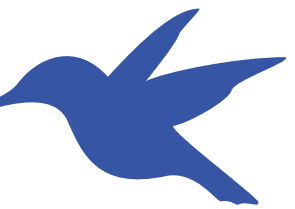


# North Briarcliff Civic Association



The Official Newsletter of the  
North Briarcliff Civic Association

January-March 2023

To Contact the NBCA  
Email [Info@northbriarcliff.org](mailto:Info@northbriarcliff.org)

## NBCA Board Members 2023

Andrew Heaton, President...[president@northbriarcliff.org](mailto:president@northbriarcliff.org) • 251-605-3743

Art Hansen, Vice President and Editor

Chris Smith, Treasurer .....[treasurer@northbriarcliff.org](mailto:treasurer@northbriarcliff.org)

Maike Caudle-Rozhavsky

Larry Foster, PDK Watch

Willis Moore

Teresa Morris

John Morrow

Mark NeuCollins

James Richards

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**We wish and hope that**  
**you and your family**  
**and neighbors enjoy**  
**a happy, healthy and**  
**prosperous 2023.**

## WHAT DOES COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

by Andrew Heaton, NBCA President

Community means a lot of different things to different people. For some, it means their tight-knit circle of friends and family, the people they converse with most often and see regularly. For others, community may mean the immediate neighborhood and area in which they live and work on a daily basis. To some, it would mean the broader city/region that a person calls home.



No matter how one defines community personally, it is without question that part of your equation involves the neighborhood in which you live. For those of you receiving this newsletter, that means the North Briarcliff neighborhood.

By extension, that means that you are a resident who is represented by the North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA). As we enter into 2023, the question the NBCA Board of Directors is now asking all of you is simply this:

➤ What would you like from our Community?

For decades now, the NBCA has worked hard to be a voice for this area of homes and apartments. The NBCA has performed community service, held social events in the neighborhood and established connections with local law enforcement to help keep all of our residents safe. When major developments are going on in the area, local elected officials and county entities reach out to the NBCA to try and provide information and updates to our residents.

With all of that said, all of us are now entering into a new year. The NBCA Board Members for 2023 were newly elected in the November 14, 2022 annual NBCA meeting, and we Board Members are seeking to reflect and reassess what our Community WANTS from the NBCA and our neighborhood representation. We are looking for ideas across the spectrum:

- What type of events would you like the NBCA to hold within the neighborhood?
- What type of information would you like us to supply on a more regular basis?
- In short, what do you want the NBCA to do for you in 2023?

*continued on page 3*

## INTRODUCING YOUR FAVORITE PERSONALITIES!

**95.5 WSB**  
ATLANTA'S NEWS & TALK



*Green and Growing with Ashley Frasca and The Home FIX IT page by Dave Baker*

**LOOK ON PAGE 10 FOR MORE!**

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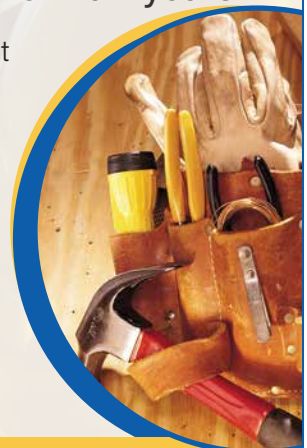
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# WHAT DOES COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU? *CONT'D*

The NBCA has been here since these neighborhoods were being developed, but we recognize that the NBCA must grow and adapt in the modern age of digital communications and shifting ideas about what defines a community. We are ready to do this, and people and resources are ready to help the NBCA evolve into the kind of organization that best fits the current needs of our neighborhood. Your feedback, however, is vital.

► If you have ideas or questions, please reach out to me directly at [president@northbriarcliff.org](mailto:president@northbriarcliff.org).

We are always open to new participants and leadership in the organization. New board members and new perspectives will help our organization grow and reflect the growing youth and diversity of our neighborhood. The commitment to serve on our Board of Directors is relatively low (attend one meeting a month, the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm – 9:00pm).

If you have been wondering if there was a way for you to become more directly plugged into YOUR local community, reach out to us today to talk about getting more involved with the NBCA.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We hope that you and your family have a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous 2023. We also hope to see you more in 2023!

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**BE THE CHANGE THAT WE NEED TO SEE IN THIS WORLD**




2myPlace is a 501(c)(3)/non-profit, dedicated to "bridging education with opportunity." Our goal is to reach and teach teens and young adults by offering coaching in life and social skills, keeping them strong, safe and confident. Our audio workshops are led by teens. We introduce the dangers of Human trafficking, bullying, lack of confidence, anger and stress, and anything else they want to address.

Real Beginnings is our program dedicated to helping women (who've been sex-trafficked, abused, or addicted) ready to re-establish their lives, following a recovery program. We offer the services necessary to thrive, such as: housing, transportation, psychological services, food, clothing, and medical and dental.

