



# The HUNTLEY HILLS HERALD

Fall 2017



*The Official Newsletter of the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association*

The Mission of the  
HHNA is to Foster  
Community Engagement,  
Beautification, and Safety  
in the Neighborhood





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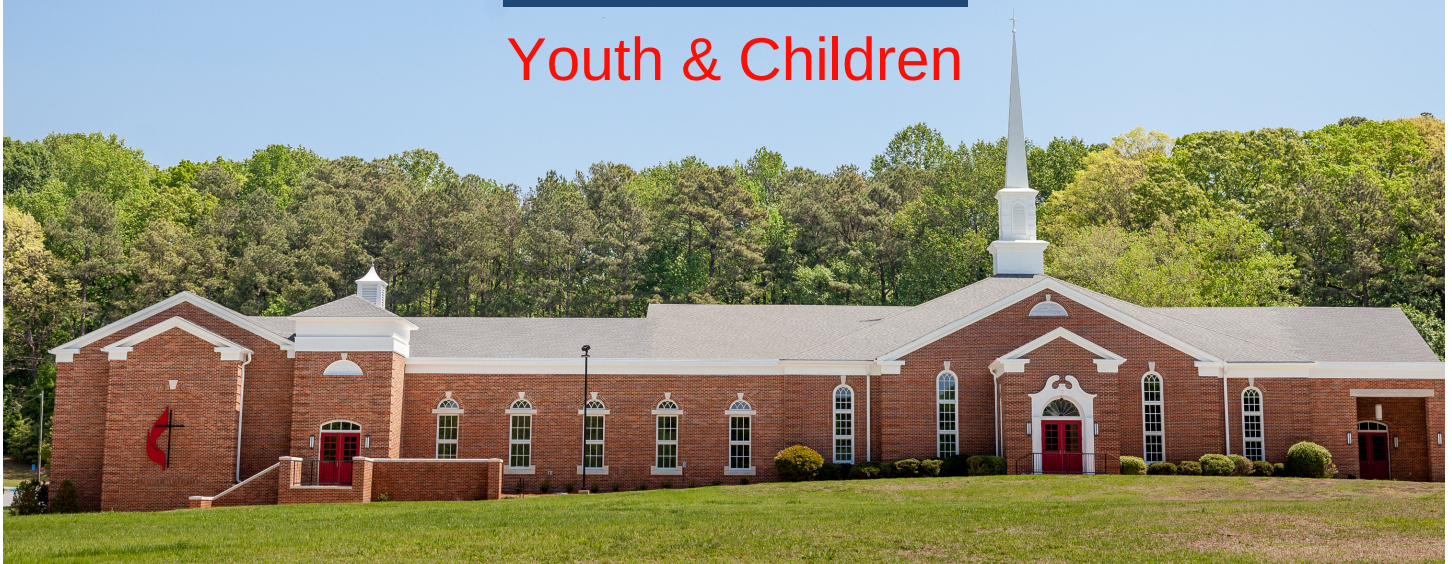
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# HUNTLEY HILLS

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# President's Perspectives

*Dana Freyman, HHNA President*

I remember the first time I drove into Huntley Hills with my soon to be husband and our realtor back in 2011. I remember thinking, "What is this little oasis of a neighborhood hidden behind busy Peachtree Industrial?" You'd almost never know it was there if you weren't cued into the secret. And I've learned that secret is a supportive community full of friendly neighbors, active Chamblee citizens and individuals who truly care about making Huntley Hills a good place to live.

Sure, it might just be a collection of houses to some, but there are lots of people who work hard to make it home. One of those groups is your very own Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association Board. They work hard to welcome folks to the neighborhood with open arms, make sure we're staying alert to crime, organize and host social events, and work tirelessly to create a cohesive neighborhood – volunteering their time all while juggling jobs, families and commitments. I'd like to introduce you to that group.

Many of you know Carolyn Weber. Her commitment over the past six years has resulted in a strong foundation for our successful board. Carolyn served as President for five years and is our current Treasurer, Secretary and resident board history expert, providing context and detailed background for what's worked, what hasn't, and ideas for what might.

Not only does Brian Ray serve on the Board for Chamblee Downtown Development Authority, he also operates as the HHNA Chamblee city informant in his Community Affairs role. Ask him anything about the developments in progress, and he can explain the important information and details about the how, when, why, and where.

If you've exchanged emails with Jim Lyle, then you know his signature "life goes on" phrase well, but knowing him in person is the real treat. If we had neighborhood superlatives, he'd be most friendly and successful block captain, rallying his troops and affectionately calling his side of the hood the Captain Drive Mafia.

Our Social Chair Holly Yarbrough is responsible for bringing you some of our most successful events to-date outside the Street Party: donuts and pizza in the park. She had the great idea to go back to basics and put the focus on what's most important – people. Keeping events simple and in the neighborhood has attracted many of you to participate, and for that we are grateful.

You might see Yvonne Bubienko walking the neighborhood



with her pups. She's applied the same talents and sweat equity from her stunning backyard to the neighborhood, chairing beautification efforts. I'd argue the entrances to the neighborhood and park have never looked better.

French professor by occupation, Gina Gallois has used her literary talents to coordinate this very newsletter. Selling ads, wrangling article authors and coordinating design – she's the ultimate editor. She put her spin on this year's publication and made it one everyone in the neighborhood can enjoy.

We recently learned that Seth Grey, our Vice President in charge of HHNA membership since this spring, is leaving Huntley Hills. We will miss him and his enthusiasm, but now we need to recruit someone new to take his place. Would you like to learn about how you can get more involved in our community? Contact me for details!

We recruited webmaster Katie Dailey for her online expertise, and she's been making improvements to huntleyhills.net ever since. Katie makes sure our one-stop shop for all HHNA information is up-to-date and functioning properly. Without her we'd be lost in a sea of web code!

And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Jon Richardson who, while not an official board member, has served in the Neighborhood Watch Chair role for the past two years. Jon has no shortage of enthusiasm for supporting this program. He coordinates more than 45 block captains around the neighborhood and is quick to address any issues that arise.

I hope you'll seek out these folks at our next event and give them a pat on the back for a job well done. After serving on the board for three years, and now as President, I for one am grateful to be a part of this group. Thank you for your support!





# Neighborhood Nickels & Dimes

*Carolyn Weber, HHNA Board Member, Treasurer*

Our fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. During the past year, we took in \$7,200 and spent \$6,200. Our revenue comes mainly from dues, which amounted to \$4,100. Our other main source of income was selling advertisements for the newsletter, which accounted for \$2,900. Our biggest expense for the year was publishing the newsletter, which cost \$2,900 to produce.

Our next biggest expense was \$2,000 for social events. The annual Street Party was our main social expense at \$700. We were thrilled that over 250 people attended last year! We continued our popular Ice Cream in the Park event, as well as our annual Halloween and Holiday Decorating Contests, and Appreciation Breakfasts for the Chamblee Public Works Department and Parks & Rec Department. New this year was our Saturday morning Coffee and Donuts in the park and a Pizza Party to mark the end of the school year.

