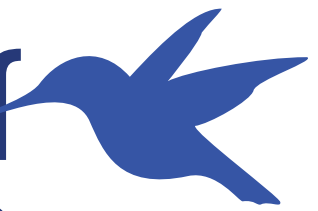


North Briarcliff Civic Association



The Official Newsletter of the
North Briarcliff Civic Association

April-June 2023

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Email Info@northbriarcliff.org

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**Hello Spring!
Bye Bye Winter!
We hope you enjoy your
spring and summer.**

DEKALB COUNTY, HERE'S YOUR SIGN!

by Andrew Heaton, NBCA President

Back some years ago, a group of four “redneck” comedians had what they called a “Blue Collar Comedy Tour.” Jeff Foxworthy was the most well-known and established of the group. Larry the Cable Guy captured the zeitgeist with his one-liners like “Get ‘er done!” Ron White would spin yarns while ostensibly drinking an adult beverage of a brown hue.



Bill Engvall rounded out the quartet. Engvall had a routine where he would tell a comical story about a person or situation, then show a road or building sign that corresponded well to the situation. The punchline was, of course, “Here’s your sign!”

Pretend that I am Bill Engvall while (a) I tell a “joke” about DeKalb County’s reputation for slow response, slow implementation of programs, and scant details about a project or idea, and then (b) show the sign included with this story. This sign might not stick out, but it’s emblematic of one of the things that frustrates so many everyday citizens – a lack of clear lines of communication for information. To make this a little clearer, let me back up and provide the reader with some more context.

The attached sign is located at the very back of Cravey Drive at the entrance to a service road that was constructed many, many months ago. The service road leads back to a site of sewage work being done along the North Fork of Peachtree Creek, directly behind several homes on Hawthorne Drive. For months, after the road was first built, a line of massive trucks would queue up daily to enter the road and begin work. Then, a few months ago . . . nothing. No trucks. No activity. Nada.

A resident reached out to me last month asking me if I had information. I did not, but said I would reach out and see what I could find out. I assumed that my first obvious choice for information would be the Site Sign. Oh, dear readers, how wrong I would turn out to be. Let’s go through just how unhelpful this signage is in terms of figuring out where to go for information.

Here is a quick listing of just how unhelpful this sign is:

1. The sign states that this is part of the Watershed’s “Capital Improvement Program” . . . which is pretty much a catch-all. If you go to the website listed at the bottom, you’ll be hard pressed to find anything relating to this project. The only project listed under the CIP Projects page is something happening in Stone Mountain.
2. The sign lists the contractor on-site as “Insituform.” Helpful? Nope! Insituform is a global subsidiary of an even larger global corporation. There is no helpful contact info for a local contact. This is as helpful as a hospital listing its medical supplier as “Kleenex.”

