

The HUNTLEY HILLS

HERALD Fall 2016



The Official Newsletter of the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association

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HUNTLEY HILLS

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President's Corner

Carolyn Weber, President

As I write this in July, we are in the heat of an Atlanta summer. Two weeks ago, we cooled off at our annual ice cream party. We hired a Good Humor-style truck to drive through the neighborhood, handing out free ice cream to all residents. It was a big hit! It was also the hottest day of the year, at 100 degrees, so the ice cream melted quickly. But it was still the perfect treat for a summer day.



The next weekend, over 25 Huntley Hillians ran through the hills of Atlanta during the annual Peacthree Road Race 10K. Most of us didn't see each other, since there were 60,000 other runners! But it was great knowing that there were so many of our neighbors out there, too. Thanks to everyone who shared their photos on Facebook.

The same day, the Swim and Tennis Club held their Fourth of July parade for all the neighborhood kids. The display of red, white and blue was beautiful. The Swim and Tennis Club is a huge asset to our neighborhood. They provide a great place for families to hang out in the summer and the swim team has a large roster. They field multiple ALTA Tennis teams, one of which won the City Championship this year! If you are interested in joining, you can find out more at https://hhstc.wordpress.com/

Another important asset in our neighborhood is Huntley Hills Elementary School. It contains a public Montessori school as well as a traditional school. This year, they became STEM-certified. The head of the PTA for this coming year is Huntley Hills resident Sheila Gillispie. You can read more about her and the school in our Spotlight article on page **xxx**.

The Chamblee City Council held an election last fall and for the first time in many years, all three seats were contested. Many neighbors were quite involved in supporting the various candidates and campaign signs popped up all over the neighborhood. There were some heated debates on Nextdoor and a number of candidate

forums were held across the city. It was great to see so many people caring about their city and getting engaged in the process. In the end, one new person joined the council and two others were re-elected.

In other election news, we welcomed several new board members to the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) board this year. Andrew Hodges is our new newsletter editor and put together this terrific newsletter that you are reading. Holly Yarbrough has taken over as Social Chair. She has the lead on all the great social events we have, including our Happy Hours, Ice Cream Social and Street Party. Speaking of the Street Party, it will be here in just a few weeks. If you've lived in the neighborhood for a few years, you've had chance to experience the great time that we have. And if you're new, you're in for a treat. We have a lot of food, entertainment for the kids, door prizes, music and best of all – the chance to meet and socialize with over 200 of your neighbors! See page xxx for all the details.

Real estate development is picking up, both inside Huntley Hills and very nearby. The enclave of Huntley Estates on Commodore Drive broke ground in the spring and the houses should be completed by the end of the year. Several high-end housing developments have started on the outskirts of Huntley Hills along Chamblee Dunwoody Road. Within the neighborhood, the sales prices for existing homes are rising. There were at least two houses that sold for over \$400K, which is a record high for Huntley Hills. Houses that are put up for sale are usually snapped up very quickly. More and more people are finding that Huntley Hills is a great place to live!

In closing, this will be the last President's Corner that I write. After five years, I thought that it was time for a change – both for me and the board. So there will be a new President next year who will bring fresh energy and new ideas to the role. I'm looking forward to seeing the great things that they have in store for the HHNA!





Treasurer's Report

Joan Varlan, Treasurer

The HHNA had an ending balance of \$1,928 at the close of our 2015-2016 fiscal year. During this reporting period we took in \$4,958 and had expenditures of \$6,060. Annual neighborhood membership dues of \$20.00 accounted for \$4,467 and allowed the association to sponsor social, community, and beautification projects and events. Highlights included the neighborhood-wide Street Party, Happy Hour events, holiday contests, Public Works breakfasts, and once again graduation banners to congratulate high school seniors. The major expenditure for the past year was the purchase and installation of the new Doggie Waste Stations. We always appreciate ideas from our members about how your dues can better serve the neighborhood. Please contact any board member with your thoughts.









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Thank You to Our Members

Dana Freyman, VP and Membership Chair

We are grateful to the more than 200 neighbors who joined the HHNA last year! Thanks to you we are able to fulfill our mission of "fostering community engagement, beautification and safety in the vibrant Chamblee neighborhood of Huntley Hills."

Our goal this year is to reach the 40% membership mark, and we hope you'll help us get there! The past few years about 30% of our 722 homes have joined the association. For the price of a few coffee drinks you can join the HHNA for the entire year! Just \$20 helps make our neighborhood be the best it can be. Your membership allows us to support Huntley Hills beautification efforts, host fun social events and continue an active neighborhood watch program.

You can stay informed about the HHNA through our website huntleyhills.net or through Facebook and Nextdoor. We encourage you to use these forums to communicate with us and each other. If you have ideas on how we can improve the neighborhood, we want to hear about it! Share your thoughts and feedback so we can continue make Huntley Hills the best neighborhood in Chamblee!

If you've never joined, we ask that this be your year. For those who haven't yet renewed, we hope you'll consider sending in your membership today. Questions? You can reach me at membership@huntleyhills.net.