We also spent \$500 to help keep our neighborhood beautiful, by funding mulch and plants for the park and traffic circles, and purchasing another Doggie Waste Station.

The HHNA also supported our Neighborhood Watch program with \$300. We provided a stipend for the Block Captains to host block parties, provided refreshments at the Block Captain annual meeting, and provided Welcome Packets for all new residents in the neighborhood.

Our balance at end of the fiscal year (5/21/2017) was \$3,047.93. We continue to look for new ideas for things we can do to help fulfill our mission "to foster community engagement, beautification and safety in our neighborhood." Your suggestions are welcome!



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*Note: HHNA is not affiliated with the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club, and membership for each is separate.*





# Huntley Hills Elementary & Montessori School

*Bronagh Lavery, PTA President*

Where did the summer vacation go for our children and teachers? We're just kicking off a new school year, and I'm sure this one will be as action packed as the last. Perhaps you know a little about our neighborhood school, or perhaps a lot. Perhaps you even attended in years gone by, but you may not know about these recent developments:

We are an AdvancED STEM certified school! In fact, we were the first school in the Chamblee cluster to achieve this certification. So what is STEM? STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and it is where students solve real world problems using an engineering design process and collaboration. Our program consists of our STEM Lab, Technology Lab, STEM Clubs, and STEM Days.



We have three educational programs: Traditional, Montessori, and Special Needs.

Several teams support our school: the PTA, the School Foundation, the School Council, and the Montessori Committee.

We have two major fundraising events each school year – Fall Festival on Oct 28th for a fun day of pony rides, rock wall, bouncies, food, fun, etc., and Fueled by Fitness in the spring.

We also host movie nights, book fairs, and yard sales. Additional support comes from Spirit Nights at local restaurants and collecting Box Tops...all to raise money for our school - and we spend it. With the money raised we're finishing off the improvements to our Media Center and continuing to fund teacher training. This year we will be focusing on our courtyard to make it a place where our students and teachers can enjoy themselves and learn.

We're always looking for volunteers to help us achieve our goals, so if you are interested, reach out to [missibea@hotmail.com](mailto:missibea@hotmail.com).







# HHES Educational Foundation

*Grant Yarbrough, Fundraising Chair, HHE Education Foundation*



Until about nine months ago, when I learned my wife and I were expecting a baby, I didn't think much about the little elementary school housed within our neighborhood. But, as any realtor will tell you - the quality of the local school can have a dramatic effect on your property value. According to the National Association of Realtors, having a "good" elementary school (ranking in the top 33% of test scores) close by can increase property values by 77%.

If you're anything like I was, you don't know much about Huntley Hills Elementary (HHE), a hugely important asset to your biggest investment. Here is what I found out about the little school tucked away on Seaman Circle.

HHE was constructed in the 1960's, on land donated by a local philanthropist. From a high of 1000 students in the 1980's to a low of 200 students in the 1990's, 477 students are currently enrolled.

Today, HHE is a unique institution. It is the only elementary school in the world that is both Montessori certified and offers a fully accredited STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program. Last year, HHE maintained its status as a "High Performing School," meaning it was in the top 10% of Title 1 schools statewide. It is classified as a "Title 1" school because more than 50% of students receive free or reduced lunch.

Sounds great, right? So, how do we keep Huntley Hills Elementary the thriving asset that it is today? Support the Huntley Hills Education Foundation, which was established by several members of our neighborhood to advance the school as a community asset. From volunteering for career day, to mentoring students, to serving on the foundation board, you can support our community values as well as one of the most important treasures of our neighborhood! Visit [www.hhefoundation.org](http://www.hhefoundation.org) to find out how they help, ways to give, and opportunities to get involved!







# Neighbors Put in Their Two Cents

*Dana Freyman, HHNA President*

Earlier this year the HHNA distributed a survey through Nextdoor, and 75 neighbors provided their thoughts to help inform our social, communication, and beautification efforts. As we've shared through recent posts, we are taking many of your suggestions and implementing them this year.

Below are a few of the ideas that came to light:

- Many of you asked about neighborhood clubs. There are several that already exist such as multiple book clubs, young adults, moms' groups and more. We are planning to feature these clubs regularly to make everyone aware. If you are interested in creating a club, let us know and we can feature it in an upcoming post with your contact information.
- The majority of you wanted events to take place within Huntley Hills, so we'll continue to host events in the neighborhood. New events we're looking into based on suggestions are an Easter Egg Hunt and Yard Sale - one that doesn't conflict with the school's yard sale.
- Beautification events were proposed throughout the neighborhood, so we'll be ramping up those opportunities. We're adding components, such as a cookout afterwards, for those who want to help clean up and then socialize.

Of those who responded...

- 16% attended the annual meeting
- 81% were current HHNA members (self-reported)
- 46% gave the 2016 newsletter a 5 out of 5 (41% ranked it a 4)
- 76% preferred for social events to take place within Huntley Hills with the weekday and Friday evenings being most popular
- The Neighborhood Street Party is the favorite event at 66%


People come to the HuntleyHill.net for:

- Community information
- Upcoming events
- Neighborhood watch
- Real estate information

Thank you for continuing to provide your input and ideas! If you have suggestions, we want to hear them. Find a member of the board at our next event or email any of us, using the contact information on [huntleyhills.net](http://huntleyhills.net).





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## Mama's Night Out

*Gina Gallois, HHNA Board Member, Editor*

There's a popular new tradition in Huntley Hills: Mama's Night Out! Our first event, gathered 20 or so for dinner at Southbound. Since then, we have met at a couple of mamas' homes, Hello Gorgeous Boutique & Café, and Hopstix. We always post a public evite to try to make our events as open as possible. Please join us next time - we are looking forward to meeting you! To get your name added to the official list, contact me privately on NextDoor with your email address.

Yes, the dads should have a night out too - but you've got to organize it yourselves, guys...







# Friends of the Library

*Cara Ray, Secretary, Friends of the Library*

In today's world of Kindles, Nooks, iPads, and content on demand at the push of a button, you might wonder about the role of the public library. If you haven't been to the Chamblee branch of the DeKalb Public Library lately, you might be surprised to see what you find!

Our library is a vital resource center for our community. There, you can check out passes to local attractions (including the Atlanta Zoo and Georgia State Parks), access the internet, check out DVDs and music CDs, download audio books, attend interesting programs, and - of course - check out books!

Access to print books at no cost is still important - who doesn't want to save some money and broaden their reading horizons at the same time? Members of Huntley Hills' many book clubs often check out their clubs' selections from the library, and when your next vacation rolls around, you will no doubt want some leisure reading. Additionally, the library features a large nonfiction collection, meeting area needs for research and learning.

