



The Huntley Hills

HERALD

Fall 2024



The Official Newsletter of the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association

Fostering Community
Engagement, Beautification,
and Safety in the Vibrant
Chamblee Neighborhood of
Huntley Hills



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HUNTLEY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Editor's Note

Gibb Herron, HHNA Board Member, Newsletter Editor

It's been an exciting year in Huntley Hills! The Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association events in and around the neighborhood help make it an awesome place to live and it's all because we have such great neighbors to make it all happen. We've had donuts, pizza, ice cream, and yoga in the park, Happy Hours at some awesome Chamblee establishments, neighborhood beautification, and of course the annual neighborhood party!



This edition of the Huntley Hills Herald covers those great events and some of the other great things going on around Huntley Hills. I hope you find a new event or activity you would like to be a part of or learn something interesting in the articles and of course check out our awesome local business sponsors that make this newsletter possible for all of Huntley Hills.

My wife and I moved to Huntley Hills 10 years ago and now with our three children and one big puppy we can't imagine being anywhere else. Even with over 750 homes it feels like everyone knows each other and looks out for one another. We've made great friends and our kids get to have so much fun with all the great events in the neighborhood.

Reach out with any questions or suggestions to the HHNA Board of Directors to help us improve and find new ways to serve the neighborhood.

Here's to another great year in Huntley Hills!



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President's Corner

Laura Addison, HHNA Board Member, President

Hi neighbors!

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the summer season. As your President of the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association, I am thrilled to share with you the latest updates, upcoming events, and some important information that reflects our vibrant and growing community.

Summer Events and Community Engagement

Our neighborhood has truly come alive this summer with a range of exciting events. The recent Pizza and Ice Cream in the Park parties were tremendous successes, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of so many residents, it was wonderful to see our community come together and celebrate what makes Huntley Hills special.

The recent Street Party, held October 5th, was our largest annual event and we had a great time with over 250 neighbors, live music, magician, and a taco bar. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped make it a successful event! Looking ahead, we have more activities planned to keep our neighborhood vibrant. A fall Happy Hour is in the works, so stay tuned for more information.

Community Projects and Improvements

We have been hard at work on several community projects that aim to enhance the beauty and functionality of Huntley Hills. We should be next in line after Dresden Park for a playground remodel which promises to make the space even more vibrant and enjoyable for all ages. The city continues to make sure we know they're thinking about us by dropping off some nice picnic tables in the park and corner greenspace. Moreover, the beautification committee has been working hard planting flowers and succulents in the various gardens, green spaces, roundabouts, and other common areas within our community.

Get Involved

One of the most rewarding aspects of being part of Huntley Hills is the opportunity to contribute to our community. Whether you have a few hours to spare or are interested in taking on a more significant role, there are numerous ways to get involved. From joining a committee to helping with event planning or simply volunteering at one of our functions, your participation is invaluable. Also, if you know someone in the neighborhood who is not a member, please bring them to one of our upcoming events or ask them to visit HuntleyHills.net for more information.

Stay Connected

To stay up-to-date with the latest news and events, make sure to follow us on our social media pages and visit our website regularly. We also encourage you to sign up for our email newsletter to receive updates directly in your inbox.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. It is your enthusiasm and commitment that makes Huntley Hills a wonderful place to live. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and working together to make our neighborhood even better.

Warm regards,

Laura Addison

President, Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association





Neighborhood Nickels & Dimes

Marci Hooper-Smith, HHNA Board Member, Treasurer

Our Budget is divided into six categories:

Administratively, we started the 2023 year off with over \$6,000 in the bank, which was higher than usual, due to the fact that we were holding money donated in 2022 for the new street sign topers but didn't incur that expense until 2023. Other expenses were for basic operating costs. We collected \$2,113 in revenue in that category, mostly from the small donations members have been making when they pay their dues. Our members have been most generous and those little \$5, \$10 and \$20 "extras" added up to over \$1,600!

Beautification expenses were \$1,936, mostly for the cost of the dog waste bags that we pay for in the waste stations throughout the neighborhood. The rest covers flowers, planting materials and sometimes paid labor in our "common" areas if we don't have enough volunteers on Work Days. The Miscellaneous Donations noted above are mainly contributions toward the doggie bags and plantings in the park and traffic circles.

Membership revenue was \$7,346 with no expenses in 2023.

Neighborhood Connections had no expenses in 2023. This category covers the cost of materials for the Welcome Packets, but we had enough packets on-hand to deliver to all new residents.

Newsletter printing and postage costs were \$3,025 which was offset by \$3,650 in advertising revenue. Please remember to support our Advertisers because they do help us to cover these costs! The newsletter is sent to every household in Huntley Hills. That's about 750 homes.

Social events totaled almost \$6,500 with Sponsorship revenue of \$1,061. Sponsors and in-kind donations covered about 75% of the costs of our biggest event – the Fall Street Party.

So, bottom line....we paid all our expenses, funded lots of great neighborhood events and ended the year with just over \$7,000 in the bank for the start of 2024. Not bad for a small, volunteer neighborhood organization!

