



The Huntley Hills

# HERALD

Summer 2020



*The Official Newsletter of the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association*

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and Safety in the Vibrant  
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# Editor's Note

*Devon Hutchins, HHNA Board Member, Newsletter Editor*

This is a newsletter that almost did not come to pass. In my two years as editor, I've honed my game plan for getting our annual Huntley Hills Herald to print as efficiently as possible, and for me, that means starting early. But when the pandemic made its way to our corner of the world at the top of the year, so too went my best laid plans. When I reached out to other board members in May about whether or not we should proceed with a newsletter this summer - or perhaps refocus our efforts on something electronic given that many of our advertisers are small local businesses hit hard by the economic downturn - I was working full-time from home at my kitchen table with no childcare outside of Disney+ and Sesame Street. I didn't think I had the emotional energy to devote to it. Fortunately, I was convinced otherwise. It only took a little nudging to be reminded of just what the newsletter means to our community - and its importance in an era of social distance in bridging the divide between neighbors.

So as much as this newsletter is a labor of love, it is also very much both a moment in time and not. Where we've hit the mark, I'd say, is sharing

stories and experiences that reflect the community that has come together in difficult times because of COVID-19. Our cover is meant to illustrate that - the small, but powerful gestures of neighbors to celebrate our shared humanity and lift each other up. Our Community Connections page and Neighbor-to-Neighbor profile along with our story about bringing music to the driveways of Huntley Hills also are the very best of who we've been during the last few months of coronavirus.

Where I'd like to acknowledge that we've fallen short is in capturing the groundswell to applaud the diversity that makes communities like ours so special and the movement to ensure that both our neighborhood and the greater environment around us are anti-racist. Asserting that Black Lives Matter is part and parcel to the mission of the neighborhood association, and, had looming editorial deadlines not been a factor, I would have liked to have seen more articles about how Huntley Hills lives that through and through. So a charge for next year, surely! Let us spend the next twelve months continuing this necessary work.

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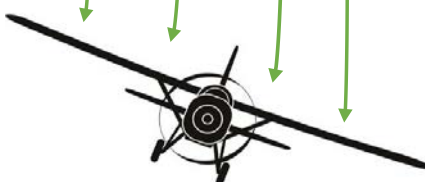
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# Neighborhood Nickels & Dimes

Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association - 2020 Budget			
	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
<b>Administrative</b>	<b>1,032.00</b>	<b>523.43</b>	<b>1,107.00</b>
2 years SSL service			105
503-C Registration			
Bank Charge Back		5.00	
Business Cards			
Charitable Donation	500.00	250.00	500
Check Order		50.81	
Copies/Nametags/postage	50.00	1.90	50
Graduation banner	90.00	110.37	100
HHNA banner			
Office Supplies	100.00	14.26	50
Other		48.34	
PO Box Rental	82.00	92.00	92
Secretary of State of Annual Certificate	30.00	30.00	30
Square fee			
Square reader			
Refunds		(99.42)	
Tent			
T-shirts - Officers	150.00		150
Website Hosting/Related	30.00	20.17	30
<b>Membership</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>169.42</b>	<b>150.00</b>
Refund		19.42	
Door Hangers		50.00	
Mailbox Magnets	50.00		50
Membership Survey Contest		100.00	100
<b>Neighborhood Beautification</b>	<b>750.00</b>	<b>744.23</b>	<b>1,405.00</b>
Butterfly Garden		274.69	245
Doggie Waste Stations		271.80	270
Front Entrance Park		125.84	200
Back Entrance Rectangle			500
Holiday Decorations			100
Traffic Circles/Strips		71.90	90
<b>Neighborhood Connect</b>	<b>350.00</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>350.00</b>
Block Captain Annual Meeting	100.00		100
Block Party Stipend	150.00		150
Welcome Packets	100.00	11.29	100
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>3,070.00</b>	<b>3,603.35</b>	<b>3,531.50</b>
Ad			
Copies			
Printing	3,070.00	3,571.86	3,500.00
Software		31.49	31.50
<b>Social</b>	<b>3,335.00</b>	<b>3,344.82</b>	<b>3,640.00</b>
Annual Meeting	325.00	297.03	300.00
Annual Meeting (Rental Deposit)		100.00	100.00
Annual Meeting (Rental Deposit)		(100.00)	(100.00)
Board Appreciation Dinner		117.50	125.00
Guest Fees		(20.00)	(20.00)
Donuts in the Park	150.00		150.00
Halloween Contest	25.00		-
Happy Hour	800.00	906.85	800.00
Holiday Decorating Gift Cards	25.00		-
Ice Cream Social	350.00	292.75	325.00
Pizza Party	350.00	584.06	350.00
Pizza Sales		(50.00)	
Public Works Breakfast	285.00	267.55	285.00
Signs			-
Street Party	900.00	1,055.74	1,500.00
Street Party Donations			(250.00)
Survey Monkey			-
T-shirts		579.22	
T-shirt sales		(749.00)	
Toy Drive	125.00	63.12	75.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,587.00</b>	<b>8,396.54</b>	<b>10,183.50</b>