continued on page 3

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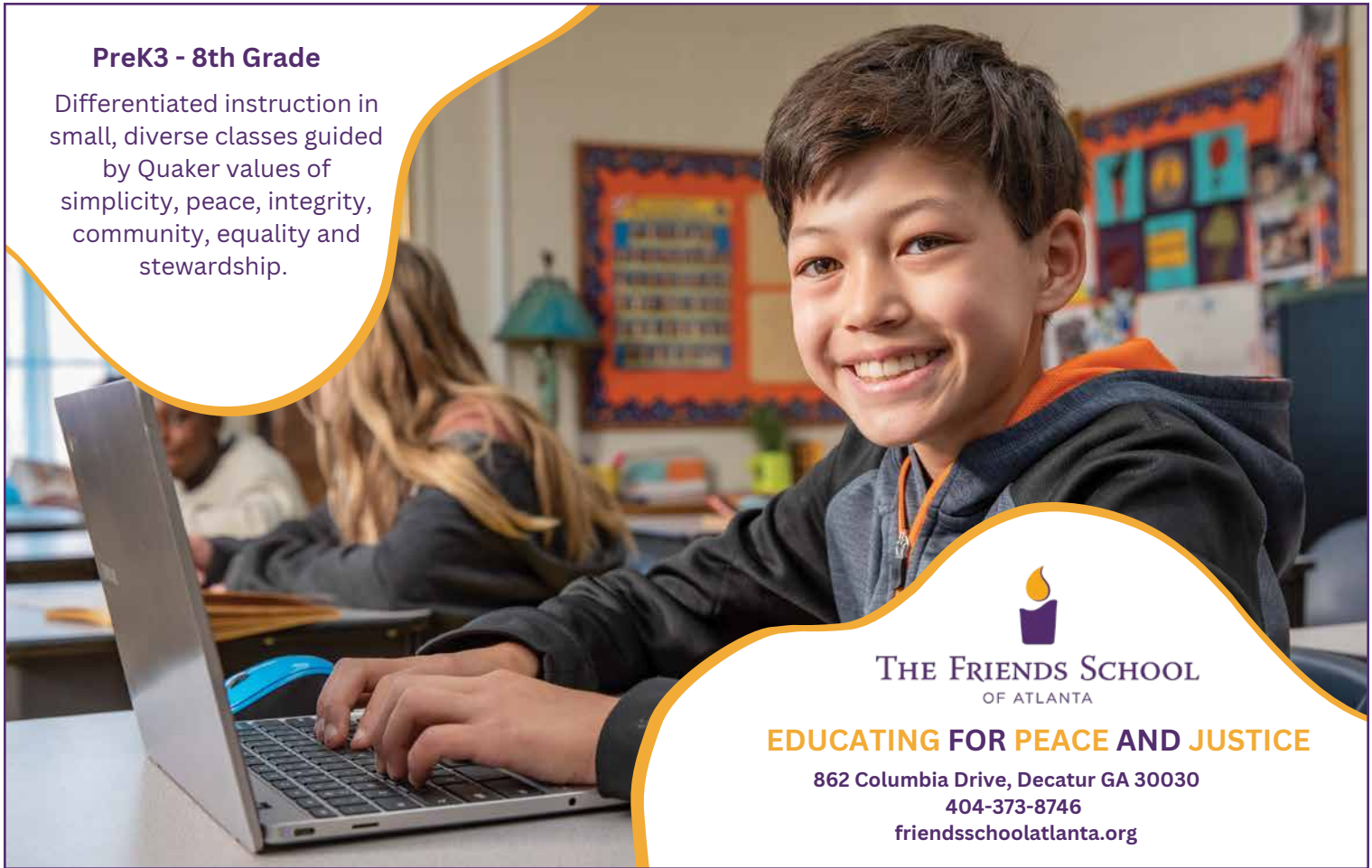


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DEKALB COUNTY, HERE'S YOUR SIGN! *CONT'D*

3. Ok, but there's a phone number, right? Well, the phone number goes to the general Watershed Project line, which then tells you to enter the number of the Project Supervisor, choosing from a list of four. Does the sign tell us who this Project's Watershed Supervisor might be? Astute readers already know the answer.

At the time of press for this article, your faithful NBCA President has moved on to trying to connect with our local County Commissioners to try and get some insight into what is going on. For those wondering and interested in digging into the issue themselves, the County Commissioners for the overwhelming number of residents in the NBCA footprint are Robert Patrick (District 1) and Lorraine Cochran-Johnson (District 7). Any residents who have additional information are encouraged to email me at president@northbriarcliff.org. In the meantime, DeKalb County, HERE'S YOUR SIGN!



Here's your sign. Helpful, isn't it?

Inside This Issue...

NBCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DeKalb County, Here's Your Sign 1
NBCA Board Members 2023 1

COMMUNITY – ADMINISTRATION

2023 NBCA Membership Form 4

COMMUNITY – SCHOOLS

Hawthorne Spring Festival 5
Great things Happening at Hawthorne ES! 6

COMMUNITY – LIBRARY

Events at the Library 8

COMMUNITY – PARKS and ENVIRONMENT

English Ivy at Mary Scott Nature Park 9

COMMUNITY – NEIGHBORS

News about a Neighbor 10
Is There an Airplane in My Garage? 10
SPRING: Time to Clean, Decorate, Repaint, Replant and Renovate 11



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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.

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



Hawthorne Elementary School

2535 Caladium Drive, Atlanta, GA 30345

Saturday April 15th, 2023

12-4pm

TICKET PRICING

Unlimited Wrist Band \$30

Includes: Unlimited Carnival Games, Giant Slide, Gaming Truck, Face Painting, Dunk Tank, Cake Walk

Tickets are \$1 each

Children 3 and under are Free

**Wrist Bands DO NOT INCLUDE Concessions and Ice Cream Truck.
These items are cash or credit card.**

GREAT THINGS HAPPENING AT HAWTHORNE ES!

By Lisa Limoncello

C.H.A.M.P.S. Safety Program

Recently, the fifth-grade students at Hawthorne successfully completed the C.H.A.M.P.S. (Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety) program. The C.H.A.M.P.S. program was founded in 2003 by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association to address the challenges our youth are facing today. Under the guidance of Deputy McNeil from the DeKalb County Sheriffs' Department, our students completed a twelve-week program to develop the skills necessary to be happy, healthy, and safe, in preparation for a successful life. Thank you, Georgia Sheriffs' Association, and congratulations students!