Our 2024 Budget projects about \$15,000 in expenses and around \$14,000 in revenue, with lots of bigger and better events to enjoy. There is something on our schedule for everyone – homeowners, renters, HHNA members or not. Our activities are for the entire community, so be sure to check out our social media postings and get on the email list so you don't miss out. And if you have some ideas for new events/activities, we'd love to hear from you!

Dues are still only \$25 a year/household if you want to be a member, and signing up on the website is easy and secure. Go to www.huntleyhills.net and select the membership tab.





HUNTLEY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2023 End of Year Financial Summary for 2024 Annual Meeting

Category	Sub-Category/Activity	2023 Budget	2023 Expenses	2023 Revenue	Balance
Bank Balance 1-1-2023		Expense/Revenue			\$6,611.29
Administration	State Corp. Registration	-\$40.00	-\$30.00		
	P.O. Box Rental/Postage	-\$175.00	-\$176.00		
	Bank Fees/Checks/Errors	-\$20.00	-\$183.27	\$183.27	
	Domain Renewal (06 '23)	-\$25.00	Credit on file		
	Website Design/Support	-\$50.00	-\$58.65		
	Office Supplies/Printing	-\$100.00	-\$23.95		
	Graduation Banner	-\$80.00	-\$31.50		
	HH T-Shirts - Revenue	\$350.00		\$250.65	
	Board Appreciation Dinner	-\$270.00	-\$365.97		
	Misc. Receipts/Donations	\$400.00		\$1,622.20	
	Street Signs Toppers	-\$1,500.00	-\$1,326.62		\$57.06
Beautification	Dog Waste Bags/Stations	-\$800.00	-\$1,115.82		
	Traffic Cir./Gardens-Plants	-\$1,250.00	-\$668.82		
	2022 Carryover expense		-\$231.03	\$80.00	
	Work Day Food/Drink	-\$150.00			
	Signs/Misc.	-\$100.00			
Membership	Dues/Event Guest Fees	\$7,000.00		\$7,345.94	
	Certificates/Swag/Stickers	-\$150.00			
Neighborhood Connection	Welcome Packets	-\$100.00			
Newsletter	Ad Revenue	\$3,500.00		\$3,650.00	
	Printing/Postage	-\$3,500.00	-\$3,024.72		
Social	Happy Hours	-\$1,000.00	-\$574.00		
	Chili Cookoff	-\$300.00	-\$388.59		
	Spring Fling	-\$500.00	-\$235.29		
	Annual Meeting	-\$300.00	-\$375.89		
	Breakfast for City PW Dept.	-\$275.00	-\$325.42		
	Donuts in the Park	-\$150.00	-\$223.42		
	Pizza in the Park	-\$500.00	-\$598.53		
	Neighborhood Night Out	-\$100.00	-\$479.67		
	Ice Cream Party	-\$600.00	-\$419.00		
	Street Party Expenses	-\$1,600.00	-\$1,646.96		
	Street Party Sponsors/Donors	\$1,400.00		\$1,061.00	
	Christmas Toy Drive	-\$100.00	-\$84.80		
	Yoga in the Park - 6 x \$50	-\$300.00	-\$300.00		
	Candidate Forum	(new)	-\$398.90		
	Live on Your Block	(new)	-\$72.44		
	Event Supplies Inventory	-\$300.00	-\$348.72		
	Budgeted Expenses	-\$14,335.00			
	Budgeted Revenue	\$12,650.00			
Actual EOY Totals			-\$13,707.98	\$14,250.12	

Ending Bank Balance as of 12-31-2023

\$7,153.42



The Latest from Huntley Hills Elementary

Amanda Hall, PTA President



New Cafeteria Mural by Pink Flor Design Co

Huntley Hills Elementary Levels Up

This year Huntley Hills Elementary is ready to Level Up! Our Principal Dr. Bradshaw, creates a school theme designed to motivate and encourage our faculty, staff, and students each year. After the busy summer that we have had, we are excited to Level Up this year!

are struggling, learn to read through the practical implementation of research from Orton-Gillingham, Science of Reading, and Structured Literacy. This in-person training took place over 5 days at Huntley Hills Elementary and equipped the teachers with the knowledge, resources, and support necessary for making an immediate impact in their classrooms.



Huntley Hill's Orton-Gillingham Trained Teachers

Orton-Gillingham is a highly sought-after program benefitting both teachers and families looking to provide their children with a program proven to build foundational and necessary reading skills. Our school is proud to now offer this reading support and instruction in all of our Pre-K through Second Grade classrooms!

IMSE Brings Multi-Sensory Approaches into the Modern Classroom:

imse.com/about-us/what-is-orton-gillingham/

Enhanced Reading Instruction

Our PTA utilized fundraising dollars this summer to send 14 Huntley Hills teachers to IMSE Orton-Gillingham+ training. To strengthen our cluster, we also extended an invitation to Ashford Park Elementary and Montgomery Elementary teachers whose Foundations and PTOs paid for their training. IMSE OG+ training is an effective multi-sensory teaching approach designed to help all students, not just those who

Cafeteria Makeover

Our cafeteria also prepared for a school year of Leveling Up with a fun and fresh new mural! Local muralist, Nicole Mallarino of Pink Flor Design Co., worked with our PTA this Spring to conceptualize and design a mural for our most-used community space, the school Cafeteria. Our PTA Board and school Principal dreamed of lightening the space with a base pallet of light blues and greens in a calming nature theme.