## President's Corner

*Laura Addison, HHNA Board Member, President*

Dear Huntley Hills Neighbor,

Here we find ourselves in the middle of 2020 during what may be the strangest, most uncomfortable, most inspiring period of our lives. While we mourn the losses caused by COVID-19 and senseless murders, we are inspired by a community that came together to protect each other. Whether it was sewing masks, preparing meals, running errands, or drawing fish on fences, our neighbors sprang into action within hours of the news. We saw our local businesses provide personal protective gear and food to our health care workers. Our local heroes stepped up without a second thought.

As time went on and we started to crave human interaction, we saw neighbors take to the streets to participate in "coffee on the corner," driveway concerts, and front yard happy hours.

We will always find a way to come together. Soon we will see more signs of things getting back to normal; however, some things will never be the same. One thing that *will* continue is our community's love and support of one another, always.

Laura Addison  
President



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# The Latest from Huntley Hills Elementary

*Melissa Neubauer, PTA President*

The end of the 2019-2020 school was certainly one that none of us could've dreamed up at the beginning of the school year. We had just wrapped up our most successful Fueled by Fitness Fundraiser - raising over \$19,000 for the school - and hosted the Glow Fun Run in the gym for the kids. Then it was announced we would start virtual learning until further notice. We all fumbled our way through Zoom calls, Verge, Google Classroom and online learning. While my kids can't wait to get back to school with their real teachers and friends, hopefully you were home the day 30 teachers drove through our neighborhood with Chamblee Police to wave and say hi to the students and families they missed so much.



Top: The Fueled by Fitness fundraising event was the last day students were in the school building prior to COVID-19-related closures.

Bottom: Our talented MOSAIC Step Team in action.

Even without the craziness of COVID-19 and virtual learning for the last quarter of the school year, we had a lot of other excitement at Huntley Hills Elementary. We kicked off the year by celebrating the PTA's designation as a National School of Excellence. The PTA at HHES has been working hard with parents and teachers to continue to improve our school. We installed a shade structure and added picnic tables to our playground; the



Top: Bowlmor Spirit Night fun!

Bottom: Adventures at Center Ice Arena Spirit Night.

second shade structure and benches will hopefully go in this summer. We also added fun decals to our hallways to help the students get their wiggles out. Three teachers, including Huntley Hills resident Thais Jones, attended classes at Fernbank and are now Master Gardeners through a program offered to DeKalb County teachers. Which has also now led to our courtyard garden being used this summer to grow fresh vegetables and herbs for food pantries throughout the county!



Top: October's Fall Festival brought new heights to HHES.

Bottom: Students participated in Walk to School in March.



Our new fundraising chair, Deborah Roney, was busy this year securing multiple grants. The school received grants from Dollar General to fund classroom libraries, Publix for art supplies, Georgia Music Foundation to buy new instruments for music class, and Moving Kids Forward to help pay for training for our Montessori teachers. She continues to find, apply, and win grants to keep the momentum of making Huntley Hills a great community school.

It was also a busy year for DeKalb County School District: our Chamblee cluster of elementary schools was part of plans for redistricting due to a new school opening up in Doraville in the Fall of 2020. The PACs and PTAs at Montgomery, Ashford Park, and Huntley Hills worked together to help shape solutions to overcrowding at Montgomery and Ashford Park and keep our community school just as great as it is now. Now that we have formed these stronger bonds, we are hoping to have a better voice over the next few years as DeKalb starts to look closer at our region and overcrowding issues. We have had an interim Superintendent, Ramona Tyson, and there is a new nominee for the school board that is waiting to be confirmed. During the election in June, Anna Hill was elected as our new Region 1 School Board Member; she actually had children go to Huntley Hills when she lived in the neighborhood for 13 years!

Stay tuned, neighbors! We aren't sure how next school year is going to look, but we hope everyone is staying healthy. Keep a look out for events and ways to support our neighborhood school!

