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JULY 2003

#### SUPPORT THE TOCO HILL COMMON

Our latest rallying cry is to ask your support for our dream of the Toco Hill Common. On Sunday, July 13, we had a very successful rally with a lot of people from many different areas supporting our proposal to take the Arnold property (where all the trees are and where the big house used to be) at Toco Hill and make it into a park. We also had strong support from CEO Vernon Jones, Chairman of the DeKalb County Commission, who attended. We have put together a coalition of groups, mainly homeowner associations, who are very excited about saving these wonderful trees. The heirs of the late Harry Arnold have a proposal before the county to rezone the property (it is now residential) to commercial for a bank. The Planning Commission last week asked for a 60-day deferral, but the Board of Commissioners makes their own decision on Tuesday, July 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Maloof Auditorium in Decatur. We need a big presence there to show that our community wants this greenspace saved. Gather your neighbors and friends, and carpool and join us as we make a strong statement at this meeting. Park in the county deck across the street. Visit our MHHA web site for conceptual and other pictures of the "common."

#### NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHTOUT TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Every year we try to participate in the National Neighborhood Nightout program. This year we will celebrate at eight locations (we have added Weatherstone) and urge you to turn on your porch light, lock your doors, bring your chairs, come sit a spell, and talk about neighborhood safety. There will be bottled water, drinks and snacks. This event is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and to help each other with safety problems. The locations for the tables are within each Section and Section Representatives will host. Block Captains will be available also. The locations are Section 1, 1285 Merry Lane; Section 2, 1342 Merry Lane; Section 3, 1318 Christmas Lane; Section 4, 1385 Christmas Lane; Section 5, 1733 N. Holly Lane; Section 6, 1324 Holly Lane; Section 7 - driveway to Gatchell home, 1458 Holly Lane; Section 8 - Gazebo, Weatherstone Townhomes. We will ask the police to visit all the locations and answer questions. For more information, contact Rosa Landers or Sarah Duwell ([neighborhoodwatch@merryhills.com](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@merryhills.com)).

#### MILANI MANSION

In June, Fred Milani, builder of the half-scale White House on Briarcliff Road and many other mansions in the county, bought the house at 1279 Christmas Lane, tore the home down and removed most of the big trees. He plans to build a 5500 square-foot mansion with a four-car garage at the price of \$949,000. Nearby, there are other homes under construction at 1253 Arborvista Drive and 1669 Adelia Place, although not quite as large as the one here.

#### ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Board has approved our annual Block Party on Pine Tree Circle — a big get-together for our neighborhood. The rain date is September 21. Traci Lanford has volunteered to organize the event, and she will need a lot of help. Please send a message to [section4rep@merryhills.com](mailto:section4rep@merryhills.com) to offer your services.

— From Your Team: Linda, Val, Sally and Pat

## GATCHELL HOME

Since 1960, the Gatchell Home (1458 Holly Lane) has been home to children and adults with severe neuromuscular or developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries. While some Jewish volunteers help the Home's Jewish residents, "Gatchell officials say they would like more involvement from the Jewish community." Currently, "the private, nonprofit residence has a capacity of 17, with a staff nurse available round-the-clock and one certified nursing assistant for every four residents." Merry Hills volunteers are: Ada Szczupak; Sally Rosenberg; Rachel, Chavi and Shiri Stein; Aaron Hartman; and Rabbi Shlomo Berkowitz and family. For more information or to volunteer, call 404-636-1033 or visit [www.gatchell.com](http://www.gatchell.com). (From *Atlanta Jewish Times*, May 16, 2003)

## NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

To assist with our resident's safety and particularly the safety of our neighborhood children, we hope you find that the following paraphrased DeKalb county codes clarify questions from the May 14 General Meeting.

- **Door-to-door solicitation:** When initially contacting a prospective customer, a person must verbally identify himself for the purpose of the solicitation, and the company and product line represented.
- **Permit:** Any person selling, soliciting, canvassing, survey-making, etc., shall obtain a solicitor's permit from the public safety department, whether the purpose is religious, charitable, nonprofit or profit-making organization.
- **Parking Opposite Vehicles:** When parking any vehicle on a street you must leave at least ten (10) feet of the width of the roadway for free movement of vehicular traffic.
- **Playing in the Street:** After having been directed to clear a public right-of-way by a police officer or other authorized law enforcement officer, do not congregate on a public right-of-way impeding the flow of vehicle or pedestrian traffic.
- **Using Sidewalks:** Where a sidewalk is provided, it is unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.
- **Skates, Skateboards, Scooters in Road:** No person upon roller skates, or riding in or by means of any coasters, toy vehicles or similar devices, shall go upon any roadway ... and shall not interfere with the natural progress of automobiles.