The background of rolling hills, blooming flowers, and a bubbling stream lends itself well to a 12 x 12 foot tiger face that welcomes our students with its sweet blue eyes and vibrant orange coat. This mural served as a fun and exciting backdrop to Open House and we look forward to proudly welcoming in families and guests for years to come at various annual events.

Muralist: Pink Flor Design Co: pinkflordesignco.squarespace.com

Support The Tiger Fund

The power to Level Up our educational instruction and the elementary experience for all students is only made possible by the combined efforts of all family and corporate donations throughout the year. This year our PTA rolled out The Tiger Fund, an annual giving drive designed to boost the availability of funds at the beginning of each school year. The Dekalb County Public School system often provides only the basic necessities for our school and it is up to our PTA to fill in gaps that make a difference to our students and faculty. We invite all community members to join us in supporting our students by contributing to The Tiger Fund. Please visit hhespta.square.site/thetigerfund for more information on making a tax-deductible donation through check, cash, or credit card.



HHES 2024 Run for the Hills Race Start

Run For The Hills

Right before Halloween each year, our community joins together to Run for The Hills. This annual 5K, one-mile fun run, and fall festival was a spooky good time! Complete with an array of foods representing various cultures, a magician, raffle prizes, student performances, and our beloved dunk tank, this year's event was not only fun but also a successful fundraiser. Mark your calendars for next year's event (Saturday, October 25, 2025) because this is one of the best ways that our neighbors can support Huntley Hills Elementary through participation, volunteering, and attending!

**Together we can Level Up
the Elementary experience
for every Huntley Hills
Elementary student!**

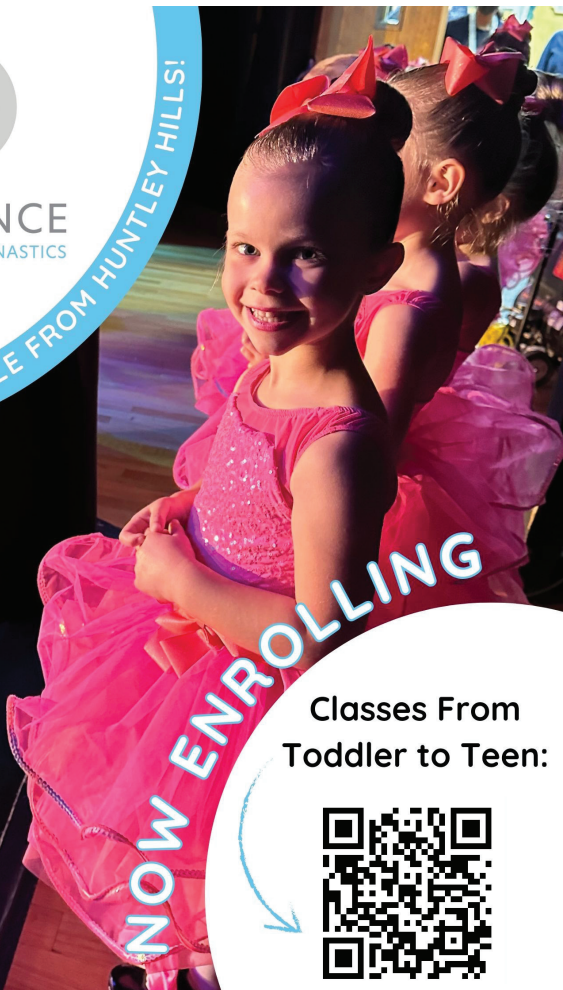


HHES Flagettes Perform at the 2024 Fall Festival



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COME ON IN, HUNTLEY HILLS!

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Why not stop and visit?

Whether you're laying down new roots or looking for ways to branch out, we'd love to meet you!

Chamblee First United Methodist Church is more than just a place to gather on Sundays. Here, you will find a community of friendly people, classes and activities for all ages, and a chance to dig deeper and explore the spiritual side of life.

Whether you have been a churchgoer forever or if this is your first time, Chamblee First UMC wants to make you feel welcome.

So don't just pass through. Stop. Come in. And give your neighborhood church a try!

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Montford Drive Greenspace

Greg Schwartz, HHNA Board Member, Webmaster

Maybe you have seen a short clip of news on a social media site or heard a passing comment from a neighbor about a potential new greenspace in Huntley Hills. Well, it's true, the City of Chamblee has taken some steps to create another, although relatively small, space for neighbors to enjoy the outdoors and your neighborhood association has all the details!



The space in Huntley Hills in question is the lot at 3848 Montford Drive. Due to stormwater issues, the city purchased the house and lot on May 2, 2024 for \$395,000 with the intention to create a dual-purpose greenspace and stormwater management facility. The lot is currently surrounded on all three sides by other residential houses and sits near the northern intersection of Montford Drive and Greenhill Drive.