Black History Parade

Hawthorne held our annual Black History Parade on February 24th. After a month of research and various activities, students from across all grade levels chose key figures in Black History to represent in our parade. The result was a wonderful display of history, creativity and gratitude for the many contributions made by African Americans to our world.



GREAT THINGS HAPPENING AT HAWTHORNE ES! CONT'D

STEM Night and “Trash-ion” Show

Our annual STEM Night was once again a huge success. STEM Night is intended to increase family engagement in academic areas and provide an opportunity to show parents how to reinforce standards at home. Parents and students participated in the following hands-on STEM activities:

Magnets or Magic	Participants explored positive and negative magnetic force while participating in activities with various magnets.
Starry Night Constellations	Participants watched a demonstration on astronomy and learned how to identify various constellations.
Sphero Coding	Participants used coding skills to create art by programing the Sphero robots.
Moon Phases	Participants created models of the moon phases after learning about the 8 phases of the moon and the role the sun plays in how each phase looks.
3D Printing	Participants observed a demonstration on 3D printing while learning that 3D printing is a process in which a digital model is turned into a tangible, solid, three-dimensional object.
Cooking Cart	Participants explored the states of matter by changing liquid to solid while making pancakes on our mobile cooking cart.
Planting	Participants made a pot from newspaper and planted a vegetable seed of their choice. Participants were able to take the pot home and re-plant it.

New this year to STEM Night was our first annual “Trash-ion” show. As a culminating activity to the third-grade study of recycling and climate change, the students created items of clothing and accessories out of recycled trash and spotlighted their creation on the runway! Check out our fashionistas below:



EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

by Sarah Helwig (Library Branch Manager) and Kristin Murff (Friends of Northlake Library Community Liaison)

Mark Your Calendars for the April 21-22 Book Sale at the Library

Northlake Library's next book sale will be April 21-22. The Friends of the Northlake-Barbara Loar Library also maintain a smaller ongoing book sale that is open during library hours. The always-ongoing sale items are located at the end of a short corridor to the left of the lobby as you enter the building. All proceeds from these sales directly support many programs and activities at the Northlake-Barbara Loar Library.

Ways to Donate to the Library

The Friends are collecting books, puzzles, games, CDs and DVDs for our upcoming sales. To donate, bring your items to the library during operating hours: Mon - Wed 10am-8pm and Thursday-Saturday 10am-5pm. Your donations are tax-deductible.

February saw the return of DeKalb County Public Library's "Love Your Library" Month, an annual fundraiser coordinated by the DeKalb Library Foundation. The Northlake Library raised over \$600, which will help fund more programs and activities. You may make a branch gift for Northlake-Barbara Loar Library any time at foundation.dekalblibrary.org.

Recent Youth, Adult and Senior Activities

We celebrated Black History Month with a Motown Music Review concert and a talk about Negro Spirituals presented by Dr. Valerie Matthews of Georgia State University. The Northlake Cookbook Club learned about the history of soul food while enjoying tasty samples. During March, patrons enjoyed testing their knowledge and learning new things with our Women's History Month trivia challenge.

Our young patrons celebrated Valentine's Day with a "lovebug" craft. They also celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday in March with a Take & Make craft kit and a Green Eggs and Ham cooking class. They continue to enjoy the ongoing weekly Toddler Time and monthly STEAM programs.

We have also kicked off a "Bookmark of the Month" program for all ages. We give out a different themed bookmark each month. Patrons who collect all of the bookmarks will receive a prize at the end of the year, so make sure to ask for a bookmark during your next visit to the library!

Looking Ahead

On May 13, we will celebrate Asian American Heritage Month with a performance by the Atlanta Chinese Dance Company.



One of the children's lovebugs on Valentine's Day

We are already making plans for our annual Summer Reading Challenge! This year's challenge will take place from June 1 to July 31 with a theme of "All Together Now." Keep an eye on our online events calendar for special programs and activities for all ages.

Attendance and participation at library events continues to increase as we have been able to loosen our pandemic restrictions. Please be sure to visit dekalblibrary.org/events for registration information, as many classes fill up quickly!



Adult Services Specialist Marc Grace cooked for Northlake Cookbook Club's soul food program.

ENGLISH IVY AT MARY SCOTT NATURE PARK

by Susan Hanson, Friends of Mary Scott Park

Who planted the English ivy in the park? How many years ago? Does the ivy do anything to improve our environment?

The first two questions cannot be answered. The third question may be answered -- English ivy does not improve the environment! The ivy does provide a breeding place for mosquitoes.

