn!



I look forward to seeing Huntley Hills lit up for the winter holidays. The competition for the HHNA Holiday Decorating Contest gets tighter every year. Last year, one of our winning homes even set its display to music, which could be heard over your car radio if you were nearby! The second place winner was seen hitting the sales at Target the day after Christmas. So, start stocking up for this year! We also plan to have Christmas caroling again, followed by cookies and hot chocolate. After two years of rain, last year's event saw perfect weather. We are hoping to be lucky again this winter.

In January, we are planning our Third Annual Chili Cook-off. We have enjoyed some delicious and unusual chili recipes over the last two years, and I can't wait to taste the concoctions our chefs come up with at this upcoming competition.

If all of this isn't enough, we have Neighborhood Watch Program block parties, the Running Club, the new Young Adults Club, as well as a variety of neighborhood beautification projects happening year round, so there's never a dull moment in Huntley Hills! You can read all about them and more in this edition of the Huntley Hills Herald—also sponsored by HHNA.

All of these neighborhood social events, clubs, programs, projects, and competitions are only possible due to your support of HHNA through your membership and your volunteer time. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining. It is only \$20 per family for the whole year. See the membership form on page 5. Once you join, the next step is to get involved!

Thanks for all you do to make Huntley Hills a great neighborhood!



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*Stipulations apply. See club for details.

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Huntley Hills

Neighborhood Association

2014-2015 Board Of Directors

In This Issue

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THE HUNTLEY HILLS HERALD

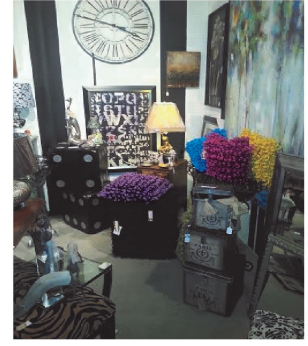
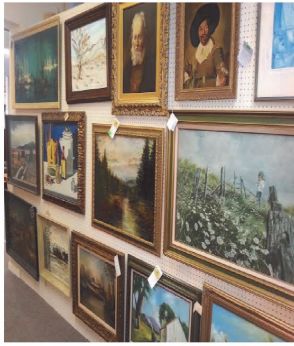
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Treasurer's Update

Joan Varlan, Treasurer

For the 2013-2104 fiscal year, the HHNA took in \$4,408 and had expenditures of \$5,885. The ending balance was \$3,341. Annual neighborhood membership dues of \$20.00 accounted for \$4167.88 and allowed the association to sponsor social, community, and beautification projects and events. These included the Ice Cream Social, the Chili Cook-Off, the Neighborhood Street Party, Coffee With a Cop, and the Earth Day Event. The major expenditure for the past year was the purchase and installation of the two neighborhood entry signs.

Membership Update

Robert Buckley, Membership Chair

By the close of fiscal year 2013-14, and through the help and support of our neighbors, HHNA membership reached 212—our highest rate ever! We are already working to continue growing our membership further in 2014-15, but we cannot do it without your help! HHNA is all about camaraderie among the residents of this great neighborhood. At 212 families enrolled, initiatives like Neighborhood Watch, the Street Party, and the Chili Cook-Off will be bigger and better than ever. Just imagine how great our neighborhood events and initiatives can be with full participation!

It's not too late to join for this fiscal year! Membership is only \$20 and can be paid easily via our website, <https://huntleyhills.wordpress.com>, and PayPal, or by mailing in the form below with your check. Feel free to contact me at rfbuckley@gmail.com with any questions.

HHNA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015

\$20 Per Household

Date: _____ ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

Do you rent or own your home?: _____

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____
(Used only to send notices of community activities or crime alerts.)

Make Check To:
HHNA
P.O. Box 30141
Chamblee, GA 30366

Want to check on your membership status with the HHNA? Contact Robert Buckley at rfbuckley@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!

The Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association is a separate organization from the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club.

What can the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association do with just \$20?

- ◆ Manage an active Neighborhood Watch Program that works to keep your neighborhood safer
- ◆ Publish a newsletter
- ◆ Maintain a website and a neighborhood email list for quick notifications of news you can use
- ◆ Sponsor neighborhood social events
- ◆ Monitor the decisions that city, county and state lawmakers make that could affect your property value and report them back to you
- ◆ Provide education forums for you to learn about upcoming issues that affect the neighborhood, such as traffic calming efforts, potential new Chamblee annexation, or the redevelopment of Chamblee Plaza or Savoy Drive

Because all Board members and committee members are volunteers, your investment of \$20 can go a long way. Support your neighborhood and join today!

7TH ANNUAL HUNTLEY HILLS

Prizes!

Games!



Food!

Music!

SATURDAY 9/27, 5-8 PM

2040 Plantation Lane

Sponsored by the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA)

All HUNTLEY HILLS Residents WELCOME!

Great Opportunity to meet neighbors and the HHNA Board Members

Pizza, BBQ and other food and beverages provided by local businesses and the HHNA.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Bring chairs or blankets to sit on.

Best to walk to the event - very limited parking

WE NEED LOTS OF HELP - PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!

Contact Dana Freyman at dfreyman@gmail.com

Reminder - this event will be good opportunity to

JOIN THE HHNA - BRING \$20!!

This event is organized by the HHNA Board members. Special thanks also to the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club for use of the facility and their donation of soft drinks and water.



Huntley Hills: A Great Place to Socialize

Dana Freyman, Social Chair

New neighbors and veteran residents alike all tell me that one of their favorite parts about living in Huntley Hills is the people. It's nice to recognize familiar faces at the park, say 'hello' as you pass neighbors while taking a walk, and celebrate summer with other families at the pool; but we're also lucky to have an active neighborhood association that makes social events a priority.