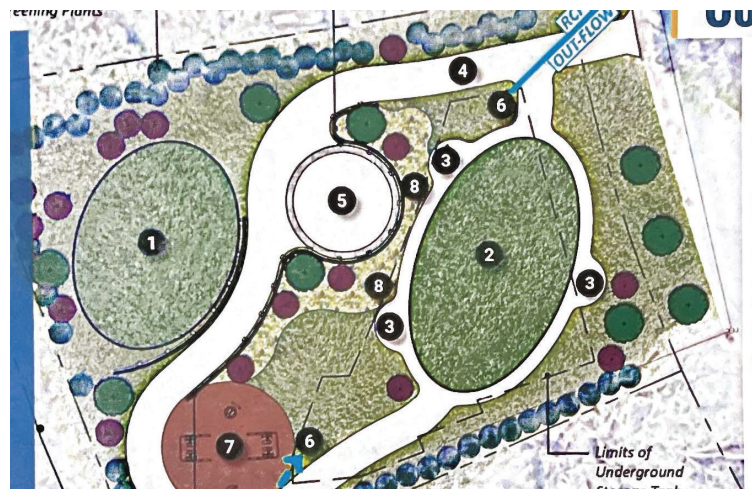
In anticipation of a Public Meeting, the City of Chamblee released a brief survey of residents through social media to collect residents' desires for that space. Then, on April 17-18, 2024, the house that was standing on the lot was demolished and cleared. The Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at Chamblee City Hall and provided some interesting insights into the project.

The first thing that attendees at the Public Meeting learned is that the design process for the greenspace would proceed into 2025 with input

from residents including live at the Public Meeting. Construction for the greenspace at that time was anticipated to begin in 2025 or 2026 with a goal for residents to be able to enjoy the greenspace sometime in 2026.

At the Public Meeting, two concepts for the greenspace were presented that include variations of play area (artificial turf), benches, concrete trails, concrete overlooks, surface inlets, outdoor fitness areas, educational signage, shade trees, ornamental trees, bio-filtration plants, natural stone retaining walls with guardrails, PIP surfacing (rubber pour-in-place playground surfacing), pollinator gardens and an underground storage tank for stormwater. The feedback at the meeting from residents included a preference for the second concept presented, pictured with this article, with feedback that natural turf might be preferred rather than artificial turf, that a connection to the other houses not in Huntley Hills on Chamdun Way might be nice addition and possibly that the outdoor gym space was unnecessary.

Since that Public Meeting, not a lot of information has been available to the public, but the lot has seen some limited lawn maintenance and the drain for stormwater has been cleared to alleviate a standing water issue. The neighborhood association will definitely remain plugged into any news about the greenspace moving forward.





Join the HHNA and support your neighborhood!

Carolyn Weber, HHNA Board Member, Membership

What does the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) do?

- We plan fun social events like Ice Cream Parties, the Spring Fling, Pizza Parties and Happy Hours
- We beautify the neighborhood by planting flowers in the park and maintaining the Butterfly Garden
- We provide Welcome Packets to all new neighbors to introduce them to all the great things about Huntley Hills and Chamblee
- We installed the doggie waste stations around the neighborhood and keep them stocked with bags
- We publish this amazing newsletter

Why should I join?

- Your dues of just \$25 a year help to support all of these great activities
- The more members we have, the more activities we can sponsor
- You will get a really cool HHNA magnet for your mailbox

Please support YOUR neighborhood association by either joining online at <https://huntleyhills.net/join/> or filling in the form below and mailing it in.

Membership is open to all residents - both owners and renters. Join today!



Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association

Application Form

Membership is \$25 per household per year

Name

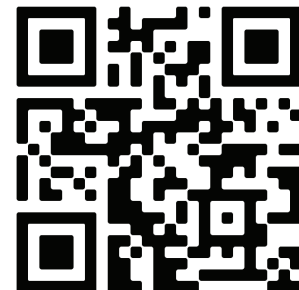
Name 2

Address

Email

Email 2

Date



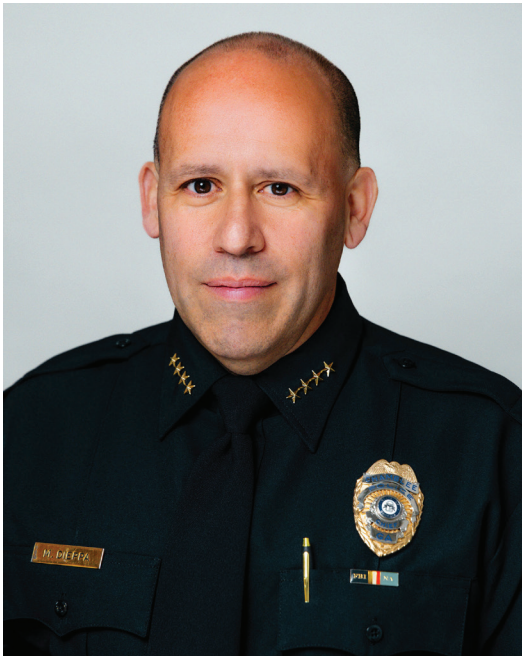
Make your check out to "HHNA" and mail to:

HHNA, P.O. Box 80141, Chamblee, GA 30366



Interview with Chief Dieppa

Yvonne Bubienko, HHNA Board Member, Community Relations



If you have lived in Chamblee for a while or are new to the community, one of the nicest things I can say that you will be able to count on is the accessible, personable and affable staff that makes up the City of Chamblee Government. With its newest addition Michael Dieppa, Chamblee Police Chief continues this reputation.