Melissa Neubauer  
PTA President  
Ensign Ct Resident



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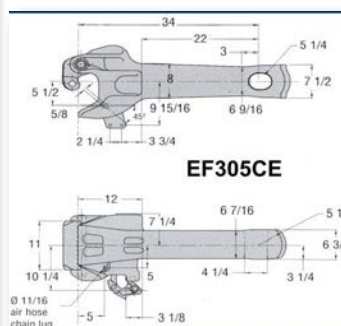
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# The Tracks of Huntley Hills History

*Susie Prince, HH Neighbor*

When I was in middle school, my Social Studies class did a unit on Ancient Egypt and the Middle East. We were broken up into groups of four and given a block of hard-packed dirt and some tools, including a tiny pick, a hammer, some brushes, and a chisel. Our mission: work as a team, find the Ancient Egyptian artifact buried in this block of dirt, and carefully uncover the treasure so we could put it back together. This would teach us teamwork, patience, and, if we were able to put the item back together, a good bit about the Ancient Egyptian way of life.



time at home and took to the garden for some fresh air and change of scenery, I excavated something really unusual and unexpected which led me on a hunt for history!



One day while planting, my shovel banged into something very hard which sent shock waves into my arms. I'm used to hitting rocks or roots, but this was different! I carefully dug around it, using more the hammer/chisel approach than the careful brush approach, and saw this item was definitely metal. It was so heavy I could barely lift it out of the dirt. I figured by the looks and weight of it, it had to be iron. It was round on top with holes that went all the way through it, one circular, one oblong, and a keyhole shape at the bottom. It is roughly 14 inches high and at least 50 pounds, though I would guess more.

I took photos and measurements of it and posted it on Nextdoor to see if anyone else had any ideas what it could be. An essential part of archaeology is understanding the history of the area in which you're digging. After all, how can you identify an item without any context? There were some great guesses on the post, and in addition to the guesses, information I didn't know about the area came streaming in. Did you know that a railroad once ran right through Huntley Hills?

Patience is a trait rarely attributed to me, so it took everything in me not to take the hammer and chisel and go to town cracking the dirt cube open to find the treasure almost certainly smashed to bits. Thanks to my much-more-patient group members, cooler heads prevailed, and we were able to unearth a pot in four or five pieces which we glued back together. The thrill of finding each piece and the final product we put together made me want to be an archeologist. That is until I learned how much time they spend using the brush and not the chisel.

Since moving to Huntley Hills in January of 2017, I've been doing a little bit of archaeology and living out that sixth-grade dream of finding buried treasure in my backyard. Most of the time, it's been layers of wallpaper uncovered in home renovations telling the story of styles gone by, the remnants of a rock wall once used as a planter, or buds breaking through the ground after peeling back layers of English Ivy which had choked them out years before. But this spring, as I spent so much



One neighbor suggested that I send the pictures to the Atlanta History Center, which proved a great idea. The experts there determined this iron piece to be a broken off part of an old railcar coupler. How perfect to have found a rail car part in the train city of

Chamblee!

I plan to turn this piece into some art for my yard as a nod to the history of what used to be here, though I have not yet decided exactly what that will be. We've tried to do the same with our whole house as we've renovated it; honor the history of the style the house was built in and bring together the past and present one archaeological dig at a time.





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# Editorials: Huntley Hills Through the Eyes of a Fox

*Gina Gallois, the Possum Lady and author of Opossum Opposites*

Dearest residents of Huntley Hills,

It has come to my attention that some of you have seen me and my brethren out and about in Huntley Hills in recent months. You may have been shocked to discover that foxes are living amongst you. Really? Did you not notice that you basically live in a forest? I know some of y'all love to chop down the trees we call home, but we are adaptable!

Are you surprised to hear that a fox is aware of human activities? Don't be. We have to stay on top of the latest news and developments. It's a matter of our survival. We are always watching and we know more than you think about your ways. Also, we're on Nextdoor.

News of the coronavirus pandemic has reached the fox community and we want to express our most heartfelt condolences to you all. We are truly sorry for you, our human neighbors. Some of you have lost loved ones. Some of you have lost jobs and/or wages. We wish you a speedy recovery from all of the negative effects of this cruel virus.

But I am also here to remind you that not everything about this pandemic has been bad. You humans have taken to the street. More of you are out walking, running, or riding with your friends and families. Granted, the street can sometimes seem a little crowded when you are trying to maintain a safe social distance, but it is wonderful to see you all out enjoying your families and the fresh air rather than whizzing by in those awful, stinky vehicles of yours.

Speaking of foot traffic, it seems there's been a bit of an uproar on Nextdoor about which side of the street is for pedestrians. Well, I've got Google, too and when I typed in a quick query, I found out that pedestrians should always walk on the left, facing oncoming traffic. Sure, there are times it makes more sense to switch over for a moment, but in general, it is safer on the left.