Each year, HHNA hosts a series of events aimed at bringing residents together and creating lasting connections among neighbors. This is all possible thanks to over 200 families who believe in investing in Huntley Hills by joining the HHNA. Social events are just one of the many benefits the HHNA provides. And for only \$20, it's a small price to pay to help make our neighborhood the special place we all brag about to family and friends.

With at least one big event each quarter and other smaller events throughout the year, there's always a chance to meet your neighbors, make new friends, and enjoy Huntley Hills. Here's what we've got coming up:

Neighborhood Street Party (September 27, 5-8 p.m.) -

The 7th Annual Huntley Hills Neighborhood Street Party takes place in the street, right outside the pool and tennis courts, so neighbors have free reign to spread out on blankets and tailgate chairs, run around, or dance to music. We'll have food from local restaurants, fun activities for the kids and a party atmosphere. Neighbors bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share with each other. Volunteers are welcome, so if you are interested in helping with preparations or donating main course food, drinks or door prizes, please contact me at dlfreyman@gmail.com.

Halloween and Holiday Decorating Contests - This fall and winter we're bringing back two very popular neighborhood events: the Halloween and Holiday Decorating Contests! We encourage everyone to take part, so bring out your favorite ghoulish characters and spooky sights, as well as your Yuletide lights and ornaments, because the competition is always tough.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Ice Cream Social



Block Party



Earth Day Event



Chili Cook-Off





These are just a few of the events we have planned for the remainder of 2014. This fall we're also hoping to host a football watching party at the pool clubhouse, so everyone can come support their favorite team. In early 2015, we'll hold one of my favorite events—the Chili Cook-off. I'm spending the rest of the year perfecting my recipe. Do you have a winner that you'd like to enter?

Whether you join us for a quick bite at the Street Party or deck out your front yard for one of the decorating

contests, we hope you'll take the time to participate in the neighborhood and meet someone new. Huntley Hills has some wonderful amenities, but our social events make the neighborhood especially unique. Plus, they provide an easy way to meet your neighbors—whether you've just moved in, or have lived here for years. So, when you're at the park, taking a walk or splashing around at the pool, you will recognize a few more familiar faces, and hopefully, have developed some great friendships.

Communications Update

Dick Patterson, Webmaster, and Ann Tamli, Newsletter Editor

The Fall 2014 edition of *The Huntley Hills Herald* has a new look and a new method of being published! As some of you may have known, our previous color, glossy editions had been discontinued due to our publisher's inability to get enough advertisers to make a profit. For the past two editions, we resorted to publishing our own black and white versions with no advertising and only a few pages. This time, however, the HHNA Board of Directors decided to try its luck at soliciting advertising on its own in order to publish this annual, 28-page color, glossy edition with more information that we hope you will enjoy. Please support the advertisers in this issue who supported our efforts! If you visit their business, please tell them that you saw their ad in *The Huntley Hills Herald*.

Though the newsletter is printed annually, the official website of Huntley Hills, huntleyhills.wordpress.com, is updated at least weekly and is a treasure trove of information, with pictures and stories of neighborhood happenings and useful documents.

The Welcome page has posts about upcoming events and stories. Recently posted was a history of the early development of Longview and Huntley Hills by Ellen Rankin, a graduate student in the Heritage Preservation Program at Georgia State University. It makes for very interesting reading.

On the Documents page (shown at right), you can find links to a history of Chamblee; a map of the neighborhood that will keep you from getting lost on a walk; Chamblee's trash collection schedule and rules; previous newsletters; and much, much more. Look on the Photo Gallery page for albums of photos taken at block parties and pictures with themes, such as "Little Kids and Their Pets," or "Fall Color in Huntley Hills."

If you have an idea for something you would like to see on the website, please notify Dick Patterson at rpatter-sin@gmail.com.

We have several other ways that you can keep up with all the activities going on in Huntley Hills. One way is to join our Yahoo group. To join, send an email with your name and street address to HuntleyHills-owner@yahoo.com. If you are on Facebook, please "like" our page, www.facebook.com/huntleyhillsna.



Documents

Most files are in .PDF format ([Click Here For A Free Reader](#))

Huntley Hills Related Documents

- [Huntley Hills walking map](#)
- [Huntley Hills land parcels](#)
- [HHHistory](#)
- [History of the Roswell Railroad](#)
- [Huntley Hills Bylaws](#)

Floor Plans for the houses built by the Long Construction Company

These are houses in the Longview Subdivision (now called Huntley Hills) and include most of the houses south of Plantation Lane. Click [here](#) to see them along with the original prospectus. When you find the plan for your own house you can download it under Actions.



Chamblee Documents

- [Normal Trash and Recycling Schedule](#)
- [2014 Chamblee Holiday Trash Schedule](#)
- [History of Chamblee](#)
- [Property Maintenance and Zoning Ordinances](#)

Every other month, Chamblee publishes a newsletter, *The Signal*. You can download it from their website www.ChambleeGa.com. Click on the Government tab at the top and then on City Newsletters & Calendars. Alternatively you can phone 770-986-5010 and ask to have it either emailed to you or to have a paper copy mailed to you.

Huntley Hills Newsletters:

- [Winter, 2013](#)
- [Summer, 2013](#)
- [Spring, 2013](#)
- [Winter, 2012](#)
- [Fall 2012](#)
- [Summer, 2012](#)
- [Spring, 2012](#)
- [September, 2011](#)
- [May, 2011](#)

HuntleyHills.wordpress.com
is updated at least weekly
and is a treasure trove of
information.

Welcome to Huntley Hills!

This website is the online home for the Huntley Hills neighborhood, located in Chamblee, Georgia in north DeKalb County just inside I-285. Whether you are a neighborhood resident or just checking out the neighborhood, please enjoy your visit. We're glad you've taken the time to check us out! See the [Calendar](#) page for event dates and the [Stay Connected](#) page for ways to keep in the loop.