Originally of Miami, Chief Dieppa comes from a long line of service with his father, grandfather as well as now, his daughter working in Miami-Dade Police Department. He started his career in 1996 when his dad called him to tell him that the department was hiring. He took the job and never looked back. Continual promotions and personal drive to reach the next level led him to pursue his Bachelors, then Masters and ultimately PhD to be able to be effective at his current job and stand out for the next challenge. Pursuing PHD, working full time, graduating from the FBI National Academy and helping coach his kids' baseball and football teams becomes good training ground for any challenge that life throws your way and becoming a Chief was the next goal that he set for himself professionally. Talking to Chief Dieppa you get a quick sense of a person with a high drive and high self-expectation who wants to genuinely make an impact with everything he takes on while not

letting the title of the job define him and make him inaccessible. It took one quick email from me to have him carve out an hour of his time for the sole purpose of writing a quick bio that lets us get to know him better.

The Chamblee job opportunity was the right mix for Chief Dieppa. Atlanta being a large, diverse city felt somewhat familiar to him from his experience in Miami. Also, the East Coast location was preferred with family nearby. ATL Hartsfield is so often the unsung hero in the decision of being willing and able to move to Atlanta. As with any new position, he told me that the first few months of the job were filled with learning. His job, defined by him, is a relationship-based occupation. Immediately he took on learning about the new community for which he was now tasked to care for, new procedures and laws, and getting to know his staff. Fitting in is a crucial part of success for any of us, Chief of Police being no exception.

His way of creating a successful department was to be hands-on in the community, newly created Citizens Advisory Meeting which is the first of its kind for Chamblee. The last Wednesday of each month, Chief Dieppa and his staff host from 7PM to 8:30PM an open meeting where all citizens, business owners, those that live or work here in Chamblee are invited to come and voice their concerns, report an issue, asks questions or perhaps just get to know the staff. They can't fix things that they don't know about. If you come and inform them of an issue, including speeding on specific



roads, noise ordinance, cars parked illegally, and more, they promise to investigate and have a response back to you at the following month's meeting. Accountability is important and this job is relationships based. One of the main purposes of this meeting is to guide the mission of the Chamblee Police Department. If we only talk about it on Nextdoor, which we so often do, but don't let those that can fix it know that it's a problem it will leave all of us feeling frustrated. These meetings are the way to see changes are made.

If you have the time and interest another great way of getting to know what the Police Department does is to participate in the Citizen Police Academy. It allows you to learn the basic workings of the police department and, just like Chamblee 101 Class, a great opportunity to have a front row seat at the inner workings of something that we normally don't get to experience.

Lastly, I was curious in how the neighboring cities worked together. I was pleased to learn that on a monthly basis all of the city's police departments in Dekalb County meet not only for an exchange of information and concerns that they face as a whole, but they also learn about new changes to laws that effect how they govern and execute on those new changes.

Like many jobs in leadership role, you take on shouldering the existing responsibilities of the department. You work on getting to know and winning the trust of those that may not see you as a source of help. And you create ways of breaking the stereotypes by example. It's a job Chief Dieppa takes full on. Next time you see him, say hello, welcome him to Chamblee, he is the kind of a person who wants to leave it better than he found it.



I

Here are some additional Policing programs for the community:

Child Safety Seat Inspections:

www.chambleega.com/police_department/child_safety_seat_inspections.php

Crime Prevention:

www.chambleega.com/police_department/citizens_advisory_committee.php

House Check Program:

https://www.chambleega.com/police_department/house_check_program.php

The Citizen Police Academy:

<https://cms3.revize.com/revize/chamblee/departement/Communications/2023%20CPD%20Citizens%20Police%20Academy%20Application.pdf>

Trespass Affidavit Program:

https://www.chambleega.com/police_department/trespass_affidavit_program.php



Neighborhood Beautification

Carolyn Weber, HHNA Board Member, Membership

Huntley Hills is a beautiful neighborhood. So many neighbors have lovely yards filled with colorful flowers and plants. In addition, there are several common areas that are maintained by the HHNA. These include the Butterfly Garden, the three traffic circles and the area at the south end of the park. The board would like to thank all the residents who have donated your time on a Saturday morning to help with our beautification projects. With your help, we have spread mulch, planted flowers, pulled weeds, pruned bushes and tackled ivy growing on the fence.



Last year on Earth Day, neighborhood residents were joined by members of Keep Chamblee Beautiful to clean up the creek that runs through the park. We collected numerous bags of trash, as well as some tires and shopping carts! Volunteers also cut back privet and other invasive species that were growing along the creek bed.



Another way that we help to keep the neighborhood clean and beautiful is through the doggie waste stations.

They were purchased by the HHNA in 2015 and the HHNA continues to keep them stocked with bags – over 24,000 last year! They are located throughout the neighborhood, so hopefully there is one nearby when you need it. We appreciate all of our neighborhood dog-walkers who use them to help to keep our streets and sidewalks poop-free.