Tillita Membership i Offi	
Full names of adults:	
Street address:	
Email(s):	
Phone number(s):	
Membership type: New /	Renewal

HHNA Momborship Form

Payment method: Check Enclosed

Home ownership: Own / Rent

Membership is \$20 per household, per year.

Make checks payable to Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association and mail with this form to P.O. Box 80141, Chamblee, GA 30366.

You may also join online and with PayPal at http://huntleyhills.net.

Note: HHNA is not affiliated with the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club and memberships for each organization are separate.





Doing Good in the 'Hood Gina Gallois, Huntley Hills neighbor

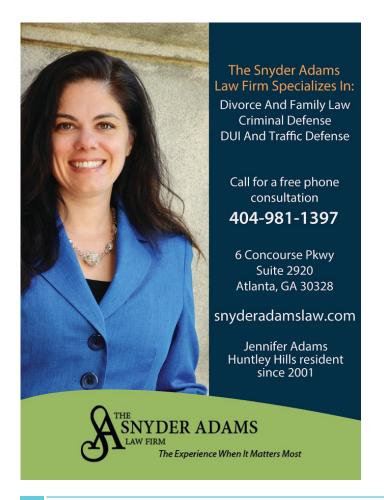
On March 13, 2016, a group of about a dozen neighbors, along with a few of our children, participated in the 5k Hunger Walk/Run event benefitting the Atlanta Community Food Bank and its partner institutions. We proudly called our team Run for the (Huntley) Hills! For the first of what we hope will be an annual event for our neighborhood, we were pleased to raise \$1423 as a team. This total included the funds collected from the community yoga class organized by Ed and Cherry from Breathe Yoga studio to boost our efforts.

Over the summer, I learned about a vitally important program called Smart Lunch Smart Kid that organizes volunteers to provide lunches for children during summer break. Too often, without that free or reduced lunch to sustain them, many children suffer from hunger instead of enjoying their vacation



time. I impulsively decided that I wanted to help and took for granted that my neighbors would jump at the chance as well - you did not disappoint! Within 24 hours of making the call for supplies, I had everything I needed to make 100 lunches. A few days later, an enthusiastic crowd 16 neighbors, half of them kids, gathered to assemble the lunches. With such an overwhelming response from you all, this experience has inspired me to look for other ways to bring people together to do some good.

Think you'd like to get involved in events like this? Be sure to check Nextdoor regularly for details about upcoming service project opportunities and for the formation of the 2017 5k walk/run team. Have a great idea? Pitch it to the community, or get in touch with me on Nextdoor and we'll see what we can do together.







Huntley Hills Elementary School Sheila Gillispie, PTA President

The excitement never stops at Huntley Hills Elementary!

In late May 2016, Huntley Hills Elementary received notification that the school had met the requirements to become STEM certified by AdvancED. The certification comes after 3 years of work from the administration, the teachers and other staff and parents. This makes us the first school in the Chamblee Cluster to earn STEM certification!

What does this mean exactly? STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and to be STEM certified means that these disciplines are being taught and reinforced across the curriculum. A lesson on WW1 might include how the many new technologies of the time effected the outcome of the war.

The students do regular hands-on activities where they get to apply and learn from the engineering process: identify the problem, develop possible solutions, create a prototype, test the prototype and improve the design. These activities range from building a better paper airplane to trying to solve real-world problems. For our first international STEM night in January, the Kindergarteners worked on ways to preserve the wetlands in Bangladesh that are the Bengal tiger's natural habitat; first graders worked on ways to protect the Egyptian pyramids; second graders sought a solution to flooding in Venice, Italy; third graders worked to find a way to regenerate the coral reefs of Jamaica; fourth grade figured out more efficient ways to irrigate farmland in Mexico; and the fifth graders built a system to prevent mudslides from destroying South Korea's cities.

We are also the first school in Dekalb County to get MinecraftEDU – the kids love it and the teachers are the ones struggling to catch up to them! MinecraftEDU focuses on the engineering aspects of building within the Minecraft universe.

Super new this school year is the beginning of a major library overhaul. If you've voted at the school, you know what the library looks like older, ripped carpet, beige walls and only a little bit of child-friendly seating. All that is changing over the next year or two! Thanks to one of our parents, Katja Lauterbach of Duett Designs, we have a new design and color scheme! Thanks to many of our parents, including Van Pappas, Lori Thompson, Bronagh Lavery, Meghan Harris and Katja Lauterbach the walls are being painted over the summer so that we are ready for the first batch of new furniture in the fall! Due to the massive scope of this project, PTA anticipates installing the changes in phases over a 3 year period. The library is used by every student in the school and there are studies upon studies that stress how important reading is as a building block for other learning.

When you see a notice on NextDoor about a spirit night or some other fundraiser, please consider supporting your local elementary school.

Check out our website www.huntleyhillspta.weebly.com



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Spotlight on Sheila Gillispie

There are 722 houses in Huntley Hills. We are fortunate to have Sheila Gillispie living in one of them.