I have also learned that you all are very sensitive about your dogs. Listen, I'm a member of the canine family, so I get it! Go, dogs! But, for my safety and for yours, I

do wish folks would keep their dogs on a leash at all times when not at home. Yes, even those little yappy ones who wouldn't hurt a fly. Even the old ones. Even the nicest dogs! Not everyone digs dogs and some people are even afraid of dogs. I've also seen my share of dogs being needlessly attacked by other unleashed dogs. Please, protect yourselves and my cousins.

We all live here together and there is no reason we can't continue to live in this wonderful community in harmony and safety. When you see me out at night, I won't bother you, so please don't pester me. Just give me a knowing wink and keep walking.

In the event one of my clan forgets their manners and gets a little too close to you for comfort, simply make some noise to scare them away. Clap your hands, blow a whistle, or wave your arms and stomp your feet. It will give us a good guffaw and probably scare the gutsy fox off, too.







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



# Neighborhood Beautification

*Bo Hines, HHNA Board Member, Neighborhood Beautification Chair*

Hello Neighbors!

Well it's another beautiful summer in Huntley Hills and the neighborhood is looking quite lovely with yards and common spaces in full bloom. I want to take this opportunity to extend a **big Thank You** to Jennie Palmer for her efforts in keeping the traffic circles on Longview looking so wonderful over the last few years. Moving forward, the HHNA is looking for volunteers that would be willing to help with the ongoing maintenance (weeding, watering) of the circles. If any neighbors are interested in lending a hand, please reach out to me at [beautification@huntleyhills.net](mailto:beautification@huntleyhills.net) and I will be happy to discuss further.



Because of Covid-19 there was no spring clean up scheduled but we did have a great turnout in the Fall for our annual Butterfly Garden cleanup. In an effort to make the event more kid-friendly we added in a rock painting activity. Kids painted river rocks in pretty pastels that included the names and images of the different varieties of plants located in the garden. The kids seemed to really enjoy it!

I hope everyone has had a fantastic summer and I look forward to getting my hands dirty with y'all again. Hopefully sooner than later!!





# The Stream Buffer: For the Uninitiated

*Devon Hutchins, HHNA Board Member, Newsletter Editor*

When my husband and I set about to upgrade our backyard fence - we've got a 90ish pound fluffy white dog who learned she could flop herself over the ole chain link - we had little concept of the red tape that lay ahead. It's cut and dry we told ourselves - in fact, we're building inside the boundaries of the old fence, we rationalized. It's that kind of naive optimism, I suppose, that often serves as a precursor to the most nightmarish of home maintenance projects. Our case was no different.

It all started with our initial permit application in late December. We weren't working with a project coordinator - cut and dry, remember? - so we mocked up our site plan and sent it along with the online application and building licence. One week later, we received comments back from code compliance that needed to be addressed before our application could be resubmitted. While Chamblee's Planning & Development department doesn't require a formal survey for fence permits, they do ask that you include property boundaries, which we'd failed to do at the outset. That's good to know for the future, we humbly remarked.

I took to my trusty PDF editor to make the agreed upon addendums. That's when things got really hairy. You see, it was now early January and our vendor's business license had expired. They had to concurrently apply for their own renewal before we could proceed with our application request. On top of that, our notes from code compliance had come back on our second application submission. We were kindly told to reach out should we have questions, a somewhat comical sentiment given the contents therein - "a bit out of our depth" is how I described it. This is where we first heard the now ominous term Stream Buffer Variance.

So what exactly is a stream buffer? Through this process, I learned that in addition to Chamblee, both DeKalb County and the State of Georgia also subscribe to stream buffer controls - this fact definitely gave me pause since none of the vendors we obtained quotes from for our fence mentioned their compliance or experience with them previously. At its essence, a stream buffer establishes buffer

zone requirements and requires authorization for certain activities along Chamblee's streams for the protection of water resources and to minimize land development. (See Section 310-19.) And when it's presented like that, gosh, it's hard to argue with the value and importance. But I can also say firsthand that in the midst of a months-long endeavor to provide outdoor space for an energetic rescue dog, this was a devastating revelation.



*The "stream" in question.*

Here's what happened next. We had a pre-application meeting (for the variance request) with two of our city's planners. In the nicest way imaginable, they painted a pretty bleak picture of the hoops that lay ahead: a lengthy application, two City Council meetings, a big yellow sign in our front yard, and a duplicate process to obtain additional approval at the state-level - all with little guarantee that we'd get the permission we needed to proceed. This is about the point where I threw up my hands and told my husband I didn't think we'd ever see a new fence on our property. I was ready to give up when I received an email from the State's planner. After spirited debate and analysis of the code, he'd determined in conjunction with Chamblee's team, that so long as there is less than 100 square feet of land disturbance in the buffer zone, no variance would be required for the fence. A relief of immense proportions, to say the least.