**Please help by making a tax-deductible donation at [www.2myPlace.org](http://www.2myPlace.org)**

**If you can volunteer services- please get in touch!**  
**Cindee Sapoznik~Founder/CEO**  
**770-815-6044**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR We wish and hope that you and your family and neighbors enjoy a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023**



**CONTACT US TODAY - 770-623-6220**  
**[sales@kda-communications.com](mailto:sales@kda-communications.com)**

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North Briarcliff Civic Association // [www.northbriarcliff.org](http://www.northbriarcliff.org) **3**

# North Briarcliff Civic Association



## 2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Please return your check for annual dues and this form to:*

North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) • 2566 Shallowford Road, Suite 104, PMB 132 • Atlanta, GA 30345

To pay your dues with a credit card or via PayPal or Venmo, go to [www.northbriarcliff.org](http://www.northbriarcliff.org).

### YES! I SUPPORT THE NORTH BRIARCLIFF CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Enclosed is my \$25.00 check for 2023 Annual Dues. (Added optional donation \$\_\_\_\_\_.)

»»» PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY «««

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (in case of questions): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*I am (We are) interested in helping NBCA with (Circle any of the following):*

Newsletter or Website Layout or Updating

Member Recruitment and Benefits

Neighborhood Watch

Board Service

Membership in the NBCA is open for all residents and owners of property within the Hawthorne Elementary School district and residents on other bordering streets who may request inclusion.

The North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) represents you. A civic association is an organization that exists to improve the neighborhood through volunteer work by members of the association. The purpose and mission of the NBCA is to promote the civic interests of the people living in our area. What this means is that this association is dedicated to informing, representing, and supporting the residents of our area in issues of public concern.

Membership in the NBCA is voluntary and is open to any resident or property owner within the Hawthorne Elementary School District and to other residents living on bordering streets who request inclusion. The newsletter is addressed to “Current Resident” to ensure that the newsletter is delivered (free of charge) to every house and condominium in the NBCA area as a service to all the residents.

We want you to help us become better representatives. As our paid membership increases, we have greater authority and leverage in dealing with (or confronting) the county and other organizations on your behalf. Renew your membership or become a member by paying your annual dues. The \$25 dues covers the household for the calendar year (January-December 2023).

Help us to better represent the interests of our neighborhood by bringing to our attention any issues or events that merit our attention. We would appreciate your perspective, and you may know more or care more about

that issue than any board or off-board member. Consider joining the board or advising the board as an off-board member so that the association is better able to address the issue in question. We would welcome your assistance, enthusiasm and expertise.

The NBCA is a non-profit organization that is managed by its board members, all of whom are neighbors who have volunteered to work together to make a difference in our local community. All of the board members are elected by the dues-paying members of the NBCA at an annual meeting in the fall. Some board members have special interests and expertise in specific areas that are important to our area, while other board members are generalists. The board members are supported by off-board members, who are neighbors who have volunteered to help the board by identifying and addressing specific areas. None of the board or off-board members receive any monetary payment for their efforts.

If you want to report something or register a complaint with the county or other agencies, the board may be able to assist you or help you contact appropriate agencies. However, you are responsible for making your report or registering your complaint. Please remember that board and off-board members are volunteers with only so much time and energy.

Email addresses for board and off-board members are listed on the front page of each newsletter and are also found on the NBCA website [www.northbriarcliff.org](http://www.northbriarcliff.org)

# WILL DEKALB COUNTY APPROVE THE PDK AIRPORT MASTER PLAN IN JANUARY 2023? WHY SHOULD I CARE? WHAT CAN I DO?

By Larry Foster, Communications Director, PDK Watch Inc.

Peachtree DeKalb (PDK) Airport is surrounded by densely settled residential neighborhoods inside Atlanta's northeast perimeter. PDK Airport is larger in size than New York City's LaGuardia and is the second busiest airport in Georgia next to Hartsfield-Jackson (in annual flight operations).

- ▶ PDK is located about 2 miles as the jet flies from most residents of the North Briarcliff Civic Association.
- ▶ PDK airport noise and operations already negatively impact nearly 100,000 residents in northeast DeKalb County — according to the cost-benefit study of PDK conducted under County auspices 25 years ago. Today the number of impacted residents is considerably higher.

At a meeting of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) on November 15, PDK Airport Director Mario Evans stated that he expected the PDK Master Plan to be approved by the Board of Commissioners “early in 2023.”

- ▶ Even if you are not currently bothered by PDK flights and noise, the proposed dramatic increase in PDK Airport's infrastructure and operations proposed in the Master Plan could impact you negatively in the future.

The following are 5 reasons why we think that the PDK Master Plan should NOT be approved in its present form:

## 1. Increased number of flights and noise

The proposed PDK Master Plan calls for an unprecedented 37% increase in the number of hangars at PDK from 355 to 487 and a corresponding projected increase in flight operations from 160,000 to 218,000 during the next two decades. Such increases would further contribute to disruptive noise over many residential areas in a two-to-three mile radius from the Airport.