Sheila has lived in the Atlanta area her whole life. She was born in Ashford Park, went to high school in Lilburn, graduated from Georgia Tech and now lives in Chamblee.

Sheila and her husband Scott have lived in Huntley Hills since 2001. They have two children, Travis who is starting 6th grade and Eleanor who is starting 3rd. They attend church at Chamblee United Methodist Church. Scott works as Project Manager at Nokia and has been a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain for a number of years. Sheila is currently "retired" from the business world.

Sheila and Scott met on a blind date in 1999, set up by a mutual friend. Scott was late, so the date almost didn't happen. But Sheila waited. And they hit it off so well that they married the next year. They went to Italy for their honeymoon. After returning, they looked at houses in Huntley Hills and Sexton Woods and decided on Huntley Hills. Good choice! They moved in on Halloween Day. As they were unpacking that evening, they remembered that it was Halloween. But they had no candy. So they turned off the lights and hoped that everyone would think that no one was home!

Sheila graduated with a degree in Industrial Management and worked at Target, then Datamatix. After son Travis was born, Sheila became a stay-at-home mom. When he started Kindergarten at Huntley Hills, she volunteered to be a "room mother". His teacher was thrilled. With so many mothers working these days,

volunteers are rare. Her first event was planning the annual Staff Appreciation Day. After that it wasn't long before she got involved in the PTA. She then became President-elect in 2014 and is starting her second year as President this year.

Most PTAs raise money by selling things like wrapping paper and candy. But the Huntley Hills PTA doesn't do this. Instead, they rely on two main fund raisers each year – the Fall Festival and Fueled by Fitness. The Fall Festival, which includes a Silent Auction, raised \$8,000 last year and Fueled by Fitness raised \$1,300. The PTA appreciates everyone who supports these events,

including neighbors in Huntley Hills who don't have children at the school.

They also have other minor fund raisers throughout the year, such as Spirit Nights at Chick-Fil-A, Mad Italian and Vintage Pizza. The PTA also collects box tops, which last year brought in about \$800.

The money raised by the PTA is used for a variety of things. The PTA provides \$100 to each homeroom teacher for supplies. There are about 30 home-room teachers and 540 students at the school. The PTA also tries to do one major project each year. Last year, their project was to redo the teacher's lounge. The design was done by a PTA volunteer who is an interior designer.

> With the money raised, they bought new cabinets, counters and furniture, and painted the room. Teachers continue to comment on how much they love it!

Their project this year involves the library. They are getting new paint and new carpet. They are also purchasing kid-friendly furniture, such as bookcases with seats and beanbag chairs. The goal is to make the library inviting, so that kids will be encouraged to come there and read.

Sheila is proud of a significant accomplishment that Huntley Hills achieved this spring. Huntley Hills Elementary became the first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Certified school in the Chamblee Cluster. The Chamblee Cluster includes all the elementary, middle and high schools in the area. The STEM certification process took 3 years and members of the PTA were involved all along the way. In particular, Sheila built the website that was used to document and track the school's progress. There were 11 criteria that had to be met and

the website was used to provide details on how they met each of those criteria. Congratulations to everyone who worked on this important achievement!

In addition to being PTA President, Shelia is also a Brownie leader. Scott is a Boy Scott leader and both of their kids are in scouting, so it seems to run in the family! In her spare time, Sheila likes sewing, reading and taking Zumba classes.

We are lucky to have Sheila in our neighborhood. Through her work first as a classroom volunteer, then as a PTA leader, she has done a lot to help the children at Huntley Hills Elementary School. Thank you, Sheila. Keep up the good work!



Neighborhood Watch Jon Richardson, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

I want to share my vision of Neighborhood Watch. What are the values which guide it?

The values of Neighborhood Watch (NW) are vigilance, friendliness, connectedness, courage, rationality, welcome, inclusiveness.

Vigilance, but not vigilantism: We look out for trouble, but we don't "go looking for trouble". We are watchful and prepared for situations and prepared to report to professional responders. By being a visible presence in the neighborhood and being watchful, we are a deterrence to criminal activity because bad actors know that they are likely to be seen. We are prepared to assist in ways that do not endanger us. We do not replace the roles of government services but work with them, filling the gap noting anything out of place. There are situations we can train for as nonprofessional assisters (E.g. Red Cross or FEMA training). In some situations, we can assist to the level of our training (E.g. if we have Red Cross or FEMA training). For example, if you are CPR trained, you can assist someone with Cardiac Arrest, while awaiting professional rescue.

Connectedness: A neighborhood of isolated individuals is vulnerable to many risks. Crime is one of those risks, but there are other risks besides crime. Connections strengthen a community. NW has the primary explicit goal of crime prevention. In the process of preparing for the crime threat, we also build community resilience to other threats. e.g. weather disasters.





Courage, not fear. In the face of threats, an emotional reaction based on fear can lead to a false "solution" which can be worse than the original threat. Instead, a rational consideration facilitates an appropriate response. NW asks us to play a role in threatening situations. It is essential that courage and rational decisions play a role in our actions.