In the end, a positive resolution for us and our pup and an experience we're happy to share to better equip our neighbors, particularly those with houses adjacent to the small creek that runs between Admiral Drive and Seaman Circle, should they encounter something similar down the road. It's also worth noting that while the ordeal was mired with bureaucracy, we never encountered anyone who was unpleasant to deal with or completely unwilling to help - even if the only help they could offer was a sympathetic ear. We're grateful for that. And if you'll allow me a postscript to this tale, it would be that upon being issued our permit, we received a knock at our door when the fence was going up from a friendly code inspector. Get your permits, folks! There are eyes and ears everywhere when it comes to code violations.



# Music as Medicine in the Time of Coronavirus

Alex Egan, HH Neighbor

It's no news the health crisis this spring seemed to hit rather suddenly, touching us all personally and in unique ways.

Our family lives across the street from Huntley Hills Elementary School, so we are used to a lot of activity. It has been quite a change. After some time, we began to notice more and more neighbors walking the streets to get out of doors. I think many of us agree we'd been yearning for a bit of entertainment and activity.

About the same time, we were chatting with my father, James Calvin, who has been the lead singer and manager of many of Atlanta's old R&B and Southern Rock bands. During that conversation, he shed some light on how negatively impacted local musicians and entertainers have been as a result of all the closings and cancellations.

Suddenly, we had this idea to safely entertain our neighbors while supporting local artists. So, we put the word out each time we hosted a band with other musicians sitting in intermittently.

We were happy to see many neighbors and community members enjoying the music on picnic blankets and lawn chairs across the street while remaining safely distanced. Afterward, other neighbors, whom we did not have the pleasure of meeting, reached out to let us know they enjoyed the music from their own porch or backyard patio a street or two away.

And, thanks to your generosity, the musicians earned healthy tips in addition to their set fee! Currently, we are in discussions with another band to come play for the neighborhood in the near future. We will keep everyone posted.

We enjoyed seeing everyone so happy and meeting new faces. We are now members of the Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club, so if we didn't meet you this spring, we look forward to meeting you this summer!

Gratefully,  
Alex and Ryan Egan



*Editor's Note: The Atlanta Artist Lost Gig Fund is one way to put additional dollars to work if this is a cause that speaks to you.*

*The Atlanta Artist Lost Gig Fund provides financial assistance for arts professionals with unmet needs due to canceled gigs. 100% of contributed funds will be donated back to artists affected by COVID-19 due to the cancellation of gigs, projects, and events.*

*Donations can be made at: <https://c4atlanta.org/project/covid19donate/>*





# Hot Trend Alert: Raised Garden Beds

*Devon Hutchins, HHNA Board Member, Newsletter Editor*

If there's been one silver lining of the coronavirus, perhaps it's that more time at home has led to an uptick in lawn beautification projects. And if you have as severe a case of garden envy as we do in our household, you'll also have noticed one unmistakable trend in the types of yard work neighbors are undertaking: raised beds. No longer relegated to behind the house, a quick drive around Huntley Hills will reveal that raised beds are the gardening method du jour for side yard flowers as well as backyard ornamentals, and have even garnered a prominent place in the once sacred space of the front yard to cultivate fruits and vegetables of assorted varieties.

It got me wondering, what is it about raised beds that has taken our tiny slice of urban living by storm? When I posed the question at a recent virtual board meeting, the answer was actually quite simple: people just want to be able to grow things. Well, yes, of course - even someone so lacking in green thumb as I can appreciate that. How do raised beds help people accomplish that? My research charge awaited.

There are numerous resources available touting the benefits of raised garden beds, but I found one from the University of Georgia (Circular 1027-3) on community and school gardens that made a particularly compelling case. While in-ground gardening may be the more economical option - you're planting right into the soil that exists already - and notably less labor intensive on the front-end, many of the other benefits line-up in the raised bed column. Here are just a few reasons why you might consider investing in a raised garden bed:

- **Longer growing season:** Raised beds warm up more quickly in the spring and drain better (assuming the soil is properly prepared), allowing for a longer growing season and better growing conditions. Particularly in the South, a properly prepared raised bed allows plant roots to breathe.
- **Less weeding and maintenance:** Once the soil in a raised bed has stabilized, compaction is almost non-existent so the need for seasonal tilling is minimal. Weed populations decrease over time in a raised bed that is well cared for and mulched.
- **Better drainage:** A well-prepared raised bed allows the soil to drain better than in an in-ground garden. In some areas of Georgia, the soil drains so poorly that raised beds enable gardening of crops that would not otherwise grow.

