

The



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Herald



The Official Newsletter of the HUNTLEY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, Inc.

May 2011

Letter from the President

A Time of Transition

At our annual meeting on March 27th, you voted for a new set of Board members. Some will stay, while others are off to new things. We should all be grateful for their many years of service to the community!

A big thanks to the following people:

- Heather Dyke – Ran membership for the past several years, including help with our database and tracking
- Lori Thompson – Managed our finances for many years, transitioned us to Quickbooks and also edited our newsletter recently
- Leslie Freymann – Developed successful traffic calming measures and continues to help in many areas, including the start of the Yahoo email list.
- Rob Swingle – Helped develop Facebook group for HHNA and planned fall NNO

Many of them were also a big help in our neighborhood's annexation into the City of Chamblee.

Lastly, thanks to Adam Stine, the outgoing President of your HHNA. I live a few houses down from Adam and he welcomed me as I moved into my house. Since I have known him, he has been the President of the HHNA and involved for his nearly 19 years in the neighborhood. He helped develop our Huntley Hills sign toppers, networked with other community groups in north Atlanta, networked with DeKalb County officials, and helped to start our now regular block parties and what will be this year's fourth annual neighborhood block party.

As some of you may know, Adam was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease or Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a progressive and neurodegenerative disease. Adam and his wife Stephanie are having their home redone to help. As they plan, we will send out more information of ways in which you can help. Although Adam has relinquished his position as president of the HHNA, he is still on the board – thank goodness – as he is so knowledgeable about the association and neighborhood.

Thanks also to the newly elected Board members – Carolyn Weber, Matt Dolan, Patricia Brower, Allison Metheny and Adam Stine, and the remaining board members – James Kingman, Charlie Rudd and Tom Scott. We hope to continue the legacy of Adam and others that helps to make Huntley Hills a great place!

Kevin Shannon, HHNA President

Traffic Calming Update!

We are still waiting for our bike lanes, striping lines, 4-way stop signs, traffic island and traffic circles. Our optimistic hope is that the project will be completed in the next 6 months. Several members of the HHNA Board are in active communications with all forms of DeKalb County government, in hopes to get our project fully completed ASAP. We have been assured that those in the affected areas will not be assessed the \$25/year maintenance fee until the final project is complete.

Neighborhood Watch Report:

What a dramatic difference being a part of the City of Chamblee has made for our neighborhood and its improved safety. Chamblee's Animal Control Department has brought the menacing loose dog problem we faced for ages to a screeching halt. The frequent police patrols have reduced crime in our neighborhood significantly. Unfortunately, Friday night, April 15th, at least six cars parked on the street, in driveways, or under carports were broken into. At least three of those vehicles had not been locked. Lesson: Don't leave valuables in your car and be sure to lock it at all times. Persons who enjoy walking or running can return to our streets with an increased sense of security. We still have work to do to enhance the security in our neighborhood.

Although DeKalb County poured miles of sidewalks throughout the County, often where nobody walks, not an inch of sidewalk was poured in Huntley Hills. Although a few sidewalks do exist, we need them throughout our neighborhood. Keep in mind, no student within one mile of Huntley Hills Elementary receives school bus service. They have to walk to school in the street or be transported by their parents. I brought the sidewalk need before the City Council Work Session Thursday evening, April 14, 2011. Although the City is open to the need, funds are simply not available. We could use the help of residents familiar with grants to help find money for the neighborhood or the City so we can begin building badly needed sidewalks. If you want to help with this project, send me an e-mail.

Our neighborhood is broken down into 58 Neighborhood Watch sections. We currently have 42 Block Captains and need 16 more volunteers to complete the Block Captain Network. These are where we need volunteers: Forrestal Drive (3952-4056 Adam Stine is stepping down), North Peachtree (3952-4028) Admiral (3873-3906, 3909-3943, 3961-4003), Captain (3826-3880), Carlton Drive (3841-3898), Commodore Drive (4090-4112, 4172-4238), Commodore Court (1990-1999), Ensign Drive (3808-3868), Greenhill (3771-3813), Longview Drive (3962-4024), Plantation Lane (1946-2018, 2114-2148), and Seaman Circle (2049-2103).

A Block Captain's responsibility is to coordinate communications among the homes in his/her section. Please e-mail me for further details.

Tom Scott, tomscott@mindspring.com

<p>Spring Neighborhood Night Out – Sat. May 14th 7-8 PM</p> <p>We encourage neighbors to get out of the house and socialize with their neighbors – just meet in the street to chat, or have a picnic/cookout. Talk to your block captain.</p>	<p>Fall Neighbor Night Out Block Party</p> <p>There will be a neighborhood wide party in the fall. Last year's party will be hard to beat so we will need lots of great ideas and volunteers!! Details coming in August.</p>
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Interesting Tidbits:

- The neighborhood is looking better than ever – quite possibly due to City of Chamblee CODE ENFORCEMENT!! They have issued over 200 warnings - in Huntley Hills - for high grass and outdoor clutter/debris since January 1st!
- Looking for a plumber? Roofer? Pet sitter? Check out the Huntley Hills Services Blog – set up by some our very talented neighbors (Melissa Neubauer and Leslie Freymann). They compiled neighbor recommendations and then the rest is history! <http://huntleyhillsneighborhood.blogspot.com>
- Don't forget to check out the Chamblee Farmers Market, now open on Saturdays from 8:30-11:30 AM, www.chambleefarmersmarket.com
- Recycling: Lowes will take back the plastic plant trays, pots and plant tags. There is a place for them inside the garden center.
- Doggie Poop Patrol. It seems more people are carrying bags these days. THANK YOU! Ever head out for a walk and realize you forgot to get a bag? Try getting in the habit of tying a bag (or 2) to the leash after your walk so it is there the next time you head out.
- Very invasive, non-native plants that are everywhere in our neighborhood: English Ivy, Chinese privet, autumn olive (elaegnus umbellate), Chinese wisteria, lirioppe (monkey grass), Japanese honeysuckle (oh but it smells so, so good!), multiflora rose.
- There is a lot of poison ivy this year, be careful where your dog walks as s/he might pass along the poison ivy to YOU!