> Welcome, rather than aloofness. When we see a stranger passing through our neighborhood, we must welcome them. Almost all present no threat. For the few with ill intent, if we interact with them, it will be harder for them to hide any ill intent. We must especially be careful not to suspect just because someone is different. When a guest is in our neighborhood, we feel honored that they choose to be here and we think of their safety. We must always be on guard against hate and discrimination. There is a way to be vigilant at the same time that we are open to the presence of those around us.



Our actions as individuals emerge to build our community. We make a series of choices. Here are some choices I would like you to consider to help build connections in our community:

- Take walks through our neighborhood.
- Take the time to greet your neighbor. When you encounter others, take a break from your mobile device. Wave to passing motorists.
- Participate in opportunities to get to know your neighbors (Neighborhood Watch Block Parties, HHNA events or other community organizations such as church or City of Chamblee Events).
- Prepare for emergencies by taking training (e.g. First Aid, CPR, CERT).
- Prior to a holiday, talk to your neighbors about watching each other's house or sign up for the Chamblee Police Department (CPD) House Check Program.
- Pay special attention to the goings and doings of the neighborhood children and teens. We've had two missing children events in the last couple of years that I'm aware of (fortunately, they both ended well).
- Sign up for the CPD Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) survey.
- Keep your cell phone ready -- ready to make a call to 911 or to take a picture. If you see a loose dog, take its picture and post it to Next Door using your mobile device. (This is a good use of your mobile device).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at safety@huntley-hills net.









Connected and Connecting

Holly Yarbrough, Social Chair

Huntley Hills is a unique community. I'm sure you've had someone say, "I didn't know places like that still exist!" when you describe our neighborhood. We are a community of people who wave to each other, we help lost pets find their way home, we keep an eye on each other's houses while out of town, and on our kids as they walk between their house and their best friend's house. We lend each other our lawn equipment and a hand. We swap recommendations for everything from the best dentist to the best strollers, but we also swap stories about where we grew up, how we met our spouses, and how we ended up here.

A common thread among Huntly Hills' residents is our desire to connect with each other. The Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) exists to help facilitate those connections whether that's through our Nextdoor.com site (https://huntleyhills.nextdoor.com), the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association's Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/huntleyhillsna/), our website (http://huntleyhills.net/), or in person.

In 2016 alone, we have already sponsored two Happy Hours (one at Mad Italian and one at Vintage Pizzeria), a Neighborhood Beatification Day, and the 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social. Thanks to the generous support of our members, the HHNA expects to host several more events this year including: the 9th Annual Neighborhood Street Party (September 2016), HHNA Night at a Chamblee High School football game (October 2016), another Happy Hour (November 2016), and the holiday decorating contests for Halloween and Christmas.

While member contributions make these events possible, HHNA events and contests are open to all residents of our neighborhood. Details for upcoming events are now delivered directly to members' email, but non-members can always find event information on Nextdoor.com, Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association's Facebook page, and our website.

In addition to HHNA sponsored events, several neighbors are connecting through neighbor-organized interest and social groups. Some of these include:

The Huntley Hills Babies & Toddlers Group: meets at the Huntley Hills train park and other places around Chamblee. To get connected, visit: https://www. facebook.com/groups/chambleebabiestoddlers

Huntley Hills Mom's Night Out: busy moms meet quarterly to go out to dinner with ladies only—no kids! Contact Gabrielle at gabrielle@gabriellemcgrath. com to get on the email list.

Huntley Hills Run/Walk Group: meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. They have routes for all speeds and abilities from 2-4 miles. Everyone is welcome! Email Robert Buckley at rfbuckley@gmail. com for more info.

Huntley Hills Young Adult Group: an active social group for neighbors in their 20s and 30s meet for potlucks, game nights, tailgating and more. Contact Liz Heard at lizjiro@gmail.com to join the email list.

Visit http://huntleyhills.net/groups/ for more groups and information.





In addition, to everything happening within Huntley Hills, Chamblee is an active city with events and activities that are very popular among many in the neighborhood. Some of the highlights from 2016 include:

Keep Chamblee Beautiful Bring One for the Chipper Event (Christmas Tree Recycling) (January)

Daddy Daughter Dance (February)

Chamblee Fun Mud Run (April)

BuHi's Bikes & Bites (April)

Chamblee Summer Concert Series (First Friday of the Month May – August)

PDK Airshow (May)

Fourth of July Fireworks @ Keswick Park (July)

Taste of Chamblee (October)

Breakfast with Santa (December)

Visit http://www.chambleega.com/index. aspx?NID=181 for more information

Looking forward to connecting soon!

Holly Yarbrough

HHNA Social Committee Chair









Community Affairs Update

2016 Continues to be a busy year for Chamblee and the Huntley Hills Area. There have been several major changes within City Hall, and a number of planning studies are in progress or pending to help direct investment in the community. Development activities continue to boom, with construction ongoing for many significant projects, and even more on the drawing boards.