"Like" US on FB!



Latest HHNA News

- Work Continues at Huntley Hills Park
- Traffic Circles Going In
- Young Adult Group Picnic
- New Huntley Hills Signs
- Work begins on Huntley Hills Park

Neighborhood Links

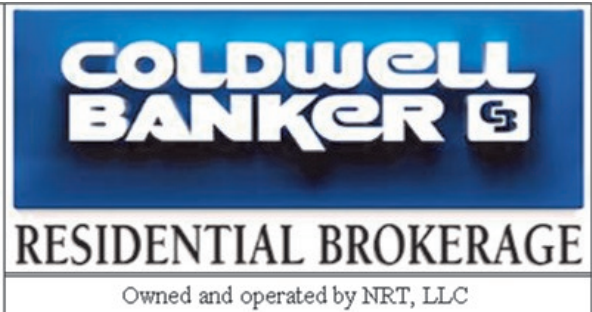
- Chamblee Business Association
- Chamblee, GA
- DeKalb County Codes
- HH Services Blog
- HH Swim & Tennis Club
- HH Yahoo Group
- Restaurant Inspections
- The Chamblee Post

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Neighborhood Watch Update

Meghan Harris, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

This has been a very exciting year for Neighborhood Watch and I am thrilled to announce that for the very first time since Tom Scott worked tirelessly to restart the program, every single resident living inside of Huntley Hills has a block captain! Thank you to all of the people that have stepped up to make our community a safer place to live. We currently have 47 block captains. Throughout the spring and early summer, 29 of them were able to find time in their very busy schedules to host block parties, and the turnouts were the best that they have ever been.



Block
Party
Fun



The primary purpose of the Neighborhood Watch Program is to present a presence to would-be criminals that says, "We pay attention to our surroundings and watch each others backs." The easiest thing we can all do is get to know our neighbors and become aware of each other's routines. Then it becomes very easy to recognize when something is out of the ordinary.

Always call 911 if you see something that is questionable. The Chamblee Police Department wants to have the safest neighborhoods possible and they welcome the extra sets of eyes.

We will be increasing the amount of signs to let everyone know that we are a Neighborhood Watch community. We will also be planning another Meet

and Greet with the Chamblee Police Department. I hope to see many of you there because it will be a great opportunity for you to meet our new Community Rela-

tions Liaison, Officer Chris Poythress. Officer Poythress has taken over for Officer Cushenan, who is moving up the ranks and will soon be called Detective Cushenan. Officer Poythress recently came to Chamblee from DeKalb County and he is excited to be working in a smaller city because he wants to be a part of community outreach.



If you have any questions regarding Neighborhood Watch, feel free to contact me at meghandharris@gmail.com.

As always, stay safe and watch each other's backs!

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Neighbor Spotlight: Leslie Freymann

Carolyn Weber

If not for a simple wrong turn, Leslie Freymann might not have ended up living in Huntley Hills. Leslie and her husband, Gordon, were living off of Clairmont Road and were looking for a preschool for their son, Marshall. They were also expecting their second child, Charlotte, so they were looking for a larger house. Gordon came to check out the preschool at Chamblee United Methodist Church. He and Leslie both take MARTA to their jobs downtown and he wanted to see how long it would take to drive from the church to the MARTA station. But he got turned around and came out the back entrance of the church and ended up in Huntley Hills. As he drove through the neighborhood, he saw the swim and tennis club and the park and all the trees. He called Leslie and said, "I just found this great neighborhood." Leslie looked up Huntley Hills online and found out that the elementary school had a free, public Montessori school. They were sold!

How fortunate we are that they ended up here in 2006. Leslie has been volunteering in our neighborhood since practically the day they moved in. She was a member of the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) Board and was very active in supporting the drive to annex the neighborhood into the city of Chamblee. She created the HHNA Facebook page and actively updates it, loading pictures of neighborhood events and passing on news from around Chamblee and Atlanta. She started the Yahoo email group, which now has over 600 members and is a great way to share information—and find lost dogs—in Huntley Hills.

Leslie was the driving force behind the traffic-calming effort in our neighborhood. This was a multi-year project that started back in 2008. During this time, Leslie kept the pressure on DeKalb County to finish the work via endless phone calls and emails. Although she was frequently frustrated by the process, she always had a smile and a positive attitude. It would not have happened without Leslie's perseverance and dedication over a five year period.



Leslie has also been on the Board of the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club (HHSTC) for many years. During her tenure, they went from owing \$130K to being debt free in less than five years! This has allowed them to consider taking on a big project, such as replacing the aging club house. According to Leslie, "Our swim and tennis club is much more than just a pool and tennis courts. It provides a great gathering space for social

events throughout the year. Membership helps everyone meet new friends, connect with neighbors and feel a sense of belonging and family. It also provides a safe, fun place for our neighborhood children to spend their summers." The swim and tennis club is an asset to the whole neighborhood, not just its members. "When people are searching for homes to buy, they find our club website and Facebook page and it's a huge selling point to the neighborhood. When our facilities look good and are well managed, it helps protect and even increase everyone's property value."

Leslie has worked to forge a closer relationship between the boards of the HHNA and the HHSTC. The HHSTC has sponsored a Halloween party and costume contest at the pool for several years. In 2012, she suggested that the HHNA Board sponsor a Halloween decorating contest, as a way to help get the neighborhood into the holiday spir-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



it. HHNA has done this for the last two years, with the decorating contest winners announced during the Halloween party. She has also invited members of the HHNA Board to serve as judges of the costume party.