From volunteering on our work days, to using the doggie waste stations, everyone plays a part in helping to keep Huntley Hills beautiful. The results of your efforts are enjoyed by those who live here as well as those who drive and walk through our neighborhood. Keep up the good work!





Boosting Your Home's Value: Expert Tips

Laura Addison, HHNA Board Member, President

As a seasoned realtor, I've had the privilege of helping numerous homeowners maximize their property's potential. Whether you're planning to sell soon or simply want to enhance your home's appeal, there are several strategic improvements you can make to boost its value. Here are some tried-and-true tips to get you started:

Enhance Curb Appeal First impressions matter, and your home's exterior is the first thing potential buyers see. Simple landscaping upgrades, such as trimming bushes, planting flowers, and maintaining a lush lawn, can significantly enhance your home's curb appeal. Consider repainting the front door, updating the house numbers, and adding outdoor lighting to create an inviting entrance.

Update the Kitchen The kitchen is often considered the heart of the home, and modernizing this space can yield a high return on investment. Focus on updating appliances, countertops, and cabinetry. Even small changes like new hardware or a fresh coat of paint can make a big difference. Open shelving and a neutral color palette can also make the space feel more contemporary and welcoming.

Refresh Bathrooms Bathrooms are another key area where updates can pay off. Replacing outdated fixtures, re-grouting tile, and adding a new vanity can transform the space. Consider installing a new toilet, updating the shower or bath, and adding energy-efficient lighting. A clean, well-lit bathroom with modern amenities can greatly appeal to buyers.

Increase Living Space Adding square footage to your home can significantly boost its value. This could mean finishing the basement, converting an attic, or even building an addition. Open floor plans are particularly desirable, so consider removing non-structural walls to create a more flowing and spacious layout.

Energy Efficiency Upgrades Today's buyers are increasingly interested in energy-efficient homes. Consider investing in energy-efficient windows, adding insulation, and upgrading to a smart thermostat. Solar panels are another excellent investment that can attract eco-conscious buyers. Not only do these improvements reduce utility bills, but they also make your home more attractive on the market.

Modernize Flooring Flooring can set the tone for the entire home. Hardwood floors are highly desirable and can replace outdated carpeting or linoleum. If hardwood is out of budget, consider laminate or luxury vinyl planks that mimic the look of wood. Replacing worn-out carpets and ensuring all flooring is in good condition can make a significant impact.

Fresh Paint A fresh coat of paint is one of the most cost-effective ways to refresh your home. Choose neutral colors that can appeal to a wide range of tastes. Painting both the interior and exterior can give your home a clean, updated look that attracts buyers.

Smart Home Features Integrating smart home technology can set your property apart. Smart locks, security cameras, and automated lighting systems add convenience and appeal to tech-savvy buyers. These features not only enhance the home's functionality but also increase its market value.

Decluttering and Cleaning A clutter-free and clean home feels more spacious and inviting. Potential buyers need to be able to visualize themselves in the space, and a tidy home helps them do that. Go room by room, removing unnecessary items and organizing what's left. Deep cleaning every corner, from carpets to windows, makes a significant difference. A fresh, clean home can leave a lasting positive impression.

Regular Maintenance Finally, regular maintenance is key to preserving your home's value. Address small issues before they become big problems. This includes everything from fixing leaky faucets to maintaining the roof and HVAC system. A well-maintained home reassures buyers that the property has been cared for.

By following these tips, you can increase your home's value and make it more appealing to potential buyers. Whether you're planning to sell soon or just want to enjoy a more beautiful and functional home, these improvements can make a significant difference.

For more personalized advice and insights, feel free to contact me. I'm here to help you navigate the real estate market and make the most of your investment.

Happy home improving!

Laura Addison
Realtor



Embracing Local Beauty with Native Plants

Jonathan Branch, Huntley Hills resident

Take a stroll through Huntley Hills in the spring and summer and it's easy to notice some gardens in our neighborhood seem to be buzzing with life. Ever wondered why those butterflies seem to linger a little longer in your neighbor's yard? Or perhaps you've noticed a decline in the buzzing of bees around your flowers? Pardon the pun, but the secret might be rooted in the plants themselves. Specifically, native plants can help transform your yard into a thriving ecosystem and a dazzling display.

The Power of Going Native

At first glance, native plants might not seem all that different. But these plants have evolved alongside our local climate, insects, and wildlife. This harmonious relationship offers a multitude of advantages. The benefits are impressive: they're incredibly low-maintenance, requiring less water, fertilizer, and pesticides than many non-native varieties.

The real magic happens when the pollinators arrive. Gardens with native plants become hotspots for butterflies and bees. Native trees and shrubs provide essential food and shelter for birds, bringing a variety of wildlife right to our backyards. Native plants also can help prevent erosion, especially on slopes like the ones found in our neighborhood.

Thriving Native Additions

Looking to add some native plants to your garden? Here are some natives (and nativars) that we've incorporated into our yard here in Huntley Hills:

Agastache (or Hummingbird Mint), New England Aster, 'Honey Roasted' Baptisia, Bee Balm, Coneflowers, Coreopsis, 'Sunburst' St. John's Wort, 'Florida Sunshine' Anise, and the classic Oakleaf Hydrangea. Each one brings something special to the garden.