On the City side of things, one of the major changes has been the retirement of City Manager Marc Johnson in May after serving the City for more than 40 years, starting as a police dispatcher in the 1970s. Jon Walker was named interim city administrator until a permanent replacement is hired. The City has also appointed Jodie Gilfillan as the Parks and Recreation Director. Jodie served more than 16 years as a recreation supervisor for the City of Alpharetta. Her experience included managing facilities that included aquatics, arts, athletics, and fitness.

The City also has a number of streetscape and planning projects under way. The City is in the final stages of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for the Chamblee-Dunwoody Streetscape for the stretch of road between Peachtree Blvd. and Harts Mill Road. With any luck we might see construction start in a year or two... The City is also in the final stages of preparing a city-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan and a Rail-Trail Master Plan for the downtown area. Finally, the City of Chamblee is partnering with the City of Doraville for a Buford Highway Study to help identify needed public improvements and the potential for public-private partnerships.

Development is making major changes along the Peachtree Blvd. Corridor and around Huntley Hills, but unfortunately the GM Plant Redevelopment is stalled. While most of the factory structures have been demolished, most construction has been halted due to the DeKalb County School District's lack of support for the Tax Allocation District necessary to fund the



Peachtree Crossing

infrastructure.

The Peachtree Blvd. corridor development that is under construction includes several major developments near the Chamblee Marta Station. The specific projects are:

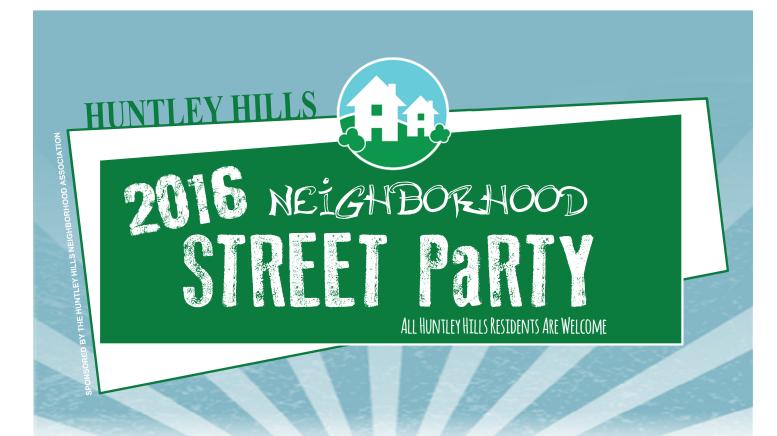
- Peachtree Crossing is a 102,093 sq. ft. of retail and commercial uses across from Lowe's on Peachtree Blvd that will include Whole Foods. Construction is expected to be complete in the summer of 2017.
- The Olmsted is a 283-unit development with livework units, apartments, a few rental townhouses and space for two restaurants with patios. Construction is expected to be complete in the spring of 2017.
- Parkview on Peachtree is at the site of the former Great Gatsby's property. It will include approximately 14,000 square feet of office space and 303 apartment units in phase one, and an additional 200 apartment units in phase two. This site is accessible via the trail that passes under Peachtree Blvd. and behind Walmart.
- Mercy Park is south of the corner of Peachtree Road and Chamblee-Tucker Road. It will include a 2-floor 50,000 sq. ft. health clinic and a 4-story residential structure with 72 affordable senior apartment units.
- Trackside Chamblee is at the corner of Peachtree Road and Chamblee-Tucker Road on property owned by MARTA. It will be built in two phases and include 80,000 square feet of Class-A office space and 13,000 square feet of retail.

The City Council also recently approved an additional apartment complex that will replace the Nissan Dealership at 5211 Peachtree Rd. This project will feature luxury finishes and includes 297 apartments and roughly 13,000 sf of commercial space.

There are also a number of projects underway in the immediate area of Huntley Hills. These projects are predominantly townhouses with a few single-family detached in the mix. These projects are:

- Townsend At Chamblee will consist of 42 townhouses on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road between Admiral and Harts Mill.
- The Korean Church at 4011 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road has been demolished to make way for 27 single-family homes
- The Huntley Estates at the end of Commander is finally seeing construction. The project was sold to a new builder who currently is working on three houses
- Perimeter Park is on North Peachtree near the Perimeter. This project will contain more than 100 townhomes and over 30 single-family homes when complete.
- North Peachtree Towns is at 4135 to 4161 North Peachtree Rd. and will include 30 townhouses.







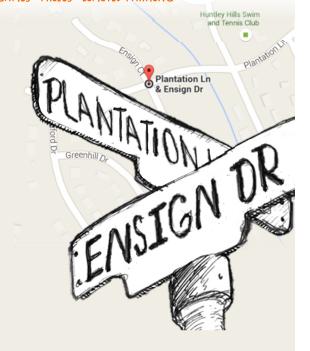
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contact Holly Yarbrough at hollytyarbrough@gmail.com





Artist of the Month Program

Dick Patterson, HHNA Board

When I started promoting a Huntley Hills Artist on our website every month, I had no idea we would end up featuring seventeen different people! Their specialties ran from Fine Art Photography to Automobile Design, Painting to Stained Glass, Quilting to Ceramic Tiles. And that was before we featured three musicians and one author.