## 2. Much larger jets, longer glide paths and more noise

The PDK Master Plan also would encourage much larger jets to use PDK than are currently allowed, except as occasional transients. Larger jets and their longer glide paths as they come toward PDK would increase the noise impact of PDK operations farther from the Airport.

The “critical aircraft” upon which the Master Plan's projections are based weighs 25,000 lbs. more than the maximum weight limit the FAA and DeKalb County promised the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals that PDK would maintain when it wanted

to extend its main runway by 1,000 feet without first conducting a federally mandated Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The large corporate jet that PDK has chosen as its “critical aircraft” cannot even fly out of PDK Airport safely unless it is less-than-fully loaded.

## 3. More toxic pollutants in our air

The larger corporate jets use larger amounts of fuel, emit more exhaust, and would increase the volume of toxic pollutants spewed into the atmosphere. Larger jets do not produce toxic lead pollution as the smaller piston-engine planes still do (decades after leaded fuel was banned in cars), but larger jets produce large amounts of “ultra-fine particulate matter.” That “ultra-fine particulate matter” is absorbed deep within the lungs and is strongly associated with a variety of respiratory illnesses and cancers that are costly to treat and can be fatal.

## 4. Need to first complete an Environmental Study of Air and Noise Pollution at PDK

A detailed proposal for the long-sought Environmental Study of Air and Noise Pollution at PDK was finally approved in August 2022 by a committee with representatives from the FAA, EPA, GDOT, PDK Airport Director Evans, and Open DeKalb Inc., a citizen group that has long sought greater transparency about the PDK Airport through such a study. The goal of the Environmental Study, which is now out for bid, is to secure “credible data to make better-informed decisions about Airport operations and development in its community environment.”

- ▶ This Study would include fact-based evidence about the impact of allowing larger jets at PDK Airport. This Study must be completed BEFORE the PDK Master Plan is considered for approval, so that its information may be used to evaluate the impact of the Plan's proposals. By prematurely attempting to secure approval for the PDK Master Plan early in 2023 BEFORE the Environmental Study has been completed, PDK Airport Director Mario Evans is attempting to short-circuit the process.

## 5. Lack of transparency and public meetings to inform people

Lack of transparency has been the major issue throughout the entire PDK Master Plan process. Despite the importance of the Master Plan to many tens of thousands of impacted residents living near PDK Airport, no serious public meetings have yet

been scheduled at which the many thousands of people who are impacted by PDK operations may learn about the Master Plan, discuss it freely, and recommend needed changes BEFORE the BOC will be asked to approve the Plan. In our opinion, such public meetings are ESSENTIAL. Instead, PDK Airport has engaged in what I would describe as a “stealth campaign” for the past three years to prevent the public from learning about the Plan. How many residents of areas impacted by PDK operations are even aware that extensive work has been underway on the PDK Master Plan for more than three years?

Despite what amounts to a news blackout by the Airport on the PDK Master Plan, more than 2,100 concerned citizens nevertheless signed a change.org petition in early 2022 asking for modifications in the Master Plan: <https://www.change.org/StopPDKExpansion> You can still sign if you have not done so already.

## What can you do if you are concerned about these issues?

In early January 2023, PDK Watch Inc. plans to initiate a major campaign to ask citizens who are concerned about the PDK Master Plan to contact key members of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to share your concerns about the PDK Master Plan with them.

We will provide anyone who may be interested with all the information you will need to write a brief but effective email letter or to call your commissioners. If you are not on the PDK Watch email list and would like to receive the information, you are welcome to email me at: [larry.foster137@gmail.com](mailto:larry.foster137@gmail.com). I will be happy to put you on our strictly confidential list and will blind copy you with the information you will need early in January 2023. Your privacy will be protected, and you may ask to be removed from our list at any time.

For further important information about our concerns regarding the PDK Master Plan, please check the postings on the PDK Watch Home Page, [www.pdkwatch.org](http://www.pdkwatch.org), especially on the right-hand side of the page under “PDK Master Plan – 2021.”

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. For nearly two decades, we have had remarkable success in getting our county commissioners to consider our concerns, and I hope we will continue to have similar success regarding the most drastic expansion plans in PDK's history. If you would like information about what you may do to help, I will be in touch with you early in the new year.

## EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

by Sarah Helwig and Cynthia Forbes

The Northlake-Barbara Loar Library had lots of exciting events to celebrate the Holidays in December, all of which were funded by the generous support of the Friends of Northlake Library.

### Yoga Sessions

Our weekly meditation, Pranam (breathing yoga) and chair/mat yoga sessions gave patrons the opportunity to care for body, mind and soul by pausing for a moment of peace and tranquility in the midst of this busy season. The meditation and Pranam sessions were led by certified yoga instructor Dhvani Thakker, and the chair/mat yoga sessions were led by certified Hatha yoga instructor Mariam Gilmer. All of these sessions will return after the holidays in the spring months.