Finding Your Balance

This doesn't mean you need to overhaul your entire garden and go 100% native. Sourcing native plants can take a bit more effort than a quick trip to the big box store, and ultimately, no plant is completely maintenance-free. There are plenty of non-native options that can thrive here and provide you with the interest you're seeking. It's all about finding the right mix for your style and creating a garden that reflects your personal taste, but adding a few native plants can make a noticeable difference in your garden's ecosystem.

Want to Learn More?

The Georgia Native Plant Society and the University of Georgia's Extension website offer valuable resources on native plants.

While creating a pollinator paradise with native plants might take a little more effort and research, the rewards are worth it. You'll enjoy a beautiful, vibrant garden that not only catches the eye but also plays a vital role in supporting our local wildlife. So why not give it a try? You might just fall in love with native plants, and your yard could become the new butterfly hotspot of Huntley Hills!



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HHNA Bylaws Update

Marci Hooper-Smith, HHNA Board Member, Treasurer

As with any organization, a set of rules or guidelines helps to keep the group focused on their goals and how to achieve them. A dynamic organization should review those rules and guidelines periodically to ensure that they meet the needs of the members and that the structures and processes followed by the leaders are practical and functional in the current environment that they are operating in.

The original Bylaws were adopted in 1996, when the Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) was incorporated. For the most part, the key tenets of those Bylaws remain the same. Every property is eligible for membership, either through ownership or as a renter. Annual Dues were originally set at \$10 per property but were raised to \$25 several years ago. The Board of Directors still consists of nine members who serve alternating two-year terms of office - half to be elected each year at the Annual Meeting in Spring. Rules are specified for meetings, terms of office, vacancies, quorums, voting and duties of the Officers and Directors. Pretty standard stuff.



Minor changes were made to the Bylaws in 2001, 2002, 2011 and 2018 as we grew and adapted to changes in events, community interactions, availability of volunteers, funding for events, language clarification, Committee changes and technological advancements in communication (A biggie! Anyone remember Newsletter folding parties!!!).



In 2023, we challenged ourselves to conduct a thorough review of the Bylaws again. Several proposed revisions were approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting on March 20, 2024. Some of the significant changes included clarification of the fiscal year (Jan-Dec) and that members' dues are paid yearly, based on their

initial payment date. We also clarified the language for nominating and electing Board members and allowed vacancies to be filled by the Board of Directors until a vote by the members at the following Annual Meeting. A quorum for a called or special meeting of the membership was changed from 25% to 20% of the current membership.

The most significant changes were to the section on Officers, Directors and Committees. It has become important to elect Board members with specialized skills in communication, social media, marketing, website design, community interaction and finance to perform the duties of some of the positions on the Board. The Functions of the Board are now more clearly defined and current duties of the Board members are spelled out in a supplementary document that can be modified by the Board at any time.

To read the complete and updated Bylaws, go to our website at huntleyhills.net.





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Holiday Spirit Traditions

Greg Schwartz, HHNA Board Member,

Whatever it may be, baking from scratch cinnamon rolls for the family during the holiday break or volunteering at a local shelter with the kids each year, traditions are a staple of the holiday spirit. And, here in Huntley Hills, it's official, we've created a couple of holiday traditions that are here to stay and it's important we don't take them for granted!

Gifts for Families Experiencing Economic Difficulties

Each holiday season, Huntley Hills hosts a Toy Drive in the park to support the city of Chamblee's Cop-N-Stuff program and holiday spirit always pours out faster than the hot chocolate! Many families in the neighborhood bring a variety of toys. In 2023, neighbors braved the wet weather to fill up the toy bins. Many children walked over to the boxes to place the toys in themselves and grabbed a sweet treat of donuts, hot chocolate or a candy cane. There were even a few drive-by drop-offs with the assistance of umbrellas and a couple of pickups from homes that couldn't attend that day. Ultimately, we filled up two XL boxes, collected \$40 to purchase additional toys



and even secured a full-sized dollhouse. These donated items were then brought over to the Chamblee police station to support their program to provide families facing economic difficulties with the opportunity to "shop" from an array of toys donated and make sure their kids didn't miss out on the holiday spirit. This year, we're doing it again on November 30th so we hope you didn't miss it!

Making Sure our City Workers Feel Thanked

Chamblee's Public Works department of over 40 employees is responsible for programming and daily operations of Chamblee's public services and



infrastructure including roadways, walkways, traffic signals, stormwater network, municipal grounds and greenspaces, and residential solid waste, recycling and yard debris services. If that sounds like a lot, it's because it is and week after week they provide residents with convenient services like vacuum trucks, street sweepers and more. So, this past year, just like previous years, neighborhood volunteers showed our appreciation to this crew by providing a full spread of Chick-Fil-A biscuits and hashbrowns, fruit, donuts, juice and coffee for a breakfast right before the holiday break. The reviews are in and they loved the treat again this year!



It's important to note that these charitable events would not be successful without the generosity of all our neighbors who donate their time, money and spirit to make them successful. So, a big THANK YOU to those who have been involved.