Adele Swanson / Sixteen

This article focuses on the visual arts, since they can be illustrated graphically. For the musicians Gordon Freymann, Kyle Bryant and Gary Gilbert, you will need to listen. For the author Heather Abraham Sagisman, you must read a book. To get more details about these artists and all the others, go to our website huntleyhills. net, click on the menu item HH Blog and then on HH Artists. From there you can scroll through all seventeen.

The only two painters are Claudia Jernigan and Heni Sandoval. They work in different media and both are extremely versatile.



David Lynn / Hot Red Car





Then we have the photographers. Jim Copeland is closest to the painters in that his works are still lifes carefully arranged flowers and other objects that he then photographs. He displays them at art shows all over the east. Matt Wolner takes beautiful pictures of scenery and animals. Lynn Crow gives many of her photos a soft texture with fog and sepia tones. Drew Wills does everything from portraits to shoes to insects.

Susan Strange and Grant Yarborough both work with clay - Susan makes ceramic tiles and Grant makes Japanese-style pottery.

Teneisha Jones may be the most versatile of all – sewing stuffed animals, designing furniture and illustrating books. Bobbie Flowers creates room decorations with natural objects.

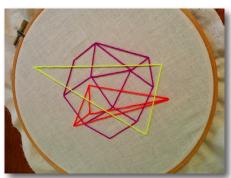
David Lynn's submission was the most surprising automobile design. And finally I have my own specialty stained glass. You might wonder if this had any influence on starting the Artist of the Month project in the first place.



Dick Patterson / Yoga



Claudia Jernigan / Cheers



Teneisha Jones / Foggy Day



Lynn Crow / Foggy Day



Jim Copeland / Magnolia



Heni Sandoval / Lemons



Grant Yarborough / High Fire Mugs





Susan Strange / Strange Tree



Matt Wollner / King and Queen



Why Do I Need a Permit for This?

Suppose you are thinking of making a change in your house or yard, say changing some wiring or plumbing, cutting down a big tree, putting up a fence or a deck. When you get serious about it, you look for someone to hire, or you might decide you can do it yourself. In either case, one of the first things to check is whether the job needs a permit.

The Chamblee Development Department maintains a list of projects you might want to do on your property. It tells whether your job does or does not require a permit from the city. To get this list, go to www.chambleega. com, click on Departments > Development > Permits and Inspections and download the Permits Required Checklist.

People sometimes feel that permits are an unnecessary burden. I interviewed Department Chair Gary Cornell and City Councilman Brian Mock and asked for the reasons behind this requirement.

Many different levels of government – International, Federal, State and Local, have contributed to the list. For example a new soil erosion rule has just been adopted by the Georgia Legislature and will need to be enacted by the City Council. Plumbing and electrical rules are set by the state. Only a few, such as the fence rule, were generated locally.

I asked why permits are needed for fences. Cornell gave the example of a fence that had been erected without a survey and was found to be a foot and a half onto the

neighbor's property. There were reasons this had been done – a tree was in the way, the land was sloping - but they didn't hold up and the fence had to be moved.

Another example was of a citizen who smelled sewage. He had just had an unlicensed plumber work on his sewer. It turned out the sewer had never been connected to the system – the service line was emptying out underground on his property where he could not see it – only smell it! "You may think you don't have the money to do it right the first time, but now you have to do it again."

Brian Mock told of a case in which the water meters for an entire row of townhouses had been installed backwards and spun the wrong direction when the water was on. All was fine until someone discovered that 15 adjacent homes had been getting \$0 water bills.

Cornell explained that "Safety is the key – for you and for your neighbor." There are three N's he thinks about: Nature, Newcomers, and Neighbors. If a deck collapses people will get hurt. If the water supply is polluted people will get sick. If your house burns down it will also affect your neighbors, either directly or because the insurance company will raise rates.

If you are going to hire someone to do your job, check if the person has a license. Ask for and check references. A licensed workman will be the one to obtain the permit.

If you are going to do the job yourself, first consult with the department at 3506 Broad St.





Huntley Hills Renovation Report

You may or may not remember a recent survey coming across your Nextdoor feed in mid-June and asking about what renovations, if any, you have done on your home since moving to Huntley Hills. Maybe you even took the survey and gave comments. After crunching the numbers and analyzing the comments from 45 respondents, I am happy to present you the official Unofficial Huntley Hills State of Renovation Report. While I am no professional statistician, with the help of the thoughtful responses from neighbors, I compiled the most interesting numbers and informative input for your convenience. I hope our combined efforts will help those of you considering a home improvement project to avoid typical pitfalls and achieve fantastic results.