Consider me a garden box proselytizer from here on out! Looking forward to seeing all of the fruits of our neighborhood labor!





# And Your Neighbors Who Are Trying It

*Carolyn Weber, HHNA Board Member, Membership Chair*

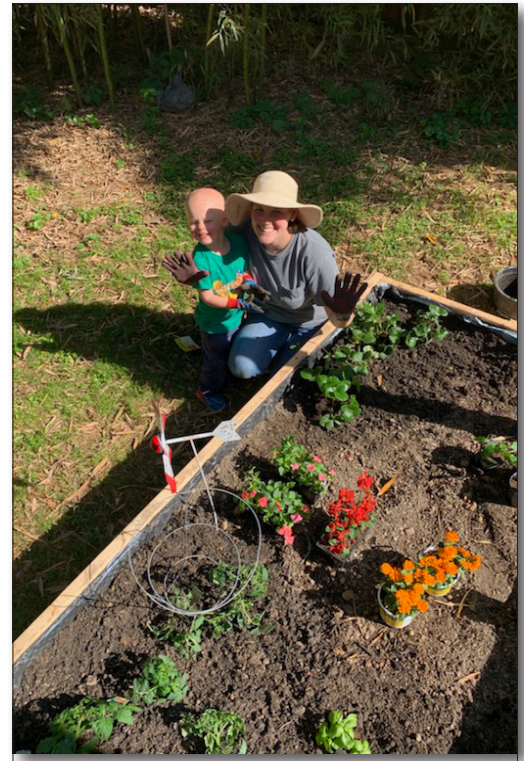
Huntley Hills is filled with beautiful gardens. Stroll around the neighborhood on any sunny afternoon and you will find dozens of people in their yards, tending their gardens. Recently, there has been an increased interest in raised bed gardening. I talked with a few neighbors to find out how they started a raised bed garden and what they are growing this year.

Acar and Handan Nazli moved to Huntley Hills in 1994. They used to have a fairly shady backyard. But due to the removal of several large trees last year, they now get a lot more sun. So they decided to start a garden. The ground was very hard and filled with tree roots, so they decided to build a raised bed garden instead. In addition to having much better soil, a raised bed garden has a more defined look. Acar built the raised bed himself and also built a greenhouse. The greenhouse is a good place to over-winter delicate plants as well as start new ones. This year, he is growing pepper and tomatoes and herbs such as mint and basil. Acar and Handan enjoy cooking dishes from their native Turkey. Since Turkish dishes use lots of spices, their garden is a great source of fresh ingredients.

Sarah and Alex Pfeffer didn't wait 25 years to start their raised bed garden. According to Sarah, they started the garden before they even moved into their house four years ago! Sarah grew up with a garden and has fond memories of picking fresh raspberries. She wants their son Henry to enjoy that, too. They like to change it up and plant different things each year. This year their garden includes lettuce, peppers, carrots, beans and tomatoes. As any gardener knows, keeping out squirrels and birds can be a challenge. So they have tried different types of netting to keep them out. So far, they seem to be winning the battle. The good weather this spring has contributed to a great crop so far. They enjoy eating what they grow and canning the extras to use throughout the year.

Jonathan and Ashely Goode moved to Huntley Hills last fall. They were looking for a fun and educational activity to enjoy with their young son Charlie and thought that a garden would fit the bill. Jonathan's father is handy with a hammer and saw, so they asked him to build a raised bed garden for them. After it was built, it was quite a project to fill it wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of rich soil! They then planted an assortment of vegetables and herbs. They also planted flowers in the garden to attract pollinators and add a splash of color. The tomatoes and squash are almost ready to pick. Hopefully Charlie will enjoy eating them as much as he enjoys watering them.

These are just a few examples of raised bed gardens in Huntley Hills. If you are walking or riding your bike through the neighborhood, you will probably see many more. Maybe you will even be inspired to start your own. All it takes is some wood, good soil, and a little hard work. Then keep your fingers crossed for good weather!







# Getting Social in the Neighborhood

*Devon Hutchins, HHNA Board Member, Newsletter Editor*

If you're anything at all like our HHNA board members, you've been itching for more social engagement over the last handful of months. While safety is our number one priority in thinking about when we convene our next sponsored social event, rest assured that we miss all of you terribly - and these photos from the past year have us extra nostalgic in the wake of pandemic-related social distancing. We hope you enjoy looking back on these fun moments in time as much as we enjoyed sifting through our snaps from a year's worth of street parties, happy hours, and dates in the park!