At the Chamblee library, you'll see children roaming the shelves of the kids' section, delighting in choosing their own reading material, carrying it to kid-size tables, and checking it out on their very own library cards. You can see the satisfaction on their faces and know that they are developing a lifelong love of learning and reading.

Library staff member Lee Turner, who assists the Youth Librarian, is a resident of Huntley Hills, and describes the important benefits of the Chamblee Public Library: "The fact that the library is available and open to everyone is such a gift. We are privileged to see so many members of our community at the library, from tiny babies through senior citizens. We deliver many free programs: movies, concerts, games, displays, puppet shows, passes to some Atlanta area attractions, and more. I often see Huntley Hills friends and neighbors when I'm at work and hope to see more of you 'checking us out'! The library is a wonderful community resource."

Programs and services of the Chamblee Public Library are supported by the Friends of the Chamblee Library. Funds raised by the Friends pay for supplies and snacks for programs year round. You can always pick up a list of upcoming programs at the Library front desk, or like the Chamblee Public Library Facebook page, or visit [DekalbLibrary.org](http://DekalbLibrary.org) and pull up the Chamblee branch's page there.



Every quarter, the Friends of the Library hosts a book sale. There, donated books are sold for \$1 or \$2 - and you might find something for just a bit more on our "specials" table, where truly unique donations are featured. Half of the funds raised are spent on programs and the other half is given to the library to purchase books - you may see a label in the

frontispiece of a book you check out that indicates it was purchased with these funds. Upcoming book sales are scheduled for November 2-4 and February 8-10. We are always in need of volunteers to work the sales, so simply email [friendsofthechambleelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthechambleelibrary@gmail.com) to be added to the list.

The Friends of the Chamblee Library is close to the hearts of many Huntley Hills residents. It was revitalized a number of years ago by residents Nez Crosby, Tina Peavy, and Paige Perkins along with other nearby residents. Karen San Millan formerly served as president of the Board, and Cara Ray currently serves as Secretary. Sarah Patterson has served as Vice President of Membership. So if you would like to know more about how the Chamblee Public Library is a vital part of the Huntley Hills community,



and vice versa, just ask! Stop by the library to fill out a membership form. For just \$5 per year, \$3 for seniors, or \$10 for families, you too can become a friend and support this important community resource.

The Chamblee Library is located at 4115 Clairmont Road. The next meetings of the Friends of the Chamblee Library are at 6:30 pm on September 18 and November 13 at the Library.





## Councilman Brian Mock needs your help with the Dresden Police Memorial

### Dear Chamblee Neighbor,

For a little more than a year now, local resident Charlene Fang and I have been working on a proposed police memorial to be built at Dresden Park. This memorial would honor the lives of the 42 officers killed in the line of duty since DeKalb started keeping records. This includes DeKalb Police, Doraville, Stone Mountain, DeKalb Sheriff's Department and others from the surrounding community. It will also leave space to honor those who lose their lives in the years to come, as sadly it will happen.

This memorial will use open space for commemorative ceremonies, connect to ADA accessible sidewalks and be fully visible from Dresden Drive. It will be set into the existing hillside to harmonize the memorial with the park's natural landscape. A lion sculpture will be added to symbolize the protective role of law enforcement and convey strength, courage and valor.

While this project was approved by city council, it remains a privately funded endeavor sponsored by the North Decatur Lions Club, of which Charlene and I are members. Matching funds for the project will be provided by the Lions Club International.

I am humbled to be a part of this project and honored to have this memorial located in the city of Chamblee.

We need your help! As I mentioned, it is a privately funded project and we need your financial support to make it a reality. Your donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be mailed to: North Decatur Lions Club Police Memorial, PO Box 33144, Decatur GA 30033. For further information, please contact me at [brianmock@gmail.com](mailto:brianmock@gmail.com).

Best Regards,  
Councilman Brian Mock

**Concept Narrative:**  
The memorial is designed to be a quaint outdoor room in which to reflect. The soft surface trail leaves the beaten path and leads to a space of fragrance, color and delight. The fragrant evergreen shrub rows flank the space encouraging both sides of the monument to be viewed. From the benches, the flowering trees frame views into the park while Daffodils create a monument backdrop of rebirth and new beginnings.









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## Beautification: Sprucing Up Our Community

*Yvonne Bubienko, HHNA Board Member, Neighborhood Beautification*

Our neighbors love Huntley Hills for its trees, flowers, and a real sense of community. As I drive around Atlanta I'm reminded of how rare our neighborhood really is. Not many places have been able to maintain this sense of community; it's what makes us so special!

I joined the HHNA Board to fill the seat of someone who had recently moved away. Every board member fills a particular role, and I chose the one that best fit my interests: Neighborhood Beautification. In the last 12 months we have worked hard on different community spaces.

We started in the fall, cleaning up and spreading fertilizer in the butterfly garden in Huntley Hills Park. In the spring we spread mulch and weeded the garden. You can now see the fruits of our labor in the impressive size and beauty of the plants growing there for all to enjoy.

In the early spring, the wonderful folks from Keep Chamblee Beautiful, the director of Parks and Recreation, and dozens of Huntley Hills residents arrived with helping hands to clean up the debris along the creek bed after the goats had their fill eating the ivy. We collected mountains of old branches, fallen trees and general waste. What a HUGE difference that day made!

In late spring we met again to clean up the green space at the north end of Huntley Hills where Longview and North Shallowford meet. Not only did we discover that the area was inexplicably covered in blue carpet, but that it had tremendous need for attention and potential for improvement!

Perhaps the best, or at least the most memorable, beautification event took place in early June. Our task was to spread some pine straw near the entry to the park, and we thought it would be fun to have a cookout afterwards. We managed to do both but had the cookout during a torrential downpour, laughing like little kids while we ate and running to our cars when the lightning got a bit too close. I don't think any of us will ever forget that. Many thanks to Bob Teresi for manning the grill.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of all of those who have shown up and given their time to make Huntley Hills more beautiful. For years now, our traffic circles have been meticulously cared for by Jennie Palmer, and Leslie Robson has planted all sorts of wonderful native plants that we all get to enjoy in the Huntley Hills park. Thank you!

These important community efforts are what keeps Huntley Hills looking as lush and beautiful as it did 60 years ago. With that in mind, please join us at our next event and help make our neighborhood even better. Among the friendly neighbors you'll meet are several master gardeners who can teach you a thing or two about gardening if you ask. Atlanta is known as the city in the forest and Huntley Hills certainly lives up to that title.







# The Birds & the Bees

*Allison Metheny, Neighbor*

I so enjoy watching the birds splash in the birdbath and devour the suet and bird food I put out. It is even somewhat entertaining to watch the squirrels and chipmunks scavenging and defeating all of my squirrel proof feeders!

I have great respect and appreciation for the bees and most of the flying insects, as I know we need them to pollinate our food. They also feed our birds, frogs, turtles, etc. There really is a circle of life.