First, a brief overview of the information gathered. Out of about 750 households in Huntley Hills, 45 residents responded to the survey. About half of respondents have lived in the neighborhood for more than ten years, with the rest evenly split between 1-2 years, 3-5 years, and 5-10 years. About 35% of those sampled say some renovations had been done in their home before they moved in, while the remaining 65% say that any renovations are at least 15 years old. On the other hand, only 26% say they have not changed anything since moving in, with 74% have completed some type of renovation, kitchen updates being the most common (62%). As for future plans to renovate, the kitchen and bathrooms are the main targets at 25% each, with plans for additions and decks at 16%. Around 36% of respondents have no current plans for construction.

Once you decide it's time to fix up your home, the next step is probably figuring out who will do the work. In our survey, only one person out of 45 was brave and handy enough to complete all the work on their own, and while 40% did some of the work themselves, 56% chose to hire a contractor for the entire project. Project sizes in Huntley Hills range widely in scale, with 18% of respondents reporting the work took less than a week, another 18% between one week and one month, 38% from one to two months, and thankfully, only one unfortunate soul lamenting that the work will never, ever be done.

Happily, 84% of people surveyed are thrilled or mostly happy with the results of their home renovations. Only three people claimed they had a few problems and only one had a truly bad experience. Two people seem to have learned a few things the first time around and say they will do things differently next time.

For better or for worse, price is often one of the biggest considerations when it comes to remodeling or updating a home. Even when you do your homework and get several estimates from different contractors, it is hard to know if you are getting the best value, so I am happy to report that nearly 90% of those surveyed feel they got a fair deal and most of them say the job was "worth every penny."

Neighbors have been satisfied overall with the contractors they choose to work with; close to 50% say their contractor fulfilled or exceeded their expectations. About 16% admitted to having a few small hiccups and only 13% had more than a few problems with their project.

Now that you've got the numbers, here is the digest version of your neighbors most valuable lessons learned and words of wisdom about renovating your home:

- Do your homework before you begin. Research the work you want to do and make your plans. Talk to others and find out what advice they can share.
- Get at least 5 bids for projects totaling \$15,000 or more.
- Ask to see portfolios so you know your contractor has completed projects similar to yours.
- Hire licensed contractors and be sure all subcontractors are licensed as well.
- Don't choose your contractor solely because s/he gave the lowest quote.
- Hire good communicators and write everything down. Don't rely on verbal agreements – it will save you many miscommunications and headaches.
- PERMIT your jobs. This important, but occasionally skipped step protects everyone involved in the project from mistakes and oversights. It can also cost extra time and money if your work is interrupted by a stop work order or a citation.
- If your project involves digging, avoid broken pipes by calling first to locate pipelines in your yard.
- Plan to be home often or to take significant time away from work to supervise your project.
 Many decisions could be made for you if you are unavailable – it's much more complicated in real life than they make it look on HGTV. Double check everything!
- Agree to a payment schedule in writing upfront, but be aware that it is wise to withhold the final 10% until all work is complete and you are satisfied.
- Home improvement is full of surprises! To avoid uncomfortable situations, allow a budgetary cushion of at least 10% of the quoted price.
- Finally, don't be afraid to reach out to your neighbors on Nextdoor for advice! As you can see here, they have a lot of experience, wisdom, and even referrals to share.



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Meet-ups for Kids (and their Parents!) Gina Gallois, Huntley Hills neighbor

One of the first things people notice about Huntley Hills is our large and growing population of families with young children. With so many children running around, we are very lucky to have our own neighborhood park on Longview drive, which just keeps getting better with recent and pending improvements. The playgrounds at Chamblee Methodist Church and Huntley Hills Elementary are also accessible after school hours. But with all these choices, it can be hard to meet and coordinate with other parents.

If you are new to Huntley Hills, or perhaps even if you have been here a while, you may not know that we have a Facebook group, "Huntley Hills Babies & Double Ramp; Toddlers," founded by Cordelia Blake in 2011 and resuscitated by Lauren Laba in 2015. Admittedly, the group goes through highs and lows of activity, but anyone who joins the group is welcome and encouraged to post activities, playdate proposals, and calls for advice, goods, and/or services. Nextdoor is another possible forum for making connections, but we don't have an official group there at the moment.

A newer feature of all this socializing is the semiregular Mama's Night Out activities and resultant Papas & Dy Kids get-togethers. We post about these events on social media for neighbors interested in joining us, so keep an eye out for the next one, hopefully in the works for August or September!

Finally, I am thrilled to share the news of our recent and very successful kid-friendly service project to prepare 100 lunches for kids struggling with hunger over the summer break. It was wonderful to get kids, their parents, and plenty of others involved in an activity we could all participate in and that taught us all about giving back to the community. New opportunities to help are on the horizon, so be on the lookout for announcements and calls for participation. Thanks, neighbors!

Swim and Tennis Club Update

Ryan Tracy, HHSTC President

Huntley Hills Swim and
Tennis Club continues to
be a strong presence in
our community. We are
excited to announce that
we will have a brand
new facility for the 2017
swim season. The club is
an important asset for our
community and the upcoming

new development will ensure it remains in place for the next several decades. If you are interested in joining the Club, go to hhstc.com and get your name on the wait list. Act now, as we anticipate the new facility will increase interest in the club! We are also excited to announce our Legacy Bricks Program as part of our new facility. Buy an engraved brick that will be laid at our new facility and be a part of the Club's history while creating a wonderful way to pay tribute or honor special people in your life or recognize special memories.