The Shadiest Shade Tree in Town

Gibb Herron, HHNA Board Member, Newsletter

I started working on my first motorcycle almost 20 years ago, then I started maintaining my car, then my wife's, my in-laws, my parents, friends, co-workers, neighbors and now I have to rely on my wife to schedule appointments to keep things manageable. Since moving to Huntley Hills 10 years ago I've done the 1-car carport shuffle to keep the shade in my shade tree mechanic hobby, but recently we renovated and I'm spoiled with a garage! No more rain, plenty of light, and best of all I can leave a job half-done without cleaning up to give my wife her parking spot back. With that I've been able to tackle more and bigger jobs, but I've found that the most common thing friends and family need is a better understanding of preventative maintenance.

Over the years I have developed a regimen I recommend for anyone that hasn't given it much thought. Full disclosure, I'm not a mechanic, but I'll take a look! Your owner's manual or a quick search can give you more specific information on maintenance intervals but remember - more frequent is better especially for oil changes! This has served me well for typical gas cars and light trucks, diesel and electric are another animal.



- Oil and filter every 3k to 8k miles
- Engine air cleaner (filter) every 30k to 60k miles
- Cabin filter every 15k-30k miles
- Brake pads 30k to 60k miles and rotors every other brake job (drum brakes can last a long time if you have discs up front, good to check at least every 30k miles)
- Brake bleed every 30k-50k miles or 3 years
- Wiper fluid every time you open the hood
- Wiper blades every 12-18 months
- Check exterior lights

- Suspension (shocks, control arms, sway bars) 150k-200k miles
- Drains - every month especially in the fall if your car lives outdoors (some cars have drains that need to be cleaned out)
- Battery 3-5 years
- Coolant 3-5 years or 60k miles
- Power steering fluid every 3-5 years (lots of cars have electric power steering and no fluid change required)
- Tire rotation - every 8k-11k miles
- Alignment after new tires or if your car pulls left/right when driving
- Spare tire pressure - check every 6-months
- Tune up at 100k-125k miles (spark plugs, check brakes and suspension, water pump, serpentine belt, timing belt, water pump, idler and tensioner pulleys, oil & filter, transmission fluid, differential fluid)
- Transmission service (fluid and filter if serviceable) is a highly debated topic. If you keep up with it you can drain and fill every other oil change and never worry about it. If it's been a while (60,000+ miles) you might want to do a triple drain and fill to completely flush the fluid.



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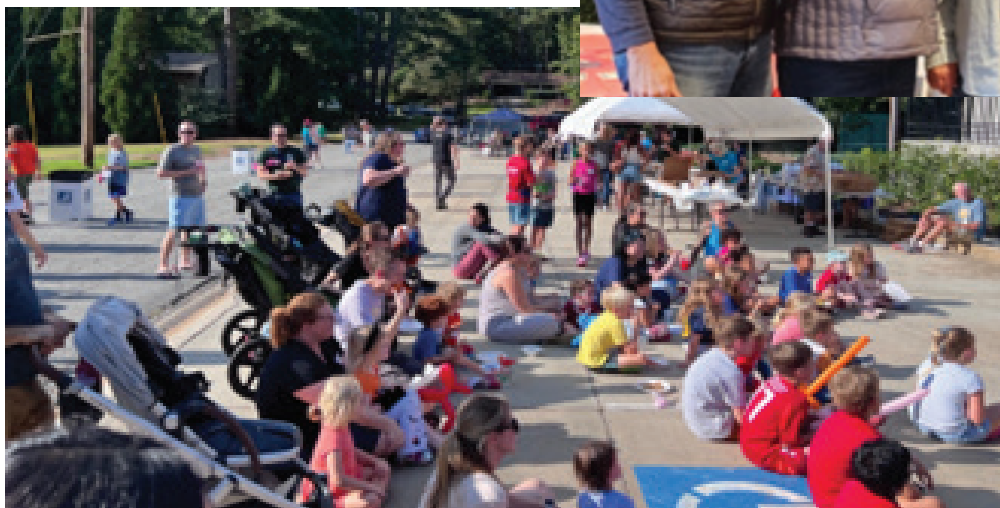
HHNA Social Update

Stevenson Rosslow, HHNA Board Member, Social

The word Social embodies the purpose of our Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association. Everything we do is in an effort to help our neighborhood stay Social and engaged. Through monthly tailored events: Chili Cook Off, Yoga in the Park, Spring Fling, Street Party, Ice Cream in the Park, Pizza Party and our Monthly Happy Hours. Please join us whenever you can. We love seeing you all. Here are a few pictures from this year's events.



Spring Fling, June Contrast Artisan Ales Happy Hour, Marci and Greg Served All the Pizza, Chili Cook-off Winners, Enjoying the Magic Show at the Street Party



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As a proud Huntley Hills homeowner, I am personally invested in our neighborhood. I care about making our neighborhood a great place to live and own a home. I also care about maintaining and increasing home values so you can make the most of your investment.

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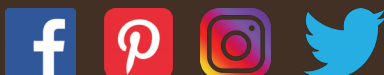


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