When asked why she volunteers, Leslie said, “I volunteer because I love getting things done and making a positive difference in the world. Plus, when you are a volunteer, you are in control of what you do, how you do it and when you do it. I’m always staying busy. I like projects that have clear end results, like traffic-calming implementation, helping our neighborhood annex into Chamblee, holiday decorating contests, etc. I also enjoy volunteering to help with communications and social media. But my real labor of love has been the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club. I’ve been on that Board for eight years now and, together with some other very committed neighbors, we’ve really been able to turn things around. I’m super proud of our success and I’m looking forward to what the future holds.”

Like most of us, Leslie is not a native Georgian. She was born and raised in Arlington, VA and lived just a bike ride away from Washington, DC. She moved to Georgia to attend college at the University of Georgia in 1993. She met her husband, Gordon, at a Public Health conference; and they have been married for 13 years. They have two kids, Marshall (10) and Charlotte (7), who both attend the Montessori program at Huntley Hills Elementary. They also have numerous pets including two dogs—Noodles and Emma—and a lovable rat, named Bubbles.

Believe it, or not, but when she is not doing volunteer work, Leslie does have a paying job. As an environmental health consultant for the Georgia Department of Public Health, she maintains the databases, websites and reporting related to the permitting and inspection of restaurants, septic tanks, pools, hotels, and private drinking wells throughout Georgia. In the rest of her spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities like camping, hiking and running. She is a member of the Atlanta Track Club, completing her first half-marathon last Fall and her first Peachtree Road Race this year. She is also into gardening, scrapbooking, video editing, and hanging out at the pool talking with friends.

Does Leslie see any challenges for Huntley Hills and Chamblee in the next few years? “Honestly, I think we have it pretty good here. I think our biggest challenge, or opportunity—however you see it—is figuring out our future. There will be a lot of tough decisions made in the next year or two in regards to future development and how our tax dollars are spent. I think it’s in everyone’s best interest that they stay informed, attend meetings and let their elected officials know how they feel.” Leslie practices what she preaches in this area. She is a regular attendee at the Chamblee City Council work sessions and meetings. She also works to keep the neighborhood up-to-date on things happening at City Hall through her Facebook posts and emails to the Yahoo group. Without her efforts, many of us would be much less informed.

When asked what she likes most about Huntley Hills, Leslie said, “I love all the people and the sense of community. I also love the school, the pool, the tennis courts, the park and all the trees. This neighborhood suits us very well and we’re super happy to be in Huntley Hills and Chamblee.”

We are super happy to have you here too, Leslie!

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Community Affairs Update

Brian Ray, Community Affairs Chair

This has been a busy year for Chamblee, starting with the annexation of an area in DeKalb County between Buford Highway, Clairmont Road and Chamblee Tucker Road. This increased the population of Chamblee by about 11,000 residents up to about 27,000 total. Several neighborhoods in that area are very active and engaged in local affairs; and they have already been attending City Council meetings and making their voices heard.

There are a number of activities currently underway that may impact the Huntley Hills neighborhood. The Livable Cities Initiative (LCI) study was completed this spring. This study covered much of the downtown area, from the MARTA station to the area around Chamblee City Hall. The overall recommendation was to promote redevelopment in a walkable, higher-density area with a mix of residential, commercial, and institutional development. While everyone seems to support the plan, the challenge will be to find the money to develop the area. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA), established in 2013, should play a critical role in ensuring that the design and feel of what the community wants moves in the correct direction. The DDA will be able to provide incentives, own property, and implement development programs to create a better Chamblee.

With the recent annexations, Chamblee's Comprehensive Plan was out of date. The City started the process of revising the Comprehensive Plan last fall, with the final plan submitted for review this summer. Huntley Hills Subdivision falls within the area designated for "Neighborhood Living." In general, the plan states, *"This area will remain a strong stable single-family residential area of well-maintained housing with a distinct community identity. The interior of the area will remain single-family residential on large lots, supported by nearby commercial areas for services, and local parks for recreation."* In short, Huntley Hills should see no major changes.

Following the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan, the city started revising the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) that addresses the details of how development should occur. The current ordinances have been revised over the years, are difficult to follow, and in some cases contradictory. The current UDO revision process started this winter, and is still in development. One change that may impact Huntley Hills is that the revised ordinance may make large-scale remodels and

infill development easier, with slightly reduced setbacks and loosening of other constraints.

The City is also developing a Streetscape Plan for the section of Chamblee-Dunwoody Road near the high school—from Peachtree Boulevard to Harts Mill Road. The draft plans have not yet been released, nor construction funds identified, but I have high hopes for improvements to this area.

One issue that may have a direct impact on Huntley Hills is the construction of sidewalks. The City Council has started to discuss sidewalk construction throughout the city in an effort to promote walkability. The priorities have not been set, but proximity to schools and parks will probably be included. Depending on the funding, this may mean the construction of more sidewalks near the elementary school and park.



The City is also discussing improvement of our parks, including the Huntley Hills Park. There was some discussion of getting a sun shade for this summer, but since it couldn't be installed until August at the earliest, the City Council decided to hold off and evaluate the park overall before doing any work. While disappointing, it does point to the City discussing other improvements. We should expect to see some meetings about the park this fall or winter, so start thinking

about what you'd like to see!

On the private development side, one major project will be the construction of new houses at the end of Commander Drive. The Chamblee United Methodist Church has sold a part of their property, and the plans call for six houses to be constructed in that area. Due to the terrain and presence of streams, much of the property will be preserved in its current state.

Unfortunately, Chamblee Plaza remains unimproved. The owners have never formerly submitted a plan to the City, so the exact details of the owner's plans remain unknown.

One overall message for all of these items is this: If you have concerns or ideas, speak up. Our City Council is very accessible. Councilwoman Leslie Robson lives right in our neighborhood, and I have found the remainder to be very open to discussing any concerns that our residents may have. Attending the City Council and DDA meetings is another great way to know what is going on and to have an opportunity to be heard. Finally, the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association Board is always happy to talk about what is happening in the neighborhood.