### Youth, Adult and Senior Activities

Youth services librarian Alyssa Williams provided multiple activities for our young patrons. These included “Take & Make: Snow Globe” kits, a holiday scavenger hunt (with prizes!), a Polar Express-themed family Storytime, and a DIY ornament craft.

Adults and seniors also had several holiday-themed activities, including an upcycled paper wreath-making class led by circulation supervisor Marc Grace and a jewelry making class in which Virginia Milner led participants in making a multicultural statement necklace.

### Two Concerts

The highlight of our holiday programs included two concerts for all ages. Tuesday, December 6, featured saxophonist Paul Edwards. This was Paul Edwards’ second concert at the library this year. He also performed during our springtime Northlake on the Lawn series in May 2022. People are already asking for more!



Kim and Dave Chamberlain, the Bright Moments Jazz Duo, are talking with Marc Grace, the Northlake Library Adult Services Program Specialist.

On Tuesday, December 13, we had a full house as the Bright Moments Jazz Duo returned for their fourth holiday concert at Northlake Library. A husband-and-wife team, Kim (clarinet) and Dave (guitar) Chamberlain, played a selection of holiday tunes for all to enjoy.

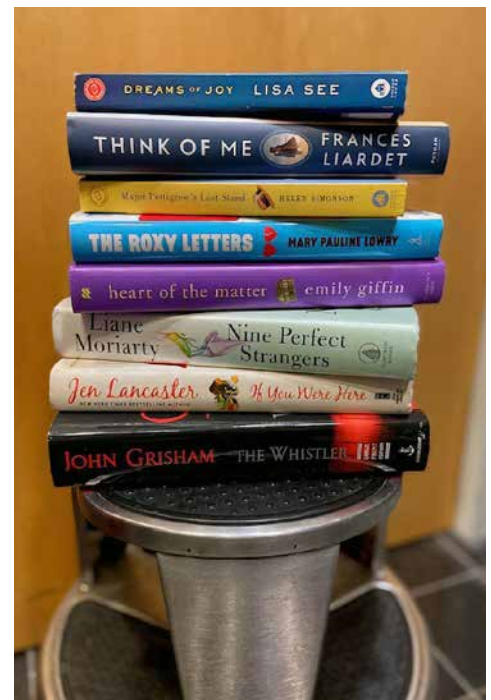
### Holiday and Ongoing Book Sales

Visitors to the library were also able to purchase gifts for friends and family or themselves (!), from the Friends of Northlake Library holiday book sale. The holiday book sale and other major sales (such as the next one on January 20-21, 2023) feature so many books, DVDs, CDs, games, crafts, and puzzles that the meeting room and the hallways are filled. In addition to the major book sales, there always is an ongoing book sale at the library.

All proceeds from these sales directly support the many programs and activities at the Northlake-Barbara Loar Library during the holidays and all year long! Remember to come to the library for the next Friends’ book sale on January 20-21, 2023!

### January 2023 Programs

In January 2023, Northlake Library will have lots of additional programs for people of all ages, from a weekly “Toddler Time” for our youngest patrons to programs about car-care and decluttering for adults.



Of course, the library always has a great collection of fiction (and non-fiction) books for you to read. And there is a major book sale on January 20-21, 2023.

Visit <https://events.dekalblibrary.org/events> to view our full event calendar and to register to join us for upcoming activities.



Saxophonist Paul Edwards Tuesday December 6, 2022 7 p.m.  
Bright Moments Duo Tuesday December 13, 2022 7 p.m.

### Northlake-Barbara Loar Library

3772 LaVista Road  
Tucker, GA 30084  
404.679.4408



The books in the ongoing sale are located in a niche along the hallway leading to the conference room.

## OUR LOCAL MARY SCOTT NATURE PARK

by Susan Hanson

Our local park is a treasure that can be enjoyed by people who walk the paths, wildlife that live in the park and all the people who breathe the cleaner fresher air in this neighborhood.

### Contributions to Our Mary Scott Nature Park (MSNP)

A very big THANK YOU to all who have contributed money or time to our park:

- ✓ Retiring DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader made a \$500 contribution for the purchase of native plants for the park.
- ✓ The North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) makes a large annual contribution to the park.
- ✓ The Flair Forrest Garden Club and other neighbors make contributions to the park.
- ✓ Members of the Georgia Native Plants Society (GNPS), the Friends of MSNP and the Lakeside High School Honor Society volunteer their time to come to the park's monthly workday (first Saturday for two hours) to plant native plants and pull up nonnative plants.

There are additional steps on the path leading down to the creek at Mary Scott Nature Park. They were made by Evan Pollard and other Boy Scouts of Troop 534. Evan planned and completed the project for his Eagle Scout Award. The steps make it easier for walkers to walk down the steep hill to the creek. The steps also help prevent erosion of the soil. Without the steps, walkers and their dogs would be sliding down and climbing up the hillside, trampling the fragile ground cover and increasing erosion.