It can be a challenge, but it benefits everyone when we make the effort to truly care for our natural surroundings. The fewer harsh chemicals we use the better. I know how unbearable the mosquitos have been and how prolifically the weeds have grown this year. But remember that the chemicals we use - no matter how "natural" they are - most likely cause as much or more harm as they do good. Try spot treating hard to control weeds instead of treating the whole lawn. Apply mosquito repellent sprays to yourself and your family rather than covering every bush and tree with insecticide - then you are protected regardless of where you are. Unfortunately, baby birds, frogs, turtles, and thousands of other beneficial insects living in the same environment are also affected by those chemicals.

## Gardening: what you need to do now!

- Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs. The cool weather gives the roots time to get established before they have to support all the new growth that occurs in the spring. Break up the root ball and spread the roots out when you plant, and don't plant too deep! Keep the plant at the same soil level as it is in the pot. I generally set the plant in the ground an inch or two higher than ground level and just mound the dirt around it.
- If you have a warm weather grass – bermuda, zoysia, centipede, or St. Augustine, you can apply a pre-emergent to your lawn. A pre-emergent will prevent some of the late winter/early spring weeds, such as poa annua (annual blue grass – light green grass that gets white flowers and then dies back when the weather gets warm).
- If you have fescue grass, which is considered a cool season grass, you should aerate and re-seed in the fall. You can't use the pre-emergent as it will prevent the grass seed from germinating.



- After we have had a couple of hard freezes, clean up your annual/perennial garden beds and cover with mulch to protect perennials from any extreme cold weather and help with weed control. It looks great, too!
- Our winters are mild enough that we can grow many fall veggies throughout the winter. I have had great luck with collard greens, kale, lettuce and carrots.
- Plant native trees, shrubs and perennials. They are so much better for our eco-system and our pollinators love them. If you need some inspiration, visit the beautiful landscaping at the south end of Huntley Hills at the intersection of Longview and Admiral. You can find a complete list at the Georgia Native Plant Society website at [gnps.org](http://gnps.org). If you would like more information about the importance of native plants, check out Doug Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home* (or just google him and read about the book). Did you know that oak trees support over 400 species of native insects?

Gardening is a great way to appreciate some of the wonders of the world! Enjoy!







# Breakfast of Champions

*Jim Iyle, HHNA Board Member*

In the same way that we teach our kids to pursue a life of generosity and graciousness, HHNA practices those values in a number of ways. One of my favorites is the annual breakfast to honor Chamblee Public Works and Parks & Recreation staff and workers.

Neighborhood volunteers from HH join us to serve a well-balanced meal to the staff who serve us in the background, but do significant work that makes our city a great place to live. The Public Works (PW) events are short and sweet, usually taking place early in the morning at the complex near Peachtree DeKalb Airport, before the trucks get out on the road. It's pretty much the same drill for Parks & Rec.

It costs little to feed the crews, but the fact that Huntley Hills shows an interest in honoring our public servants is meaningful. We hope that the next time one of these events is announced on Nextdoor or the HH FB page, you'll join us and spend an hour serving the folks who serve us so faithfully every week, rain or shine, in the heat and the cold, year-round.



## Liz Lists to Sell! Huntley Estates in Chamblee



3995 Commodore Dr.



4003 Commodore Dr.

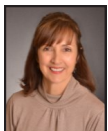


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## Vote for Van

★★★★★

### VanForMayor.com

Van has a mission to create a community that maintains the small town feel in a live, work, and play environment of Metro Atlanta. As a Certified Financial Planner, Van has been a resident of the Huntley Hills Subdivision in the City of Chamblee for 17 years. Van has been an active leader of the community in his many years of serving with various organizations.

- Chamblee DDA: Former Chair and Active Vice-Chair
- Chamblee Chamber of Commerce: Founder and Active Member
- Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club: Vice-President
- Chamblee Recreational Advisory Committee (RAC): Former Member
- Chamblee Business Association: President
- Huntley Hill Elementary Council: Former Chairman
- Keep Chamblee Beautiful: Active Participant

**Van Pappas for Mayor of Chamblee**  
Leading Chamblee Forward





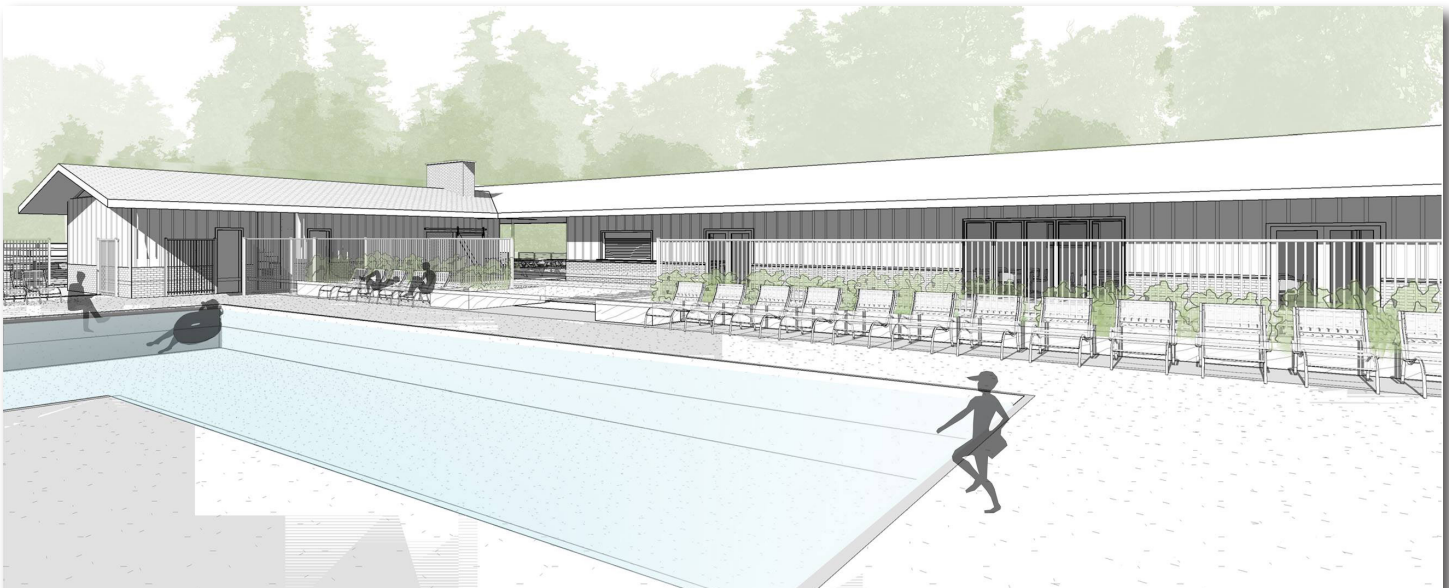
# New Clubhouse Makes A Splash!