## ZONING NEWS

The Intown Community Church finally received approval for their Phase 1 and 2 building programs. They have lowered the height of the Education Building and the Sanctuary to the county-required 35-foot height for residential neighborhoods. There are several other conditions, but specific to our neighborhood is that there will be no construction parking on Merry or Christmas Lanes. The church will tear down houses 4 and 5 (they own a total of five starting at Lavista) and build a construction entrance into Houston Mill Road some time soon. There will be some tree removal.

The rezoning of the northwest corner of North Druid Hills and Briarcliff Roads for Walgreens and convenience store was approved. The St. Matthew Lutheran Church will be torn down and some trees removed.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Listed below are the crimes occurring since the last newsletter:

- A burglar broke in on a Sunday morning at a home on North Druid Hills and took several electronic items,
- Four ladders have been stolen on Merry Lane,
- One car, hit and run, sideswiped twice in the middle of two separate nights on Merry Lane,
- In a maroon sedan, an African-American male followed a woman walking her dog on Christmas Lane. When he made a move toward her twice, she fled to a neighbor's house for safety. The next day the same car followed a teenage girl walking home from school. She also fled to a neighbor's house. The police have followed up with frequent patrols, and other associations were notified of the stalker.

For your interest ... visit [merryhills.com](http://merryhills.com) for a helpful article entitled, "How to Spot a Dangerous Tree," authored by Merry Hills' resident and arborist, Peter Jenkins.

**NEWS OF INTEREST**

- **New Directory:** We will print a new directory this year because we have many new members. Only members will be included. If you want to be listed, you must join by the end of July, which will be our cut-off date. Membership blanks are available at our web site, or at the bottom of page 3 of this newsletter. Everyone is welcome to join.
- **Volunteers:** We thank all of you who filled out the surveys. We are following up on your comments and calling those of you who volunteered. If you have skills to volunteer, let us know.
- **Erin & Mike Forestner** moved to St. Louis where Mike has taken a new job. He is the Past President of MHHA.
- **Rabbi Reuven Stein** is the director of supervision for the Atlanta Kashruth Commission. He writes a monthly column in *The Jewish Georgian* titled "Kosher Korner".
- **DeKalb elected officials** receive a lot of e-mail. For best success in communicating with the m, put one sentence at the top of your e-mail saying what you want. Follow this by any explanation that is needed. List only one topic per e-mail. Our web site has many e-mail addresses of elected officials and county contacts.
- **The Vogt Riding Academy**, 1084 Houston Mill Road, has free compost – raw horse manure. Bring your own shovel, bucket and bag. Vogt offers riding lessons to age eight through adult, Monday through Friday and Saturday. Telephone 404-321-9506 for more information.
- **We have a wonderful neighborhood pool** on Kittredge Park Road --turn left at the light on N. Druid Hills. The pool is open from 12 PM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Fees are \$3 /adult, \$2 youth and seniors, free for age three and younger. Family nights are Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. with reduced fees. There are swim teams, water aerobics and swim lessons. Call 404-679-5925 or visit the DeKalb county web site, [www.co.DeKalb.ga.us/DeKalbfun/info/pools.htm](http://www.co.DeKalb.ga.us/DeKalbfun/info/pools.htm).

**NEW MHHA MEMBERS**

*Welcome to all new members!*

Rena & Arnold Kanarek, Reindeer Drive  
 Devorah & David Kapenstein, Holly Lane  
 Marcia & Martin Karon, Holly Lane  
 Aviva & Edwin Cooper, N. Holly Lane  
 Carol & Claude Recca, Christmas Lane  
 Debra Frank, Holly Lane  
 Susan DeHaye & Ty Alvarez, Merry Lane  
 Liat & Brent Lasker, Christmas Lane

**NEW NEIGHBOR - WEATHERSTONE**

David Markowitz, Wembley Court

**BABIES**

Kari & Mark Bencuya, Holly Lane, a girl, Ingrid  
 Stephanie & Sean Boswell, N. Holly Lane, twins sons,  
 Jackson & Walker  
 Rivka & Barry Eidex, Holly, a son, Ephraim  
 Menucha & Shimon Feigenbaum, N. Holly Lane, a son  
 Dawn & Bill Bell, Christmas Lane, a girl, Caroline