We are experiencing exciting times in Huntley Hills and are pleased to be an active part of the community. Visit hhstc.com for more information about our new facility and the Legacy Bricks Program. If you would like a tour of our facility, please contact membership@hhstc.com.



Keeping Chamblee (and Huntley Hills) Beautiful

Keep Chamblee Beautiful (KCB) is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to making Chamblee a cleaner, greener and more beautiful place to live, work and play. KCB has really ramped up its activity in our Chamblee community over the last couple of years. The group recently hosted an all-day workday to beautify the Chamblee monument sign at the corner of Chamblee Dunwoody Road and Chamblee Dunwoody Way. If you haven't been by to see the results, it's worth a look!

Keep Chamblee Beautiful volunteers from Huntley Hills and all around Chamblee came together on a Saturday to till the ground, assemble edging, spread soil and mulch and plant shrubs and flowers around the sign. The group also received tremendous support from several of our local Chamblee businesses, including Georgia Wholesale Nursery, our local Chamblee Lowe's store, D W Tench Grading & Hauling, Chamblee Public Works, the Chamblee Chamber of Commerce and our local Chamblee Walgreens store.

Other KCB activities this year have included a kickoff event at Southbound, clean-ups of Dresden Park and Shallowford Road, a geocaching event as part of Georgia Cities Week, a yard improvement contest, a Chamblee Chicks 101 class on raising backyard chickens, a plant sale at the PDK airshow, recycling at the Chamblee Summer Concerts, and more!

If you are interested in getting involved with KCB, visit keepchambleebeautiful.org, or email info@keepchambleebeautiful.org.





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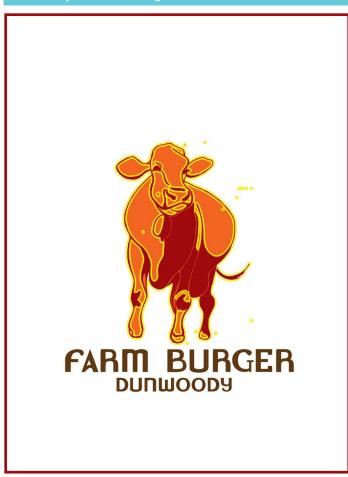


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Martha White, Environmental Scientist at CH2M HILL

Huntley Hills Education Foundation

Nestled amongst the homes in Huntley Hills is an amazing elementary school where teachers inspire, influence, and educate our future. Huntley Hills Elementary School was built in 1964. It currently houses approximately 540 children, too many for the building. Trailers have begun to bloom where once part of the athletic field was. In the 1990's this public school began to offer Montessori track learning. Today there are roughly 130 Montessori students. Sadly, due to budget cuts the county no longer monetarily supports this program. In 2014 a few parents and neighbors decided it was time to incorporate a Foundation to give the school everything that the students need and deserve to have a preeminent educational experience. This past spring we finally attained 501(c)3 status. Now the foundation's work may finally begin in earnest.

Our current goals for the school:

- Improvement and beautification of the school campus, such as awnings for the trailers
- Teacher training
- Technology improvements for teachers and students

Our goals for our community:

- An elite elementary school located within our neighborhood
- An increased intrinsic value of our neighborhood
- School linkage to community organizations

One question we hear repeatedly is "Why should I donate money to a public school? Isn't that why I pay taxes?" Truth be told, property tax revenues are insufficient to provide the various enrichment programs that make our elementary school among the best in the state. Our fundraising will ensure that the school's administration has the funding needed to develop new curriculum initiatives, provide professional development, and ensure the breadth of programs our children deserve.

To learn more about the Huntley Hills Education Foundation, future events, ways to donate funds or time, please visit www.hhefoundation.org or email hhefoundation@gmail.com for more information.



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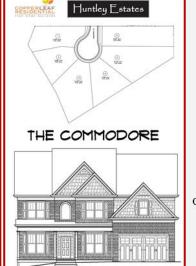
Doggie Waste Stations

Our neighborhood was already a fantastic place to live. In October of 2016 it got even better with the installation of six dog waste stations that were purchased by the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association. It took nearly two years of planning to make this a reality. The City of Chamblee wasn't sure how to handle the request because no other neighborhoods have this wonderful amenity. I spoke with people in every department of the city before finally receiving the green light.

Olan Roper with Public Works graciously volunteered to install the posts and Joan Varlan and I put them together and attached them to the posts. We knew that they were in the right places when we stepped in dog poop installing the last one. We hoped that they would be popular and we were very pleased that we had to reorder bags much faster than we had anticipated. The City of Chamblee Parks Department is currently helping us maintain them; changing the bags and keeping them stocked. The HHNA is responsible for purchasing the bags. This is just one of the ways that your HHNA membership helps to enhance our hidden gem called Huntley Hills.



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