*Standing at the bottom of the steps looking up the hillside from the creek.*



*Standing at the top of the steps looking down the hillside.*

### The November Workday (first Saturday, November 5)

The November workday was a cloudy, very warm day. The park and its surroundings remained extremely dry. The hawthorn tree had dropped its leaves and left its fruits exposed for cedar waxwings to feast. The beautyberry berries had shriveled in the drought. White heath asters near the circular driveway were being heavily visited by insects.

Nine Lakeside High School National Honor Society members came. They volunteered to pull English ivy and earned service hours.

Members of GNPS and Friends of MSNP worked together to:

- ✓ pull English ivy, honeysuckle vines, privet, cherry laurel and some invasive autumn ferns near the creek.
- ✓ plant ebony spleenwort, Christmas ferns, three *Viburnum nudum*, and three *Hydrangea arborescens* near the creek so we can water the new plants during this prolonged drought.
- ✓ cut resprouting Chinese holly stumps near the chimneys.

### The December Workday (First Saturday, December 3)

There was a bit of rain sprinkle just before the workday. The remainder of the day was heavily overcast and warm. The park had a small amount of rain during November. The trees need more.

Nine Lakeside High School National Honor Society members came to earn service hours. They pulled English ivy. As English Ivy was being removed, *Tipularia* was found in several places.

Four early arrivers pulled a piece of exercise gear from the chimney area to the front of the park for the county to pick up.

Members of GNPS and Friends of MSNP worked together to:

- ✓ pull English ivy off the east bank next to the middle flight of stairs to the creek.
- ✓ remove forsythia, mondograss, lirioppe, Japanese honeysuckle and cherry laurel from the west bank of the middle flight of stairs.
- ✓ start clearing the north side of the bottom flight of stairs of nonnative flora.
- ✓ plant sourwood, sassafras and Carolina silverbell young trees near Briarcliff.
- ✓ plant six *Silene ovata* on the east bank of the middle flight of stairs.

### Improvements by the County

The DeKalb County Parks Department has reinstalled fine gravel on the county designated trails. Upgrading the pathways in the park will help reduce erosion. The Parks Department also extended the concrete area of the entry.

The DeKalb Watershed Management Department is correcting the sewer pipe and connection at the northeast boundary of the park. We will continue to monitor the E. coli and heavy metal counts of our creek water.

### Come and Experience the Peace of the Park

Neighbors, the Friends of the Park invite you to visit the park for a calming stroll. Enjoy the quiet calm of walking through the woods. We also invite you to join our volunteers the first Saturday of every month when we meet at the park for a two-hour workparty (2:00-4:00pm during the winter months). Contact the Friends of MSNP ([friendsofmsnp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmsnp@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

by Art Hansen

The North Briarcliff neighborhoods are filled with interesting people and interesting histories. Meet and talk with your neighbors. When you're walking your dog, greet the other dog-walkers and the neighbors raking their leaves or tending their gardens. If you're out raking leaves, start a conversation with the dog-walkers (smile). We spend too much time inside watching television or glued to our telephones. Go outside. Go for a jog, ride your bike, or walk through our local park.

We encourage you to let us know about your personal interests and opinions, and our newsletter will encourage a growing spirit of community by publishing stories about local histories and some of our neighbors. This is a story about local neighbors and a local business they started.

### Neighbor and Local Businessman – Shafer Caudle

Shafer Caudle has lived in North Briarcliff nearly his entire life. Several years ago, he bought the house he grew up in from his parents. Now he lives there with his wife, Deanna, and three children: Boston, 16, Luna, 3, and Ziggy, 1. The house is very close to our local Mary Scott Nature Park. "I thought this was a really great place to raise my family," he said. "I had a great childhood here, roaming around the creeks and in the woods, exploring the nature we have here."

Running a home renovation business for the last 20 years helped Shafer Caudle build all the skills he needed for designing and building homes, but that work lacked the creativity and imagination he wanted. So this year, Shafer and his crew, Daniel Morrison and Don McCollister, pivoted to start a new business.

Daniel Morrison, a former restaurateur turned carpenter, also lives in the North Briarcliff neighborhood with his wife, Jennifer, and two children, Ian and Finley. Don McCollister used to live in Decatur. Now a tradesman, Don is a Grammy award winning producer/engineer and a genius in all things tech and mechanical.

### A Local Business -- We Build Stuff

The new venture is called We Build Stuff. Shafer describes this as more 'kooky' work - custom-building retro television sets, which combine the vintage look of the 1950s with modern technology. Shafer noted that,

"People used to consider television consoles a piece of art for your living room. That's what the '50s and '60s were all about, having your house look dapper and showing off your personality via your fixtures and appliances."



The three in their workshop. (From the left: Daniel Morrison, Don McCollister, and Shafer Caudle)

Shafer builds his unique creations in his home workshop. Shafer and his crew spent about two months in the workshop creating the prototype for his vintage-style televisions, trying to find the happy medium between expensive custom pieces and mass manufactured items.

Each television console features a built-in smart TV and fully functional knobs. They can also be custom retro-fitted with live antenna TV as well as a retro gaming system (Shafer's favorite game right now is Donkey Kong).