*Aida Kenyon, HHSTC Communications & Membership Chairperson*

In May 2017, Huntley Hills Swim & Tennis Club eagerly unveiled a brand new series of buildings and surrounding pool space to replace and expand the former clubhouse that had proudly served the Club since 1959. The Club's space nearly doubled from approximately 1,900 square feet to 3,400 square feet. One of the main goals of the new facility was to be able to support the growing needs of Club members while maintaining the original architectural style and curb appeal of the neighborhood. In order to achieve this goal the Club elected to work with local architectural firm, Southern Design Works, owned and operated by a Huntley Hills resident and Club member. The Club also selected Atlanta-based construction firm, Chappell Construction Group. Owner Wade Chappell and Project Foreman Luis Martinez were great partners in this major effort.

The renovated facility includes a beautiful new year-round indoor rental facility for meetings and events as well as a covered outdoor kitchen, fireplace and entertainment space. New storage spaces were added for pool supplies, swim team equipment and pool furniture. There is a new lifeguard office as well as men's and women's changing rooms and restrooms that are now more conveniently located between the tennis courts and the swimming pool. In addition to several new buildings, additional deck area around the main and kiddie pools was added and a new lawn was added between the Clubhouse and pool. Lastly, the majority of the parking lot was redone including a new handicapped accessible parking spot.

The Club anticipates that new facility and overall modernization will easily serve the community for another 50 years. If you are interested in contacting us about off-season, non-swimming rentals, please contact the Club at [huntleyhillsswimtennis@gmail.com](mailto:huntleyhillsswimtennis@gmail.com). For general information as well as annual single, couple or family memberships, please visit the Club website at [www.hhstc.com](http://www.hhstc.com).







# Tennis is a Hit In Our Community

*Katie Weaver, ALTA Team Captain*

Both members and non-members of Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club will notice that the pool facilities were beautifully upgraded between the close of the 2016 season and the re-opening in 2017. But while the pool and its surrounding facilities may be the focal point, Huntley Hills' tennis courts, nestled behind the sprawling pool deck, provide year-round exercise opportunities and a community gathering place for over 150 HHSTC members.

Whether you're looking for casual exercise opportunities or wanting to compete on a team, you can find a way to participate in Huntley Hills. The Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association (ALTA) is one of the largest recreational tennis leagues in the country, operating year-round with levels ranging from novice to advanced. Huntley Hills currently hosts six ALTA teams with both practices and home matches happening at our courts. In addition, several members also participate on United States Tennis Association (USTA) teams and in flexible leagues such as T2 or Ultimate Tennis.

Beginners and veterans alike are welcome on Huntley Hills' courts. "I love the awesome community and generosity of everyone," says Susan Mitchell, describing her relatively new tennis experience. "There are some really stellar players who have been doing this on a regular basis for many more moons than I have, and there is always an invite to play. I've yet to run across anyone from Huntley Hills who hasn't been super nice and friendly."

Bob Armstrong has been playing tennis in Huntley Hills for 12 years and has been playing recreationally for over 40 years. Like Susan, Bob loves the exercise and the camaraderie that tennis offers. "We have a very supportive community, people are engaged with one another," says Armstrong. "Like Huntley Hills on the whole, the tennis community is diverse and interactive. I like the interaction with younger people who have kids."

Tennis in Huntley Hills is truly a family affair. Our littlest members can be spotted cheering parents or grandparents from the tennis deck. And for the fourth year running, Huntley Hills offered its popular swim and tennis summer camp. Over the course of two week-long sessions, forty aspiring tennis stars worked on their skills with seasoned pros in the morning, then cooled off at the pool in the afternoon. In addition to camps, younger HHSTC members have access to USTA leagues and year-round coaching and clinic opportunities.

If you aren't an HHSTC member, or have only enjoyed the pool facilities, pay a visit to our tennis courts on a match day or an evening team practice session. Check out the new deck addition and bathroom entrances, as well as the impressive "trophy case" of ALTA and USTA division and city-wide title plaques our little neighborhood has accumulated. To find out more about tennis in Huntley Hills, contact David Carter at [dcarter@clgfirm.com](mailto:dcarter@clgfirm.com).







# Hobnobbing in Huntley Hills

*Holly Yarbrough, HHNA Board Member, Social Chair*

I like to think that HHNA social events help neighbors realize our shared values; in reality, it takes all of us wanting this kind of community to make it happen. These activities provide us with opportunities to celebrate our differences rather than letting them keep us apart. Huntley Hills is a place where we relish the familiarity of our neighbors, we celebrate each other's successes, we take joy in seeing families expand and children grow, we mourn together when we lose one of our own, we look out for each other, and we try to do what's right.

In an effort to encourage neighborly socializing, we've experimented with new events this year, with more activities close to home. In spite of the surprisingly

frosty February weather, about 100 neighbors came out one Saturday morning to enjoy donuts, milk, and coffee in the park. When we kicked off summer with a celebratory end-of-the-school-year pizza party, so many neighbors attended that we had to order a second round of pizzas!

For our annual cold treat on a hot summer day, we brought back a stationary version of the popular roaming ice cream truck. Even though some people had to travel further to get to the the Longview train park, this location allowed more opportunity to meet new friends.







When it came time for the Halloween party last October, the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club was unable to host their traditional costume contest because of construction on the new clubhouse. A few highly motivated neighbors stepped up to organize an event in the nearby grassy lot and the neighborhood association was happy to be able to sponsor the ghostly gaiety leading up to Trick-or-Treating.



Of course, our largest social gathering of the season is our neighborhood-wide Street Party, set for September 23rd this year - see the flyer in this issue for details. Keep your eyes peeled on Nextdoor and Facebook for announcements of new, innovative social events brought to you by your friendly neighborhood association. Feel free to reach out to us with your ideas and suggestions for new ways to bring neighbors together.

See you soon!







**Eric**  
**Clarkson**  
**Chamblee Mayor**



[www.eclarkson.com](http://www.eclarkson.com)

**Mayor Clarkson** has always had a passion for public service. He has lived in the Chamblee area for more than 22 years and began his public service with Chamblee by serving three years on the City's volunteer Architectural Review Board. He ran for public office and served four years on the City Council before being elected Mayor in 2005.

**Re-elect Mayor Clarkson**  
**November 7**

- ✓ Chamblee resident for more than 20 years.
- ✓ Chairman of the Metro Atlanta Mayors Association.
- ✓ Chairman and founder of the Peachtree Gateway Partnership.
- ✓ Served four years on Chamblee City Council before being elected Mayor in 2005.
- ✓ DeKalb County Mayors appointee to the Board of the Atlanta Regional Commission.

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# Keeping Chamblee Beautiful

*Lori Conway, KCB Board Member, Chair of the Green Committee*

Keep Chamblee Beautiful (KCB) had a busy spring making Chamblee cleaner, greener and more beautiful. We kicked off the fun in early March with our popular “Chicks 101” workshop in backyard chicken keeping. Two members offered their coops for tours and provided lots of info to help interested citizens start-up their own endeavors in hen-keeping.