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Traffic Circles Are Culmination of Five-Year Traffic-Calming Project

Carolyn Weber

Huntley Hills residents worked with DeKalb County for over five years on the neighborhood's traffic-calming project, and it is now complete. This was one of the largest, most comprehensive residential traffic calming projects done in DeKalb County and includes bike lanes, striping lines, speed tables, a center island, two new stop signs and three traffic circles.

The project started in 2008, but it wasn't until last summer that DeKalb County began marking where the three traffic circles would go on Longview Drive. Then it would take another few months before the actual work started. In October they finally started installing the traffic circles. Due to bad weather and other delays, it took several months to complete them. This phase also seemed to epitomize what is wrong with large government bureaucracies—no one seemed to be overseeing the overall effort or communicating anything to the other departments who needed to know.

Within a very short time of the traffic circles being completed, the asphalt at the edges of the circles started breaking down due to vehicles driving closer to the edge of the road. This caused potholes which threatened to damage cars going around the circles and was very unsightly. Repair took another series of neighborhood complaints from numerous people over several months.

But we have finally reached the end of a long tunnel. After five years, the traffic calming program is complete! We have speed tables, bikes lanes, additional stop signs, a center island and traffic circles. And, although there are still some drivers who will not slow down no matter how many different things we install, traffic in the neighborhood has indeed “calmed down,” particularly on Longview Drive where most of the efforts were focused. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project!

Going Around in Circles

Heather Abraham

Let's face it, we are creatures of habit and for those of us who find change unpleasant, roundabouts can knock us out of our comfort zone. Stop signs we understand. “I was here first—so I get to go first!” That has been the status quo for as long as most of us can remember, but a wordless concrete circle with strange directional diagrams? What are we supposed to do with that? Hopefully, we will learn to appreciate and enjoy them.



I was excited when I learned that “traffic calming circles” were coming to Huntley Hills. After close to two decades of living at the intersection of Ellwyn and Longview, I looked forward to anything that could slow the flow of traffic through our lovely neighborhood. As with all new things, I expected an adjustment period but I didn't expect the intersection chaos that ensued nor the angry responses from some neighborhood residents who declared them to be “monstrosities, eyesores, ridiculous, and dangerous.” Of course there were problems—pothole problems—and that didn't help approval ratings. The potholes were easily corrected, but how do we learn to live in harmony with these foreign structures?

Why not have fun with them? Embrace them like the young driver I observed a few months ago. At first, I thought he was another confused driver when he arrived at the roundabout and came to a full stop. But what he did next made my day. After ascertaining that there was no approaching traffic, the teen turned up his radio and made three continuous turns through the roundabout before turning onto Ellwyn. As he passed by my driveway, I was struck by the look of joy on his face. A teen in a Mini Cooper reminded me that perception is everything.

Now, I'm not suggesting that we all “do doughnuts” around our roundabouts. But what I am suggesting is that we take a chill pill and accept the benefits the roundabouts offer. They are here to do a job and it seems to me they are working. Traffic has slowed. So let's turn up our radios, enjoy the ride, and celebrate our newest residents. Cheers!

*Heather Abraham is the author of the bestselling memoir, **The Bookies Daughter** for which she earned a Georgia Author of the Year finalist designation. She and her husband, Teo Sagişman have been residents of Huntley Hills since 1998.*



Summer Fun in the Sun!

In case you haven't seen or heard, Huntley Hills has one of the best and most affordable Swim and Tennis Clubs anywhere around town. It's a terrific place to meet your neighbors, make new friends, have lots of fun and really feel connected to your community.

We offer so many great amenities with frequent new additions, including adult only swim at your own risk hours and the most guarded hours around. Just a few of the exciting and fun activities include:

Friday Night Cookouts
Adult Only Parties
Bouncy House Rentals
Watermelon Football
Pot Luck dinners

Casual Tennis
Memorial Day Party
Beer Dives
Children's Swim Team
Clubhouse Rentals

Competitive/League Tennis
July 4th Parade and Party
Soda Dives
Halloween Party
And Much, Much More...

As a community, we love any excuse to get together and celebrate. Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club provides the perfect setting for so many social events.

Membership is open to anyone. Dues are \$500 for a family membership, \$400 for a couple's membership, and \$350 for a single membership, plus a one time Initiation Fee of \$400 (waived for seniors). Please shop around - you won't find a better value at any club in the area.

You can follow us on Facebook, visit us on the web at www.hhstc.com, give us a call at (404) 585-0657, or send us an email at huntleyhillsswimtennis@gmail.com. We would be more than happy to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

We hope to see you next summer!



Huntley Hills Swim & Tennis Club Update

Ryan Tracy HHST Club President

The Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club is enjoying a very strong 2014 season. Membership levels are the highest they have been in decades and there is a very fun vibe this year.

A new social calendar was introduced and the events have been very entertaining. We have something for everyone and every age, from family nights, to teen lock-ins, adult only parties, and live music. Recently a brand new ping pong table was added to the clubhouse and Corn Hole tournaments introduced. It has really been a lot of fun this year. There is never a dull moment and great people are always in abundance.

Our membership make up has remained consistent over the years. Roughly 70% of our members reside in Huntley Hills, while about 30% of the members come from surrounding areas. We have always strived to increase the percentage of HH residents and we will continue to do so next year. We have reached our cap this season and plan to make sure that HH residents have priority when open enrollment resumes next season. Stay tuned.

We would like to thank all of our members that have continued to support our club within our incredible community. And the selfless individuals who have volunteered their time and resources to make this club a great place to be since 1964. That is an astounding time frame and everyone since the first opening day deserves our gratitude.