Shafer's consoles were premiered at Scott's Antique Market in Atlanta in December 2022. The photos show some of the consoles that were featured at Scott's Antique Market.



These two consoles are two color/wood options of the Murdlelevision 5000, the mid-mod inspired TV console. The Murdlelevision 5000 console is made of walnut wood with a teal painted face, vintage knobs and gold/tan speaker fabric.



These three pieces are handcrafted Murdlelevision 2000s, the console inspired by the '80s. The photo was taken at the December Antiques Market.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS *CONT'D*

*The Murdlevision 5000 console features a smart TV, functioning volumen and HDMI switch knob, HDMI/Aux input, integrated vintage arcade gaming system, music streaming library, audio-visualizer, bluetooth and live TV (with antenna).*

Shafer said he and his crew have a lot of ideas about where to take the business next and are open to custom commissions.

“We don’t want to compete with other woodworkers or mass-market items.

“We’re a middle ground where woodworkers don’t typically have the skill sets required to do the electronics work we do,” he said. “We found a groove that feels like we were made to be in.”



*(Left to right: Shafer Caudle, Don McCollister and Daniel Morrison) Enjoying themselves. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.*

“Shafer is one of the most creative people I’ve ever met,” said his wife, Deanna. “This is his chance to make a living building beautiful pieces and integrating technology.”

### Funny Alternative Business

Shafer’s dream work would be to:

- Create home security systems a la Home Alone, where “instead of an alarm system. a paint can might swing down and bonk you on the head, but more sophisticated,” and to
- Build secret passageways in customers’ homes.

For more information about his business, visit <http://webuildstuff.org>

[Editor’s note: While reviewing this article, I Googled and found Shafer and WeBuildStuff on YouTube.]

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# Green & Growing

Welcome to 2023! Yes, January is traditionally one of the coldest months here in Georgia, but a little chill shouldn't stop you from getting things done in the landscape. December saw unusually warm temperatures, so maybe the first month of the new year will surprise us too!

The colder months are the best time to plant new trees and shrubs, so get to digging! Most plants' growth is halted by cooler temperatures, meaning they are less demanding for nutrients, so this time of year the focus is on root establishment and growth. When installing something new, it's always best to surround the base of the plant with mulch, but never up against the trunk or main stem.

Light pruning can be done on trees now. Do corrective and 'clean up' pruning on trees while you can see the branch structure, before they leaf back out. Start by pruning dead or diseased limbs, then ones that are crossing. And while some vegetative growth on the ground has died back, now is a good

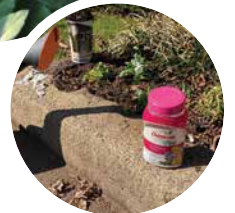
time to chop bamboo, English ivy and kudzu back while you can get to the main stems of the plant.

Plant things with winter blooms, like pansies and hellebores! Pop them in garden beds, sprinkle a little Osmocote fertilizer around each one, and then cover each with a handful of mulch before watering them in. And there's still time to plant bulbs, like daffodils and irises.

This is the month we're likely to see our first "hard freeze" of the year. But what's the difference between a frost and a freeze? Frost is visible on plants, windshields, etc. and can occur when temps are ABOVE freezing, and it all depends on dew point as well. If the dew point is below freezing, a frost is more likely. Freezing is when the air temperature is literally below 32 degrees. And a freeze can come without a frost. A "hard freeze" is when the temperature drops further, below 28 degrees, for a longer time. It will kill the top growth of most perennials and root crops, BUT a hard frost doesn't mean plants are dead

though. Even after your plants have died back to the ground, the soil may be warm enough, so the roots are still growing.

And finally, what to do with that live Christmas tree? I am fortunate to be able to throw ours in the woods behind our house, and I am delighted to see birds and deer nesting by it. Some local parks and usually Home Depot stores offer to chip your tree, producing usable mulch.



## Cheers to many new garden opportunities in the coming year!



Ashley Frasca is host of the radio show Green and Growing, heard on 95.5 WSB Radio every Saturday from 6-9:00 a.m. For gardening tips, information, and advice, follow her Facebook page: [Facebook.com/greenandgrowingwsb](https://www.facebook.com/greenandgrowingwsb)



# Been putting off basic homeowners chores?

Believe me, been there, done that.

We all have things around the home that while we know they would work better if we had them serviced, well, they are working now and that's good enough for me.

A properly maintained home is important, and all it takes in most cases is a phone call.

With our New Year's resolutions still fresh in our minds here are some things you absolutely need to have serviced this year...

## **HVAC SYSTEM.**

Get a service contract and have your air conditioner inspected by a pro this spring and your furnace inspected by a pro this fall. Your systems will run more efficiently, your filters will be changed, and you will save money on your home energy bills.

## **ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.**

Your electrical system wears down over time. Get a whole house electrical inspection and make sure it includes your smoke and CO detectors.

## **GARAGE DOOR.**

What? My garage door? You bet. It's the largest moving piece of equipment in your home and you rely on it every single day.