**MHHA MEMBERS - WEATHERSTONE**

Brigette & Michael Ulin, Wembley Court  
 Everett Lunsford, Wembley Court  
 Janice Craig, Wembley Court

**NEW PROPERTY OWNERS**

2066 Lavista Road, Agio Corporation, 1195 Briarcliff Place  
 Atlanta, GA 30306  
 1279 Christmas Lane, Fred Milani, 3677 Briarcliff Road,  
 Atlanta, GA 30345

**MHHA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Homeowners and residents in the Merry Hills neighborhood are encouraged to join the Merry Hills Homeowners Association. Dues are \$20 annually for new members and renewing members (or more, if you choose to make a greater donation). Membership is renewed annually in January. Complete this form, make your check payable to the Merry Hills Homeowners Association, Inc. and mail your check with this form to: Treasurer, Pat Jenkins, 1284 Merry Lane NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

<b>New Member (Y/N):</b>		<b>Renewing Member:</b>		<b>Owner:</b>		<b>Renter:</b>		
<b>Name(s):</b>								
<b>Street address:</b>				<b>City:</b>			<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Home phone:</b>			<b>Office phone:</b>					
<b>List me in the membership directory, which prints names, street addresses and home phone numbers of members (does not list e-mail addresses): (Yes/No)</b>								
<b>List my name in the membership directory: Exactly as above, or as follows:</b>								

MERRY HILLS HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

**SECTION REPRESENTATIVES**

Your section representative is your neighborhood contact for any comments or problems.

Section # 1: 1252-1330 Merry Lane, 1235 Christmas Ln., 2002-2066 LaVista Road & 2178 LaVista Rd  
Representative: Steve Bighouse  
section1rep@merryhills.com

Section # 2: 1331-1413 Merry Lane, 2771-2801 North Druid Hills Road  
Representative: Tom Ingram  
section2rep@merryhills.com

Section # 3: 1246-1341 Christmas Lane, 1724 and 1725 Pine Tree Circle  
Representative: Arlene Gross  
section3rep@merryhills.com

Section # 4: 1348-1448 Christmas Lane  
Representative: Traci Lanford  
section4rep@merryhills.com

Section # 5: 1722-1755 Reindeer Drive, 1708-1798 Holly Lane  
Representative: Shirley Brickman  
section5rep@merryhills.com

Section # 6: 1260-1402 Holly Lane  
Representative: Harriet Koonin  
section6rep@merryhills.com

Section # 7: 1406-1519 Holly Lane, 2487-2515 North Druid Hills Road  
Representative: Flo Wolf  
section7rep@merryhills.com

Section # 8: Weatherstone Townhomes  
Representative: Rod Gary  
section8rep@merryhills.com

Have an item for the MHHA Newsletter? E-mail to newsletter@merryhills.com by October 1.

**MORE NEWS OF INTEREST**

- Please do not put bread out for the birds. The crows are making it their main meal and dropping it in birdbaths. Let's not encourage them.
- The tick infestation is the worst we have seen in years because of all the rain. Please remember to check your pets and yourself after coming in from outdoors.

**OFFICERS**

President: Linda Billingsley  
president@merryhills.com

Vice President: Val Schlorff  
vicepresident@merryhills.com

Secretary: Sally Rosenberg  
secretary@merryhills.com

Treasurer: Pat Jenkins  
treasurer@merryhills.com



**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Zoning: Margarete Tigges  
zoning@merryhills.com

Neighborhood Watch: Rosa Landers  
neighborhoodwatch@merryhills.com

NW Assistant: Sarah Duwell  
neighborhoodwatch@merryhills.com

E-mail Administrator: Steve Jenkins  
mailinglist@merryhills.com

Newsletter: Lauri Trainor  
newsletter@merryhills.com

Webmaster: Flo Wolf  
webmaster@merryhills.com

Flagman: Larry Gilger  
flagman@merryhills.com

**GARBAGE AND YARDWASTE SCHEDULE**

Labor Day - Monday, September 1, Garbage pick-up will be Wed.-Fri. No change in yardwaste pick-up.

**MORE NEWS OF INTEREST**

- A young wild turkey was spotted at the home of Patty and Peter Jenkins on Merry Lane.
- State Farm Auto insurance has listed the intersection of Briarcliff and North Druid Hills Roads as number five on the list of Georgia's most dangerous intersections.