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# Community Connections

*Yvonne Bubienko, HHNA Board Member, Community Affairs Chair*

As the chair of community affairs, I thought about what information would be practical to write about for our annual newsletter. Although things are changing on a daily basis, finding a reasonably sound source of information that is updated regularly seems to be challenging for many of us, especially for those who are not spending half of their time on a computer or a smartphone.

Since we are all getting used to the new normal of working from our dining rooms, exercising in the garage, and doing more things online while social distancing six-feet apart, I thought it might be helpful to provide a few websites to have as a quick resource as we slowly transition to interacting more face-to-face.

If you were not aware of or never had a chance to attend the city council meetings, they are open to the public and you may attend. The schedule of the meetings, as well as the agenda and agenda packets are available online and can be accessed here:

<http://chambleecityga.iqm2.com/Citizens/default.aspx>

If you are not comfortable going in-person, the calendar to ALL meetings, both past and future (minutes are available), is also located online and can be found here:

<http://chambleecityga.iqm2.com/Citizens/calendar.aspx>

The City of Chamblee has a COVID info site, which can be found here:

<https://www.chambleega.com/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=COVID19-Resources-27>

and here:

<https://covid19-chamblee.hub.arcgis.com/>

Tired of your own cooking or simply just want someone else to cook for you? Chamblee has partnered with Discover DeKalb on this list of latest local dining arrangements:

<https://discoverdekalb.com/takeout-options-covid-19-update/>



The Signal, our local news publication, is online in English and in Spanish and can be found here:

<https://www.chambleega.com/305/The-Signal---City-Newsletter>

As we all work together to provide a safe environment for our families and neighbors, in particular all those who are at increased risk from COVID-19, listed

below is the Georgia Department of Health website which includes regular updates with valuable information for older adults, caregivers, and those at a higher rate of exposure to the virus:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/>

And finally, a one-stop shop resource for the following: health information; court and agency closings; school information; unemployment; mortgage help; emergency food help with a list of local food pantries in each zip code and other help like subsidized groceries; domestic violence resources and many more. The site is available in English and Spanish and help can be reached in an additional 12 languages:

<https://www.georgialegalaid.org/resource/covid-19-resource-list>





# Neighbor-to-Neighbor

*An Interview with Alvinia Coulombe*

*Tell us a little about yourself. How long have you lived in Huntley Hills?*

My job transfer occurred in 2004, and I rented on Montford until 2007 at which time I bought my home on Admiral Dr.



*What's your favorite part of our neighborhood?*

My favorites include the unique, non-cookie cutter homes and yards filled with various trees, flowers, and personal wonderfully unique characteristics. Ever so gradually the 'long lost front porch' statement appears.

*You've been sewing cloth masks for neighbors since the onset of the pandemic. What was your inspiration?*

The scientific/medical news was a dominating factor. I became concerned and agitated enough that I went on a spree of creating what I call 'band-aids' since the info included there were few masks available and naturally the first responders were the ones in primary need. The average citizen was secondary. Yet masks were needed by us in Huntley Hills. My daughter in St. Augustine suggested I make masks and sent me a European pattern. Basic information advised using breathable material. I had the inventory of basic supplies for various reasons. Letting folks know the washable masks were available was made easy by the Awesome Table and by Nextdoor. My son, who is also a resident of Huntley Hills, also reached out and delivered masks to folks who contacted me. Once the word got out, folks found the masks, took what they needed, and from the notes I've received, were thankful the masks were available. They were and are a usable 'band-aid' in this unknown-invisible enemy-no-end-in-sight scenario we are encountering.

*Have you always been a person who sews?*

Yes, I have been a seamstress taught at a young age by an awesome, talented German neighbor. In the late 1970s-1980s I did own a fabric store in Central New York, which went by the wayside when the Big Box Fabric Stores moved into the retail market, buying and selling patterns and fabrics at lower

prices than I was allowed to buy wholesale. Fabric to seamstresses is like tools to handymen, i.e., you always admire the fabric and buy what you love for a later use.

*What's been the response you've received from the community about your work?*

It's quietly appreciated and quietly respected. The notes have been very appreciative of the masks and I've had neighbors who have helped cutting the patterns and the ties. Interestingly, many masks use elastic but I did not have the necessary elastic, plus the pattern called for ties. As time went on there were news statements that the elastic was hurting the ears, damaging the skin, and that adjustments had to be made for the first responders. Ultimately, the ties I used could be adjusted to be like elastic if mask-wearers preferred.

*How many masks would you say you've made and donated to date?*

The initial announcement of washable masks being available at the Awesome Table was April 6. By that time I was cutting-prepping-creating about 8 masks a day every 6 days, so 48 masks a week. By the end of May an estimated 500 masks have been shared. I plan to continue the effort until my supplies are depleted.