The once over will do it a world of good.

## **SEPTIC TANK.**

When's the last time you had your septic tank cleaned out? While it's not an every year job, it's something that you need to have done every 3 years. Think of it this way - when your a/c goes out you are hot, when your electrical goes out it's dark. What adjective best describes a bad septic situation? Exactly...

## **WATER HEATER.**

You know the average life span of a water heater in this area is 7 years. How old is yours again? Right. Have a professional come out and check it out. Make sure they check the T&P valve and that you have an expansion tank.

While they are there have them check your home's water pressure. High pressure is the evil villain to the inner workings of your faucets and commodes.

## **DUCTS.**

Your ducts work every day carrying the cool or warm air to the rooms in your house and return air and dirt back to your unit. Do yourself a favor a have them professionally cleaned.

A good, professional cleaning will have you breathing better and can possibly cut down

on the amount of dusting you have to do around the house. It will also increase the life and efficiency of your hvac system.

Extra good news - barring unforeseen circumstances you won't have to have them cleaned for another 5-7 years.

## **ROOF.**

How long has it been since you had a roofing pro inspect your roof? Most quality roofing companies offer a free roof analysis which will let you know the exact shape of your roof.

Plus, having a qualified roofer inspect your roof gives you the ability to tell the storm chaser roof guy "No thanks - I already have a professional inspection".

Sweet.



Grab your hammer and join the show! In Atlanta, 404.872.0750 or 1.800.972.8255. Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Dave Baker is WSB's resident household repair and home improvement expert! He provides a multitude of tips and advice on planning, building and fixing up around the house. Follow Dave on his Facebook page: [Facebook.com/thehomefixpage](https://www.facebook.com/thehomefixpage)

# Welcome to January, the coldest month of the year!

Winter in Atlanta is usually mild, and it's not out of the question to experience afternoon temperatures in the upper 60s to low 70s during the month of January.

In fact, the warmest January day in Atlanta occurred on January 11, 1949 when the thermometer reached 79 degrees.

But temperatures in January can be very cold -- well below freezing and even below zero!

Averaging out all the highs and lows in the month of January, the average monthly temperature is 44.8 degrees, the coldest average monthly temperature of the year for Atlanta.

The coldest morning in January occurred on January 21, 1985 when the thermometer dropped to minus 8 degrees Fahrenheit. January 1982 was also bone-chilling cold, as the thermometer dropped to minus 5 degrees.

Another note about January 1982: Long-time Atlanta residents will remember the Snow Jam of January 12-14 1982, when 4 inches of

snow, sleet and freezing rain fell throughout Metro Atlanta, paralyzing the city. A total 7 inches of snow fell that January, marking the third snowiest January in Atlanta's history.

95.5 WSB Coldest January Mornings On Record	
DATA: NWS ATLANTA	
1. 1985	-8°
2. 1982	-5°
3. 1966	-3°
4. 1963	-3°
5. 1886	-2°

Other notable winter weather events in the month of January include January 23, 2000, when an ice storm struck Atlanta one week before the city was set to host the NFL's Super Bowl. As many as 500,000 people were without power that day as freezing rain accumulated on trees and powerlines.

95.5 WSB Record January Snowfall in Atlanta	
DATA: NWS ATLANTA	
1. 1940	8.3"
2. 1936	8.0"
3. 1982	7.0"
4. 1992	5.0"
5. 2002	4.6"

Snow Jam History repeated again in 2014 when 2.6 inches of snow fell during the morning and early afternoon of January 28. The city was paralyzed in melted snow that turned to ice under car tires. Thousands of people were stranded on the interstates and surface streets, and many spent the night freezing in their cars or walking home in non-walking shoes. Many more spent the night in grocery stores.

This storm was a stark reminder of the importance in keeping a weather-ready emergency kit in our vehicles. Always keep an extra blanket, jacket, pair of walking shoes, water, and non-perishable snacks in your vehicle in case weather leaves you stranded on the road for numerous hours.



### Connect with me!

Facebook: Christina Edwards WSB  
Twitter: @ChristinaWSBwx

# January in Atlanta

DATA: NWS ATLANTA, 1991-2020

- Monthly Avg High: 54°
- Monthly Avg Low: 36°
- Jan 1 Sunrise: 7:42 am ET  
Jan 1 Sunset: 5:39 pm ET
- Jan 31 Sunrise: 7:34 am ET  
Jan 31 Sunset: 6:07 pm ET
- Jan Avg Rain: 4.59"



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House Cleaning Specialist, Inc	770-975-4995
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Distinctive Dentistry	770-445-6606
Esthetic Dental Solutions	678-352-1333
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## Electrical Service

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Chris Brown Painting & Home Repair	770-323-3148
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203

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Schwartz Center For Performing Arts	404-727-8769

## Pest Control

Legacy Pest Control	770-423-0160
Windward Pest Services	404-545-1651

## Physicians

Northside Family Medicine of Johns Creek	770-476-6130
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## Plumbing