Also in March, we held “post-goat” cleanups in Keswick Park and Huntley Hills, to help continue the work of the goats by removing additional ivy, privet, and other invasive species. Dozens of volunteers joined us at these productive events that really spruced up these two important Chamblee parks.

In April, local business Salesforce sent some 30 volunteers to help KCB and Chamblee Parks and Rec clean up the Rail Trail in preparation for the Maker’s Festival. We picked up trash, laid pine straw, stained wood decking, and pulled weeds along the entire length of the trail. For any of you who frequent the Rail Trail, you know that these efforts have lasted all summer. It still looks great!

KCB spent Earth Day in April sprucing up our flower bed around the Chamblee sign on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road. We were pleased to see that last year’s project to install this bed held up well and delightedly found the perennials emerging and the magnolias and roses blooming happily.

Early May brought us to Peachtree-DeKalb Airport with our annual plant sale, organized as always by long-time KCB president Patti Lankford and her husband, David. Many community members donated beautiful hostas, Lenten roses, lilies of all types and other plants, which sale-goers happily took home to install in their landscapes.

The Keswick Park Nature Trail project took major strides forward this spring, with two big clean-ups that really opened up the trail. Local Eagle Scout Marshall Dowdakin added a wooden footbridge that allows hikers to walk from Keswick Park all the way to the Brookleigh development on Johnson Ferry. Take a Saturday and go hike around this trail. You are sure to enjoy many native wildflowers and may even catch a glimpse of our resident deer or great horned owls!

Thank you all for making KCB’s spring a great success, and stay tuned for upcoming invasive species removals and native plant restoration in Keswick Park! Please like us on Facebook to keep up with what’s going on and give us feedback. We love new members, volunteers and your IDEAS for innovative ways to make our city a wonderful place to live!







# Neighborhood Watch

*Jon Richardson, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator*

The Huntley Hills Neighborhood Watch (HHNW) program divides the neighborhood into roughly 50 blocks of about 10 homes each. Each block has a Block Captain (BC) who welcomes new neighbors, helps folks on their block get to know each other, stays informed about neighborhood events, and communicates with other BCs and the coordinator about safety matters. I encourage everyone to get to know your BC and, perhaps, offer to help organize a block party. In cases of emergency, your BC is not a first responder. If you need emergency services, then

call 911 from a landline or 770-986-5000 from a cell phone and talk with your BC after the emergency is over.

Find out who your BC is at <http://huntleyhills.net/safety/>. Some blocks do not currently have a captain. If you would like to volunteer or nominate someone else to be a BC in one of the uncovered areas, please let me know. If you want to be involved with HHNW without being a block captain, please reach out to your BC, email me at [safety@huntleyhills.net](mailto:safety@huntleyhills.net), or call/text me at 470-207-4451.



## There's an app for that: NextDoor & Chamblee Connect

*Gina Gallois, HHNA Board Member, Editor*

### NextDoor

NextDoor is a social media app available on smartphones and good old fashioned computers and is a bit like Facebook for neighbors. It's the best place to get updates about crime and safety, missing/found pets, recommendations, garage sales, free stuff, community events, and the occasional amusing verbal skirmish. It's often best to watch from the sidelines of these cyber spats unless you want to receive an alert for each subsequent comment! Be sure to adjust your settings to receive a daily digest if you'd rather not get a notification of each post.

NextDoor is also the place to go to find out about and join neighborhood groups for running/walking, meditation, book clubs, mama's night out, events for young adults, and more. Don't see a group for you - you can start your own!

To join NextDoor, simply download the app on your smartphone or go to [NextDoor.com](http://NextDoor.com), enter your address, and you'll automatically be added to Huntley Hills. A neighbor can also invite you using your phone number or email address.

### Chamblee Connect

Chamblee Connect is the official platform for residents to access their government in a single location. With this new tool, residents can submit, track, and view nearby service requests through their smartphones and online - you can even report potholes! Residents can also use the in-app widgets to find information about events, public facilities, trash pickup, and more.

The mobile app is part of an overall program for the City to improve resident communications and service delivery. To help the City reach all of its residents, the application supports 17 languages through its One Voice Translation feature. When a resident submits a request in their native language, it is automatically translated into English for City officials. Subsequent updates on the request are automatically translated back into the resident's native language to enable a seamless dialogue between the government and residents.

Chamblee Connect is available for free in the Apple App Store and Google Play.





# WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1

## EMERGENCY TIPS



**An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or ambulance.**

**Examples include:**

- A fire
- A crime, especially if in progress
- A car crash, especially if someone is injured
- A medical emergency, especially symptoms that require immediate medical attention

**Call the Emergency Line for any non-life threatening emergencies such as:**

- Alarms
- Animal Complaints
- Incidents with a time lapse of 10 minutes or more
- Suspicious Person or Vehicle
- Lost or Found Property
- Solicitors
- Hit and Run with no injuries
- Miscellaneous service requests

***TIP: Keep your local emergency number stored in your phone***

**The City of Chamblee's Emergency Line: 770-986-5000**

**Be prepared to answer the call-taker's questions, which may include:**

- The location of the emergency, including the street address
- The phone number you are calling from
- The nature of the emergency
- Details about the emergency, such as a physical description of a person who may have committed a crime, a description of any fire that may be burning, or a description of injuries or symptoms being experienced by a person having a medical emergency

### PRACTICE WITH YOUR CHILDREN

- ✓ Only call 9-1-1 in an emergency
- ✓ Have your home address clearly visible in the home
- ✓ Keep a list of emergency phone numbers listed for your child or babysitter
- ✓ If you an elderly grandparent or a person with known medical conditions living in your home, prepare your child by discussing specific emergencies that could occur and how to spot them.
- ✓ Keep a first-aid kit handy and make sure your kids and babysitters know where to find it. When kids are old enough, teach them basic first aid.
- ✓ NEVER PRANK 9-1-1





# Open the Door to Wonder

*Bronagh Lavery, Neighbor*

Ever looked around our neighborhood and noticed how diverse and international Huntley Hills has become over the last few years? Ever thought how we could celebrate each other's interests and heritage with a little fun and whimsy?

On a recent trip to Ireland, I was impressed by a whole village dedicated to celebrating the diverse and whimsical side of fairies. It also reminded me of the Decatur Tiny Doors tour, but this fairy village was on a much bigger scale and showed the individual character of fairies as well as how this community and its homes were so diverse: bookstore fairy, music fairy, cook fairy...all reflective of their creator's profession and/or passion. It suddenly came to me that we could steal with pride and replicate this in Huntley Hills. Imagine homes scattered across our neighborhood with a fairy door that celebrates each of our heritage and passion. Imagine the conversation and bragging rights among our children about the fairy door at their house, as well as how it could entice people to our neighborhood to explore the fairy doors of Huntley Hills.