High Water Pressure Can be Expensive

I recently had a water heater spring a leak a couple of years earlier than expected, and then a couple of days later a faucet connector blew out (fortunately in the basement). That sent up an alert to run a simple test that showed that my pressure regulator had failed and I was getting 115 lbs of pressure to the house fixtures instead of the 50 to 60 the manufactures recommend. The test only takes minutes and is done on an exterior faucet. I will be happy to do this for any of our neighbors and this is a freebie.

The pressure regulator is a dome shaped device on you inlet line usually located near where the supply line enters the house and just after the main water cutoff. Don't be surprised if you have never noticed it as it's one of those things that just quietly does its job for years unattended.

There are a couple of telltale signs - you may notice that water comes out faster for a split second, or that a toilet is hissing for example. For a test call me at 770-452-8119 to set convenient time. No charge of course.

-Charles Rudd

HUNTLEY HILLS SWIM & TENNIS CLUB

Are you ready for summer?!? If you are not already a member of our neighborhood swim and tennis club, we hope you'll consider this the year you decide to join!



It's a terrific way to meet your neighbors and feel connected to your community. We have cookouts every Friday night, big parties on all the holidays and lots of fun in the sun all summer long. We have a limited number of memberships left this year – please join before it's too late! Our 2011 membership prices are as follows:

Single: \$350
Couple: \$400
Family: \$500

New memberships also require a one-time \$400 initiation fee (waived for Seniors). For more information and to join, please visit us online at: www.hhstc.com.

Huntley Hills Email Yahoo Group

If you are not getting emails from the Huntley Hills Yahoo group, you are missing out on lots and lots of information. At some point we will probably not send out a paper newsletter because most information is disseminated on a real time basis now via email. When the group first started there were some issues with people responding to “all” versus the email sender, but everyone has become more email savvy now and it is no longer a problem. Also, the Subject line in most of the emails is very informative, such as: lost dog, dresser for sale, need a plumber,

It is so nice to have such a great communication avenue – to ask for repair/service recommendations, post info about lost and found pets, advertise yard sales, garden club meetings, fundraisers, neighborhood parties, and on and on. The email is also used to immediately report any suspicious vehicles in the neighborhood and/or share any other crime related information.

The easiest way to join the group is to send an email to: huntleyhills@gmail.com and say that you would like to be auto added to the group. You can also visit the group online to join: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HuntleyHills>

To send emails to the group, you can: Use reply all button in your email program, click on the “reply to group” button at the bottom of every email, or send an email to HuntleyHills@yahogroups.com (which you can also add to your address book).

Gardening with Kay

The weather has been delightful and the rains most welcome. Let's hope they continue. We could use a nice cool summer (not hot and humid!).



It's time to plant. Be sure to consider native perennials in your garden... low maintenance, good for wildlife, etc. Some good ones are purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, milkweeds (the host plant for monarchs), trumpet vine, sensitive fern (I have some to share), buckeyes, oakleaf hydrangeas, columbine, mountain mint (one of the best pollinators around – I have plenty to share), Southern wax myrtle (The BEST for birds – and it's evergreen and smells good), viburnums, red cedar, Florida anise, and Florida leucothoe, asters, stokes' aster, spiderwort, cardinal flower and sundrops. Other than natives, I love salvia guaranitica – a purple, 2-3' tall salvia that is one of best perennials and blooms all summer – one of the best plants for hummingbirds! Miss Huff Lantana is great for butterflies and hummers. Until next time – Good Gardening! -Kay

[Kay Packard has given us great advice over the years, and it never gets old, so since she wasn't able to write something new for us at this time, she approved us reprinting a pertinent article from a previous issue. Native plants are sometimes hard to find at the big box stores and they are so important to our eco-system. Plant sales are a great source – such as the Dunwoody Nature Center (DNC), the Georgia Native Plant Society (GNPS), Georgia Perennial Plant Association (GPPA), and many other plant organizations. You can find lists of natives at the GNPS website. Most plant sales are finished now – Fall will be the next best time to find some great Native plants!]

City of Chamblee Recycling!

Even though the newly annexed section still has DeKalb County recycling, all city residents can take advantage of the City's Electronic Recycling. The following items can be recycled at Chamblee Public Works at 3210 Cumberland Dr. They are open Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. from 8am until 6:30pm and the 3rd Sat. of each month from 8am – 12pm. For info, call 770-986-5019. They accept: computers, monitors, laptops, batteries, keyboards, cables, printers, mice, small appliances, CD/DVD players, cell phones, pagers, lawn equipment, power tools, hard drives (they do not erase nor are they responsible for any confidential information that is left on your hard drive.)

Useful Web Sites

Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association
www.HuntleyHills.net

Huntley Hills Swim and Tennis Club
www.HHSTC.com

Huntley Hills Neighborhood Services Blog
<http://huntleyhillsneighborhood.blogspot.com>

City of Chamblee
www.ChambleeGa.com
Chamblee Arts Alliance
www.ChambleeArts.org

Community Groups
Ashford Alliance – www.ashfordalliance.com

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[for a phone contact try Charlie Rudd at 770-452-8119. Being retired he has the time to answer questions.]

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