Bryan Plumbing Services	770-826-5277
Mr. Rooter of Atlanta	470-202-8178
Serv'all Plumbing & Rooter Service	770-917-1852
Shumate Plumbing Services	678-584-0880
<b>The Plumbers Guild</b>	404-694-5128

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## Propane Service

Gas Incorporated	770-720-1378
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## Real Estate

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Atlanta Communities-Carl Hawthorne	404-403-1789
Atlanta Communities-Elizabeth Martin	678-373-9342
Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates	770-403-5639
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Shaston Homes LLC	678-525-5880

## Remodeling

GCI Basements	404-569-8794
Serv'all Plumbing-Remodeling	770-917-1852

## Restaurants

Beau Monde Cigar Bar & Restaurant	770-559-1987
Largos	404-888-4220
Luna Maya	770-720-4999

## Roofing

Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
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## Schools-Private

McGinnis Woods Country Day School	770-664-7764
<b>The Friends School of Atlanta</b>	404-373-8746
Woodward Academy	404-765-4001

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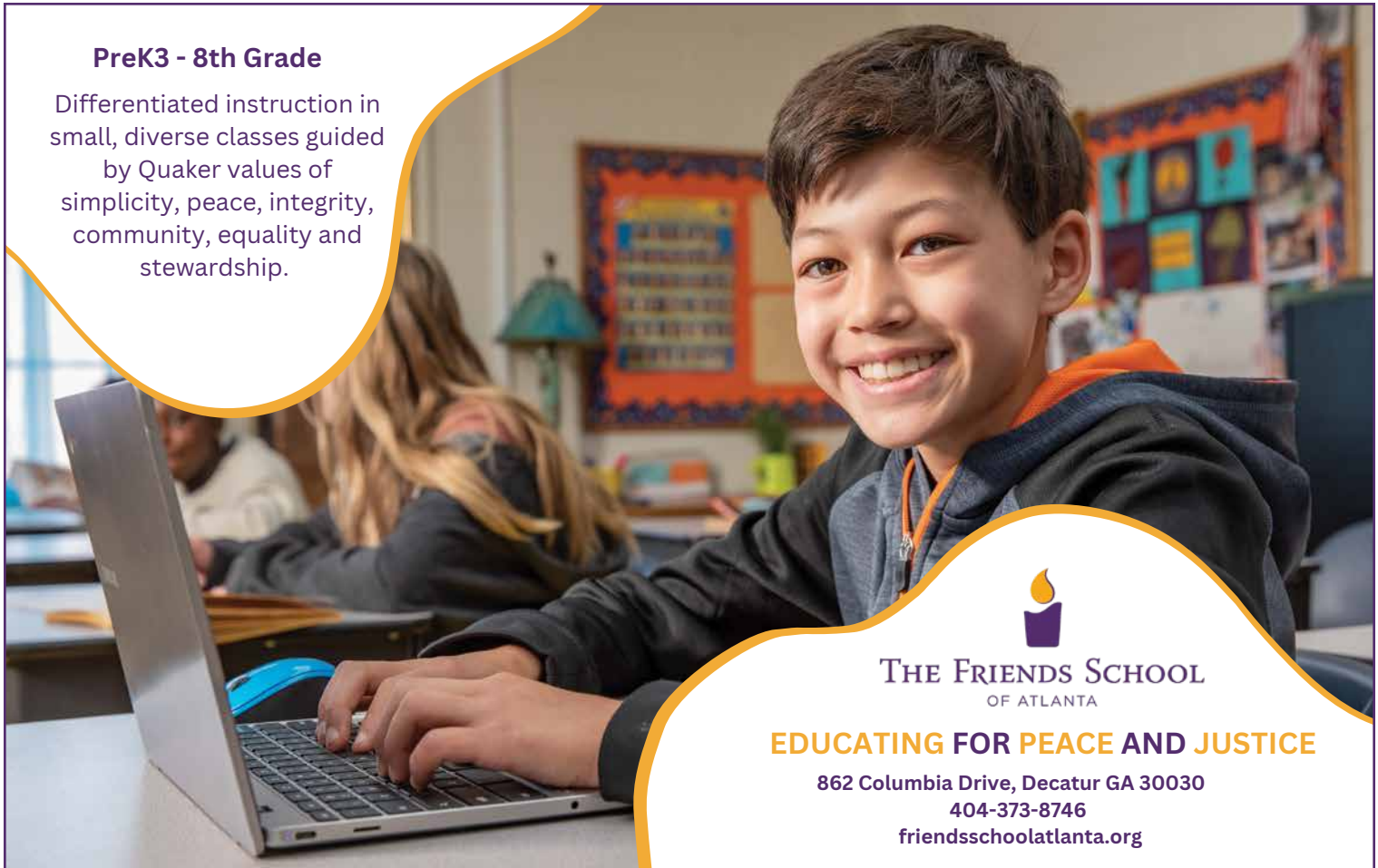
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