*Do you have any advice for other neighbors who feel like they want to do some good in uncertain times, but aren't sure where to start?*

You have to follow your heart. Covid-19 is something I can't

fix, I can't control, I can't explain, I can't totally understand, but there is a need of something that I could create. A washable mask is just a temporary fix, but a need that is manageable by me. The advice was to stay sheltered, so I audioed 8+ fun books while gently guiding my machine along. The remains of thread go outside for the birds to use for nesting; fabric remains and machine dust fit in a disposable paper bag. Staying sheltered put too much of the focus on me. I had to divert that focus to others. Pay it forward. Get over the self-centeredness.



# CDDA 2020 Update

*Van Pappas, HH Neighbor*

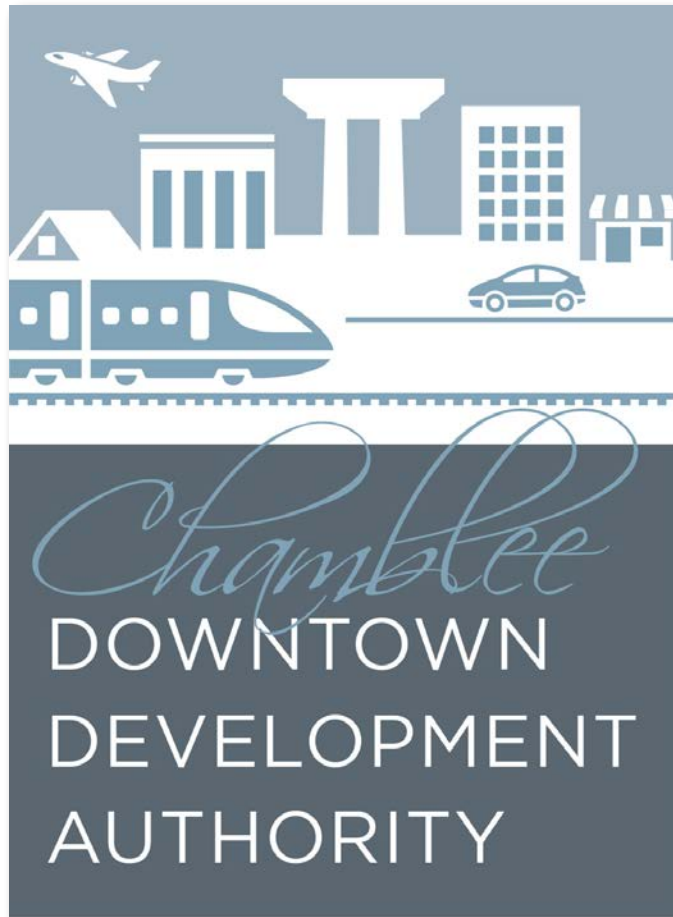
Over the last 8 years, Chamblee's downtown has been transforming. New developments, like the Whole Foods, Traskside and SLX have shown the rest of Atlanta, that Chamblee is not a sleepy little industrial town anymore. The Oliver's big red sign on the roof, announces with authority that we are CHAMBLEE. And even with the uncertainty of our economy in a Post-Covid environment the

Chamblee Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is pushing forward to continue the promotion of Chamblee.

When the city formed the Development Authority, the mission from City Council was to create a destination that could be considered a Town Center. A place we could call the center of town, or some would say "The Actual Center of the Universe". Going into 2020, the DDA is one step closer to that dream. After years of public meetings, Master Planning and multiple selections of developer partners, the Town Center is close to having shovels in the dirt. The first phase of this plan is to transform a 5 1/2 acre vacant piece of land on Broad Street. Partnering with development companies, Seven Oaks Company

and The Worthing Companies, this project will have a multi-story office building, apartments wrapped around a semi-public parking deck and lots of retail space along both Peachtree Rd and Broad St. There will also be an open-air market square on the Broad St. side of the development. The planning and implementing of the subsequent phases of the Town Center plan, are still being discussed.

While the town center plan is moving forward, the DDA will continue to promote economic activity for our downtown corridor. Over the years the Authority has used a triangle approach to growth; People – Retail – Office. We realized that to get the Retail that is wanted in our community, we had to have bodies in our downtown. This includes both daytime bodies from Office buildings and night bodies from residential developments. This three-prong plan will continue to be the backbone for our growth. Years ago, the DDA purchased multiple properties on American Industrial and Chamblee Dunwoody. Three of those properties are currently being negotiated for redevelopment, which will bring more new business to the Chamblee downtown.







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