If you are not a member, please view our website at www.hhstc.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HHSTC. We hope to see many more familiar Huntley Hills faces next year!

Huntley Hills Hammerheads Season Review

Nick Guerrero, Team Manager

The Hammerhead swim team finished the season with four wins and only one loss. The wins came against Huntcliff, Hampton Hall, Deerbrooke Waters and Deerfield Spalding Lake. The season culminated with 60 swimmers competing at the Atlanta Swim Association Championships meet, which is one of the largest swim meets in the nation. The Hammerheads finished in 7th place in their divisional session, our only ever Top-10 finish. Nine of our swimmers did so well that they re-

turned to the finals session by placing in the top 30 or 40 for their event. This is an amazing achievement in light of the fact that, in most cases, there were hundreds of swimmers competing in their events. We're **very proud** of all of our Hammerhead swimmers for such a memorable season!

Throughout the season, some long-standing records were broken by the following swimmers:

Relays:

Marion Holt, Mary Adam, Kirby Guerrero, Marlee Newbill
Girls 11-12 Medley Relay - 2:22.93
2014 ASA Divisionals

Mary Adam, Marlee Newbill, Marion Holt, Kirby Guerrero
Girls 11-12 Free Relay - 2:10.98
2014 ASA Divisionals



Individuals:

Madeline Murphy
Girls 7-8 Freestyle - 16.85
2014 Deerfield Spalding Lake @ Huntley Hills

Reese Benton
Girls 7-8 50 Freestyle - 39.52
2014 ASA Championship Finals

Madeline Murphy
Girls 7-8 Backstroke - 22.25
2014 Huntley Hills @ Huntcliff

Kirby Guerrero
Girls 11-12 100 Individual Medley - 1:15.00
2014 Huntley Hills @ Huntcliff

Kirby Guerrero
Girls 11-12 Butterfly - 33.07
2014 Huntley Hills @ Fountainebleau

The Huntley Hills Hammerhead Swim Team is the youth swim team of the Huntley Hills Swim & Tennis club and is managed by Nick Guerrero and Mary Finnegan. The team was coached by Kristen Clayton and assisted by Jordan Wilson and Patrick Lindstrom. The Junior Hammerhead swim team for young swimmers new to swimming was coached by Casey George.

The teams would like to thank all of their 2014 sponsors for their wonderful support.





Huntley Hills Elementary School Needs Your Support!

Sheila Gillispie PTA President 2014-2015

Since 1964, Huntley Hills Elementary School has been at the center of the Huntley Hills neighborhood. For the 2013-2014 school year, it served about 480 students, from pre-K to Fifth grade, in traditional and Montessori education tracks.

Huntley Hills Elementary is a Title I school—meaning that over two-thirds of its students receive reduced or free lunch. The impact of this is that the school receives special funding from the federal government that can be used for improving the school equipment or programs that fall within the guidelines. For example, the school purchased iPads for the students at the end of the last school year and was able to use Title 1 money to cover some of that cost. Another of the impacts of this is that parental involvement can be pretty thin—parents who work a second or third shift or who don't speak English find it more difficult to volunteer at the school—so there is always a need for volunteers.

Also, this past school year saw Huntley Hills Elementary begin a STEAM program, providing added opportunities for enrichment in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. STEAM is a major initiative to help kids become interested in careers in science and technology. The current school year will see the school add a Drama Club and a Technology Club to the list of offerings available for students to participate in.

The Huntley Hills PTA supports the teachers and staff of the school, organizing volunteers, fundraising and supporting special programs. DeKalb County provides a basic budget, Title 1 monies help to supplement that budget and the PTA tries to fill in all the rest. Last year, each teacher received a budget of \$100 from the PTA to go towards classroom supplies that the county can't provide. The PTA also has paid for additional training seminars for a variety of teachers.

As a member of the Huntley Hills community, you can help contribute to the continued success of our neighborhood school in the following ways:

- ⇒ **Donate Box Tops:** Box Tops contributed to Huntley Hills Elementary provide a major source of funding for books and other supplies in our school library. You can drop the Box Tops off at the school, or contact me, and we'll arrange a pick-up/drop-off.
- ⇒ **Donate Coke Rewards:** We use them to buy gym equipment (it is amazing how short a life a playground ball can have at an elementary school).
- ⇒ **Donate Labels for Education:** We use these for a variety of things but it has been mostly gym equipment
- ⇒ **Attend Spirit Nights:** Local restaurants host regular spirit nights, where a portion of sales go to the Huntley Hills PTA. Look out for announcements, and please join us on these nights.
- ⇒ **Volunteer:** If you have a career in science or technology, you may be able to help us with a STEAM day program. Please contact the PTA to find out how. The library is always looking for regular volunteers to help shelve and check out books since there is only one staff person in the library.

Want to talk to someone about other ways that you can help? Contact me, Sheila Gillispie, at 678-547-1604.





Getting Fit In Huntley Hills

Tiffany Britton

You don't need to join a fancy gym to get fit this year! You have everything you need right here in Huntley Hills. With a little bit of creativity, you can get a good workout.

Put One Foot In Front of the Other

Walking and running are great cardiovascular activities. 30 minutes of walking can burn 150-170 calories (for a person weighing 150 lbs.). 30 minutes of running can burn up to 300 calories! Aerobic exercise offers additional physiological benefits, including more efficient cardiac function and improved brain function. As you work hard to look great, you'll begin to feel great, too!