With the generous support from our Neighborhood Association, a group of us got together in July and we started to create fairy doors that represent each of our family's heritage. Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Britain, Ireland, France, Scotland, and of course the USA - just to name a few of nations that represent the growing diversity that makes up our neighborhood today.

We have just got started, so keep your eyes peeled for more fairy doors around our neighborhood and plans to create an online tour map and additional door-making events for those of you who would like to join in the fun.







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  - \*On site cooking (cheesesteaks)
  - Spirit Nights, Fund Raising.
- Mad Stache Parties (mustache themed party).

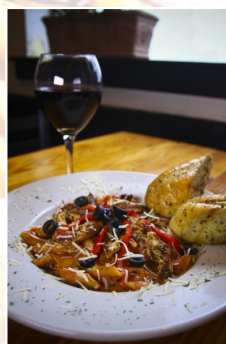
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**\*some restrictions apply**



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# Coyotes: Here to Stay! Raccoons & Foxes: Watch Out! Possums: Thank You!

*Katie Dailey, HHNA Board Member, Webmistress*

"We leave them be," responded Christopher Smith, Chamblee Animal Control Officer, when asked to explain the City's coyote policy. Most sightings in Huntley Hills are near the wooded creek areas, such as those near Chamblee United Methodist Church. He reassured me that healthy urban coyotes will not attack humans, but warned that small pets should be kept in at night.

Officer Smith is more concerned about the risk posed by raccoons and foxes, both of which are known carriers of rabies and likely to bite if approached. "Raccoons are the bigger problem for animal control," he said while rating them of much more concern than coyotes. "People stay away from coyotes because they see them as a threat, but they think raccoons are cute and will try to approach or pet them." Smith requests that you immediately report daytime sightings of nocturnal animals. So if you see a raccoon rambling your way mid-day, please call Officer Smith directly on his cell phone at 404-754-8581.

On the other hand, Smith wants to spread the word, "Possums are our friends because they are excellent scavengers." America's only marsupial also provides excellent pest control. In addition

to slugs, beetles, snails and cockroaches, a single specimen can consume up to 4,000 ticks per week, according to research by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Unless an opossum is a nuisance, at which point it can be captured and relocated, he encourages us to be appreciative when one waddles by at night.

For more information on urban coyotes, check out [urbancoyoteinitiative.com](http://urbancoyoteinitiative.com) and [atlantacoyoteproject.org](http://atlantacoyoteproject.org).



*Photo taken in December of 2016 near the north end of Plantation Lane*

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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

contact Brian Ray at [bdaleray@yahoo.com](mailto:bdaleray@yahoo.com)



Special thanks to the Huntley Hills Swim & Tennis Club for  
inviting the Neighborhood Association to host this community-wide event at their facility.





## Doing Good in the 'Hood

*Gina Gallois, HHNA Board Member, Editor*

Our neighborhood team, Run for the (Huntley) Hills! participated in the 5k Hunger Walk/Run event benefitting the Atlanta Community Food Bank for the second time in March 2017. With the help of many donors from Huntley Hills and the support of Breathe. Yoga Studio's community yoga class, we raised over \$1,000 as a team.

For the second summer, HH neighbors collaborated in a spectacular show of generosity to prepare 200 full lunches, several enrichment boxes brimming with activities, hundreds of delicious homemade treats, and about 900 additional sandwiches. The Smart Lunch Smart Kid program organizes volunteers to provide lunches during school breaks for children who otherwise may not be eating regular meals. This program, located at the First Baptist Church of Tucker, aims to feed 875 children each day, and they can only do it with the help of people like you!

During the holiday season, there are lots of opportunities to "adopt" a child or family and purchase gifts to make their holidays a little brighter. Two such efforts inspired many Huntley Hills residents to get involved: Lisa Barker organized a gift drive for children in foster care through Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and Yvonne Bubienko collected presents for the Salvation Army.



Think you'd like to get involved in philanthropic events like this? Be sure to check NextDoor regularly for details about upcoming service project opportunities and for the formation of the 2018 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.







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# Keeping Up with the City of Chamblee

*Brian Ray, HHNA Board Member, Community Affairs*

Understanding how the City of Chamblee works can be a daunting task. When I moved here, it certainly wasn't clear to me, but I've since figured out a few things I'd like to share. By far, the best way to stay informed of what the City is doing is to attend the public meetings. The next best approach is to read the reports I and a couple of other Huntley Hills residents post on NextDoor following each meeting.

**City Council Meetings** are scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Civic Center. The Council votes on agenda items and takes official actions.

**City Council Work Sessions** are held at the Civic Center the Thursday before the Council meeting at 6:00 pm. Most of the discussion concerns the items on the agenda and typically lasts much longer than the council meeting. The agenda and the full agenda packets are posted online before each meeting. While often a very large pdf file, the agenda packet provides most of the details on the items the Council is considering.

**Architectural Review Board (ARB)** meetings usually take place at City Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., but may be cancelled if there are no projects to be considered. The ARB is responsible for reviewing the exterior architectural design of all significant proposed development projects.

**Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC)** meetings generally occur on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. The RAC serves to connect the Parks and Recreation department to the community, both by bringing in ideas from the community as well as by disseminating information to the community.

**Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** meetings are ordinarily held at City Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The Downtown Development Authority is primarily a policy-making and major decision-making entity that plans and manages the downtown area. The authority can undertake commercial, business, office, industrial, parking, or public projects where these will benefit the downtown. The DDA is tax-exempt and can utilize a variety of financing tools to bring about revitalization and economic development of the central business district. One of the more controversial tools is the ability to provide property tax abatements to induce economic development. The DDA is in the beginning stages of planning a new city center, which may include a new city hall, a new civic center, a town green, commercial office space, retail space, and residential facilities.

Another major component of understanding Chamblee is the annual budget process that projects most of the spending for the following year. The City Council may change it at their discretion, but there is operational momentum that makes significant changes difficult. The annual budget includes capital spending; these are all of the big projects that the city plans to undertake the following year, including rail-trail projects, streetscapes, park projects, sidewalks, and roadway paving. Specific projects may change during the year, but the budget sets the initial pot of money.



If you have questions or concerns, I have found the Mayor, Council members, and city staff to all be very responsive and helpful. For policy issues the Mayor and Council are usually the best option. For questions about specific areas, the departmental directors are a great place to start and are listed on the city website. If you're unsure of whom to contact, the City Manager will direct your question to the appropriate person. The Chamblee Connect app is also very useful, and provides a simple, direct method of reporting problems or concerns.