Huntley Hills and the greater Chamblee area offer some outstanding streets for running and walking - it's easy to travel a few miles by foot, whether walking or running. If you're not sure where to start, here are a few ideas:

- ♦ If you're looking for a flat area to begin your workout, check out Ensign Drive and Ensign Court. Ensign Drive is .36 miles from Plantation Lane to Longview Drive. If you add in the cul-de-sac on Ensign Court, you have almost a half mile of nice, flat walking/running terrain. This is the perfect area for a speed workout if you're looking to get faster, and it's a manageable area to begin if you're new to running or walking for fitness. Commodore Court is another option. It's a .15 mile loop with an ever-so-slight incline.
- ♦ We have no shortage of hills in Huntley Hills! Running or walking hills is a great strength training workout for the legs, as well as offering aerobic gains (those longer, less-severe hills). Commodore Drive, Commodore Lane, Wye Lane, and Greenhill Drive have some steep hills for good uphill and downhill workouts. If you want something a little less severe, run up and walk down Forrestal Drive three to five times for a challenging workout.
- ♦ For a longer run, it's easy to get over to Sexton Woods and use the Keswick Extension Trail to run into the Chamblee Mid-City and Antique districts.
- ♦ If you don't want to run or walk alone, you should check out the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Run/Walk Group. For more information, see the article on page 25.

Get Stronger

Strength training is another important component in physical fitness. Huntley Hills Park offers the perfect surface for a few sets of push-ups, squats, bench dips, monkey bar pull-ups, and other bodyweight exercises. Get creative and use the time while your kids play on the swing set to do a short workout. Start with two sets of 8-10 reps of a couple of exercises (push-ups and squats are good ones) and work up to 15 reps. If you need some assistance with form or modifications to fit your personal needs, contact a personal trainer for some pointers.



Tiffany Britton is a personal trainer certified by the American Council on Exercise. She trains clients in their homes, at a fitness studio, and in public-use spaces. You can often find Tiffany and her husband, Neil, running through the neighborhood very early in the morning. For tips on running and strength training, or to book a training session, you can contact Tiffany at 404-513-9413 or tbritton0123@gmail.com.



Pondering a Patch in the Park

Leslie Robson, Dragonfly Landscaping

When Tillman Hannon at Chamblee Public Works called to ask what trees he should plant to replace what had to be removed to rebuild the stream embankment that protects the Ensign/Admiral/Longview end of Huntley Hills Park, it got me thinking. What once had been a dense and shady landscape was completely bare except for the Bermuda sod that had been put down to protect the soil from eroding into Bubbling Creek during heavy rains. The neighboring homes had lost a good portion of their privacy, the walkers had lost their shade, and our wildlife habitat had lost some of its diversity. Granted, what had existed before was not the choicest of plant material for a habitat. English ivy and wisteria clung to the trees and tangled the shrubbery. Japanese privet and eleagnus lined the banks, and the tulip poplars and sweet gum were one by one tumbling into the stream, their roots undercut by the fast moving water. When would the next one fall?

I pondered the situation for the next few weeks. Here was a perfect opportunity for improvement! Start with some fast growing trees, replacing the invasive ones with native. On a float down the Chattahoochee River I saw river birch and sycamores, silver bells, red maple and tulip poplars lining the banks. Most of these trees would grow fast and provide shade within a few years. But then what? The



bermuda would be shaded out eventually and, in the meantime, the mowers would probably damage the tree trunks if the trees were not planted in mulched beds. And what about that sharp incline against the concrete embankment and the fence with the grass growing under it? Those would need more labor-intensive hand trimming to be maintained.

I talked with our then city manager, Niles Ford, with Parks and Recreation Director, Joel Holmes, and with Tillman, asking if I could design a landscape that would address these problems. They gave me the green light. The landscape I designed incorporates native trees and shrubs, perennials, grasses, and ferns. When the time was right, the work began.



After outlining the layout, Public Works removed the sod and used it in various locations around Chamblee. The 'beds' are bordered by granite curbstone supplied and installed by Chamblee Public Works. The border will keep the mulch in and the grass out and provide for easier maintenance in the future. The City purchased some of the trees and shrubs, and some came from my own landscape and were installed by the many Huntley Hills residents who volunteered to do the work. Chamblee delivered





compost, and again volunteers pitched in to spread it. Daniel Schadler, Candy Sherburne, Mary and Kevin Finnegan, Brian and Cara Ray, Heni Sandoval, Margaret and Merry Koch, Tambryn Freund, Barbara Shannon, Dick and Sarah Patterson, Ann and Doni Tamli, Pat Brower, Carolyn Weber, Aimee Landry, and Barbara and Herb Daniel donated over 100 bales of pine straw purchased from Chamblee High School's fundraiser sale; and then, many of them spent a day spreading it! Also, the labels you may have noticed on the plants were made and donated by Allison Metheny. Thanks All!



It is July as I write and we are in the hot, hot, hot days of summer. Too hot and dry to do anything but pray for rain and keep the plants watered and the weeds that persevere through the mulch controlled. By the time you are reading it will be September- divide and transplant season for perennials, and my yard contains so much to be donated. We also have Chase Huckabee—an Eagle Scout candidate in the 'hood—who has plans to build a beautiful wood and stone bench that will mirror the monument wall on the corner of Admiral and Longview for his final project. Two slate chip pathways will meander through the beds, accessing the seating, and making for more close-up flower and insect contemplation.

Gardens and landscapes are living things and as such are constantly changing and evolving. This little patch is no exception. It is only in its infancy and there will always be more to add and subtract. The light will change as the trees grow, some plants will die and make way for new selections. Some will grow and crowd others out. Someone will have a new idea. My hope is that it will provide year round interest and pleasure, be an appealing attraction at the entrance to Huntley Hills, and bring people together around a common interest in the natural world.



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Huntley Hills From a Kid's-Eye View

Isabella Tracy, Chamblee Middle School Student

I have lived in Huntley Hills since I was four, and it has always had its own little charm. The people are so nice and friendly that they feel more like family than neighbors. I feel very safe here, thanks to the many Chamblee police officers that patrol our neighborhood and come to so many of the events that we have. I just love this community!

In the summer I enjoy going to the pool and being on the swim team. I also like to ride my bike to Chick-fil-a and IHOP with my friends. I hope they do something about Chamblee plaza soon, not only is it kind of boring but it is ugly too.

When I was little I used to want to live at the beach... but now I couldn't imagine living anywhere else. Okay, maybe if I could live in Hawaii, but I would want to move Huntley Hills there. I can't tell you how much I love growing up in this neighborhood. The only thing I dislike is the traffic circles; don't even get me started! They are annoying to *me*!

I hope that you love Huntley Hills as much as I do and want to spend the rest of your life here.



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Pounding the Pavement: Huntley Hills Run/Walk Group

Robert Buckley

Each spring, as the temperature rises and daylight extends later into the evening, Huntley Hills residents, like others all over the world, tend to come out of hibernation, lace up their tennis shoes, and hit the pavement. Whether the goal is a first or fastest 5K, 10K, half marathon, full marathon, or simply to enjoy the springtime beauty of our wonderful neighborhood, you can see neighbors of all ages and abilities take to the streets of Huntley Hills for a run or a walk every day.

With this proliferation of runners and walkers throughout the neighborhood, a few have started getting together at least one day each week for some neighborhood sweat and camaraderie. Started in April 2014, the Huntley Hills Run/Walk Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the parking lot of the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club. Each week features routes of various distances, so anyone can participate. Typically, the options vary from 2-4 miles, have multiple pace groups, stay within the friendly confines of Huntley Hills, and start and end as a group at the Swim and Tennis Club.

In addition to the weekly run/walks, the group has evolved into a forum for other fitness and social opportunities. There are longer group runs on the weekends, speed or interval workouts some mornings, and the occasional Trivia Night at Galla's Pizza to enjoy some hard-earned pizza and beer. The group is also working to pick an upcoming race to do participate in together as a team.

Huntley Hills Run/Walk for new folks to join jaunts. Anyone interested to attend! All skill come and encouraged. loop on any future activities. contact Robert Buckley at rfbuckley@gmail.com to get added to the Google Group.

The Run/Walk Group everyone pounding the Hills soon!



Group is always looking them on their weekly ed in participating is well-levels and paces are well- If you want to stay in the ities, contact Robert ley@gmail.com to get Group.

looks forward to seeing pavement of Huntley

"Run when you can, walk if you have to, crawl if you must; just never give up." - Dean Karnazes



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Commerce Corner

Van Pappas, President, Chamblee Chamber of Commerce

At the beginning of this year, the long running Chamblee Business Association (CBA) made way for the start of a new organization. As an association, there was not a lot the CBA could do to help drive economic activity or be an advocate for the business community. The organization realized there was a huge need to help the over 2000 businesses that operate in Chamblee. The CBA just did not have the resources to help.

So, a handful of business owners got together and formed Chamblee's first Chamber of Commerce (CC). The small executive committee spent the next couple of months raising start-up capital through Founding Member sponsorships. With 21 Founding Members, the Chamber was on its way to setting its board of directors, hiring staff, and opening an office in the downtown area (5382 Peachtree Rd.).



Whitney Duffie, Aurora Santana, Barbara Barber and Art Freeman of the Chamblee Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber's mission statement is this: ***"The Chamblee Chamber of Commerce advocates and promotes the business interests of our diverse community. Through a partnership with all levels of government and organizations, we will guide, support and nurture positive business growth."***

Some of the events that the Chamber sponsors regularly are a monthly networking mixer, a monthly breakfast speaker series, and the annual Taste of Chamblee. The Chamber is looking to create some lunch & learns and is exploring the possibility of holding a semi-annual cruise-in car show.

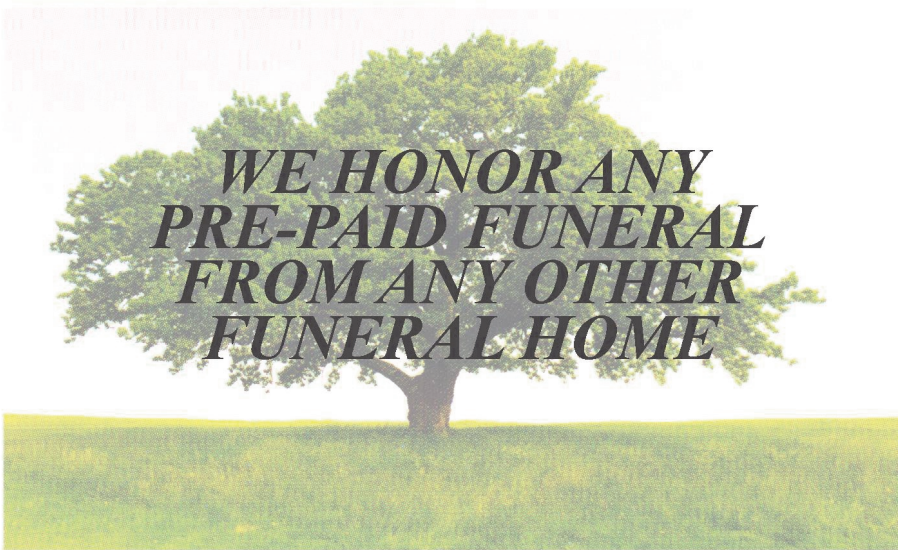
In the second half of 2014, the Chamber looks to form a variety of committees to drive business activity to the area. Resident input and involvement is welcome as the Chamber tries to bring an even stronger sense of community to our 106 year old city. For more information, visit the Chamber website at www.chambleechamber.org, or call me, Van Pappas, at 678-336-9314.

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