City website - <http://www.chambleega.com>

Mayor Eric Clarkson - [eclarkson@chambleega.gov](mailto:eclarkson@chambleega.gov)

Councilor John Mesa - [jmesa@chambleega.gov](mailto:jmesa@chambleega.gov)

Councilor Leslie Robson - [lrobson@chambleega.gov](mailto:lrobson@chambleega.gov)

Councilor Tom Hogan - [thogan@chambleega.gov](mailto:thogan@chambleega.gov)

Councilor Brian Mock - [bmock@chambleega.gov](mailto:bmock@chambleega.gov)

Councilor Darron Kusman - [dkusman@chambleega.gov](mailto:dkusman@chambleega.gov)

City Manager Jon Walker - [jwalker@chambleega.gov](mailto:jwalker@chambleega.gov)

Finally, the best way to make your voice heard is to vote. Elections are held in odd-numbered years, in early November – November 7th in 2017. The Mayor and Councilmembers Brian Mock and John Mesa are up for re-election. Each vote has a significant impact – in the 2015 Council elections only 1085 people voted, with the winners claiming between 625 and 630 votes vs. 444-455 for the losers.





## Huntley Hills Residents Lead Chamblee Into the Future

*Dick Patterson, HHNA Board Member Emeritus*

Chamblee has been undergoing a major change from an industrial to an urban city. Huntley Hills residents have occupied leading roles in this change for at least the last 25 years. In 2010, when we moved here to downsize and be nearer to one of our daughters, we discovered we are an easy walk from City Councilor Leslie Robson (2008 – present) and three others who served on the City Council in the past: Don Biles (1991 – 1995), his wife Jeanne Biles (2001 – 2004), and Jim Copeland (1996 – 2007). Hearing their stories motivated me to share this chapter of Huntley Hills' influence in Chamblee history with you, my neighbors.

When Don Biles was elected, Huntley Hills Park existed on the Longview plat map, but was listed as a floodplain and remained undeveloped.



*Don & Jeanne Biles*

Don spearheaded the development of the park. He claims the park ownership was transferred from DeKalb County to Chamblee as part of the Longview subdivision (now Huntley Hills.) The Council hired Huntley Hills resident Paige Perkins to hold community meetings to determine what facilities people wanted to see there. Then the City of Chamblee built the bridge, bought swings, and Tillman Hannon in the Department of Public Works built the train which is a big favorite of neighborhood kids – so much so that many call it the “choo choo park.”

During Don's term on the Council, he also led a change in Chamblee's form of government. Dub Brown had been a full time mayor for a long time and made most of the decisions. But many people thought a full-time mayor was unnecessary for a city of only 10,000 residents. Dub and the Council were convinced to change to a part-time mayor after attending a series of lectures at UGA on city management, followed by Dub having a heart attack. When the Council asked Dub who he thought would

be a suitable replacement, he suggested that it would be better to have five people deciding instead of any one of them. The State Assembly approved of the change, and Dub continued as a part-time mayor until the end of 1997, when Mary Goldenberg was elected to serve from 1998 – 2002. Subsequent mayors include Evelyn Kennedy (2002 – 2006) and Eric Clarkson (2006 – present). During Don's term the Council also voted to treat the public to an impressive annual fireworks display on the Fourth of July.

Jim Copeland joined the Council in 1996, replacing Don. Soon after Jim's election, Peachtree-DeKalb Airport extended a runway to the north (on their DeKalb County land) but did not enlarge the Runway Protection Zone, the land closest to the end of the



*Jim Copeland*

runway that would be most in danger of an accident. This area and a larger area in the “high noise” zone contained a number of houses in Chamblee on the north side of Chamblee-Tucker Road. The Council oversaw the airport's purchase of these homes and zoned the area for businesses such as warehouses, but not for houses.

Jim described a project that was run by Police Chief Marc Johnson for companies all over Georgia who needed official police background checks on potential employees. Johnson's part-time employees working at night brought in \$50,000 a month, which grew to \$100,000 a month during Jim's tenure. But what did they do with the money?

*“When I came on the council, the city's facilities, vehicles, and equipment seemed old and tired. You should have seen the old police station and city hall. We used that money to modernize the city. We built a new City Hall, bought a new computer system, replaced all of the old police cars, all of the old*





*garbage trucks, bought a new street sweeper. Things like garbage trucks and street sweepers cost some \$80,000 each. We bought property on Cumberland Drive for the Public Works Department. We redeveloped Keswick park to include the new multi-use building, soccer field, and playground, built the park on Clairmont, built the park on Chamblee-Dunwoody, and redeveloped the park on Shallowford Road. The parks probably got the largest part of the money. Some of that money went into the general fund to hold down taxes.*

*Another big project was the total rewrite of the city zoning. If I remember correctly, the zoning ordinance cost something like \$100,000 to create. The city signage was also something that I spearheaded: the entry signs that are around the city and at all of the city facilities. It cost about \$250,000. And we created a new sign ordinance - no more pole signs."*

Jim Copeland

All of the above were paid for in cash. Unfortunately this big money source mostly dried up in 2008 during the recession, and other police departments have discovered this source of extra income. Nevertheless, the current budget counts on it for \$650,000 next year, although proportionately that is much less than before.

Jeanne Biles was elected to fill a Council vacancy in a special election in August 2001, right before the attack on the World Trade Towers in New York City. She remembers this as being a dormant period and a time of tight budgets as City Hall had just been built. Although her time in office was concurrent with Jim's, the things she remembers best are different. The DeKalb school board was building several nearly identical junior highs, including one in Chamblee. The Council convinced the builders to redesign the roof for better continuity with the smaller land area in Sexton Woods.

Walmart as well as the trail from Keswick Park to the parking lot were built during Jeanne's term. The trail construction actually had to be completed before the store because access to the trail was needed. Innumerable building details also had to be accepted. The agreement included a contribution for the cost of construction of the trail.

A streetscape improvement to 5300 - 5400 Peachtree Road beside the railroad track was planned in 2004 and is now finally underway. To quote Jeanne, "Government moves so slowly. Plans have to be approved by everyone, and the council only meets two days a month."

Leslie Robson joined the Council in 2008, when Jim Copeland stepped down. This was about the same time long-time city manager Kathy Bannen retired. The Council needed to find a replacement, which proved to be difficult. Three different people took the job for brief periods until they found the current city manager, John Walker.



When Leslie became a councilor, only a small section of Huntley Hills was included in Chamblee. *Leslie Robson*

The unincorporated portion of Huntley Hills filed a petition to be included, which became the first of two annexations. Originally the annexations included a section of what is now Brookhaven, but Chamblee-Dunwoody Road was set as the dividing line when Senator Fran Millar and Representative Mike Jacobs took the proposal to the Georgia Legislature.

The second annexation of southern Chamblee came about when the Dresden neighborhoods presented another petition. In both cases the residents wanted to be included in Chamblee's sanitation and police services. A recent attempt at extending Chamblee's boundaries again was done too hastily and is unlikely to move forward.

New construction is currently occurring on all sides. Tillman Hannon built a new train in Huntley Hills Park to replace his original. Plans for a shaded picnic pavilion there have unfortunately been put on hold until someone can find a deed for the land transfer Don Biles thought was settled 20 years ago.

Huntley Hills residents have had considerable impact on Chamblee in the recent past and will surely continue into the future.





3614 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd.  
Chamblee, GA 30341

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