The Friends of MSNP are working to have plants in the park that are good for birds, butterflies and bees while also providing a place for people to enjoy. English ivy does nothing for birds, or butterflies, or bees.

Last year, we removed 125 lawn bags of non-native plants, mostly English ivy. We are removing the non-native plants so that native plants can grow. Two native plants, Sweet Betsy (*Trillium cuneatum*) and Craneffy orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) now may be seen growing where only English ivy used to be visible.



Sweet Betsy
(*Trillium cuneatum*)



The purple leaf is Craneffy orchid
(*Tipularia discolor*)

Several groups of volunteers have helped us remove English ivy.

- ✓ AmeriCorps is a volunteer group of young adults. They work with troubled youth during the week. Helping in our park gives them a break from their normal routine.
- ✓ Students from Lakeside High School and Chamblee High School.
- ✓ Boy Scouts from Troop 77 and Troop 534.

Do you have English ivy in your yard? If you do, please begin removing the ivy.

It is especially important to remove English ivy from trees. When it gets high in a tree, the ivy does have a blossom. The blossoms produce seeds that fall to the ground and produce more plants.

Would you consider hiring a company to remove your ivy? If so, Ecologicatl is a company that will help homeowners with invasive plant removal. Contact them at www.ecologicatl.com or email info@ecologicatl.com.

The Friends of MSNP work in the park the first Saturday of the month – in the afternoons (2:00-4:00) in the cool months and in the morning (10:00-12:00) in the hot months. Contact us at friendsofmsnp@gmail.com.

It takes a community to care for our homeless and death row dogs & cats!

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NEWS ABOUT A NEIGHBOR

by Art Hansen (NBCA)

Our North Briarcliff neighborhood stretches from Echo Lake in the south to Cravey Drive and Cravey Trail in the north. The western border is I-85. From there, the neighborhood stretches east past Briarcliff and Payton roads to Shasta Way and Byr Mar Drive. Because you live here, you are a part of this large community.

Those of us fortunate enough to live in this big North Briarcliff neighborhood share neighborhood assets such as:

- ✓ Mary Scott Nature Park
- ✓ Hawthorne Elementary and other schools
- ✓ Echo, Cravey, Flair and Doreen Lakes
- ✓ The churches, shopping center and stores on Shallowford Road
- ✓ Part of the North Fork of Peachtree Creek.
- ✓ Easy access to I-85 and I-285.

We also share concerns about neighborhood safety, the maintenance of our schools and roads, code enforcement, stormwater flooding, coyotes, etc.

The North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) represents you, your neighbors, and your shared civic interests. We want to keep you aware and informed about local assets, issues and activities. We also want to let you know (and probably surprise you) about local history and interesting neighborhood activities.

For instance, I bet that you never thought about building an airplane in your garage. Well, one of your neighbors (John Morrow on Sherbrooke Drive) is doing that, and here is his story.

IS THERE AN AIRPLANE IN MY GARAGE?

by John Morrow

Yes. The fuselage of an airplane is parked inside my garage. The fuselage is the central tube-shaped body of an airplane.



In January 2023, I parked an airplane fuselage in my garage.

I worked as a chemist for the CDC until I retired in 2016. You may be wondering how and why an aircraft ended up in the garage of a retired chemist?

My response is that I had been interested in aircraft and had started taking flying lessons shortly before retiring. My interest in flying and aircraft focused on the technical aspects – the physics and instrumentation.

Briscoe Field and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)

My flying lessons were at Briscoe Field, the Gwinnett County Airport near Lawrenceville. There is where I met and started talking with members of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). Experimental aircraft are also called homebuilt or amateur-built to distinguish them from certificated (factory-built) aircraft. Many members of the EAA had built or were building their own aircraft.

The EAA is a non-profit service organization that helps inform and educate the public about aviation. The local chapter (EAA 690) is based in Briscoe Field, and I started going to their monthly meetings. After retiring, I started spending more time with members of the EAA at Briscoe Field. I liked the camaraderie and fellowship I found there.

The EAA chapter at Briscoe Field offers a wide range of aviation-related activities on a regular basis. Aside from their monthly meetings and Pancake

Breakfasts, the chapter sponsors a number of adult and youth-oriented programs that might interest you:

- 1) The Flying Start Program introduces adults to aviation.
- 2) The Young Eagles Program offers free introductory airplane rides for children 8-17 years old.
- 3) Middle and high school students in the Youth Build Aviation Program build airplanes.
- 4) Middle and high school students in the five-day Aviation Summer Camp learn about aviation principles and techniques. Students in the last summer camp designed airfoils and tested them in a wind tunnel.

Members of the EAA volunteer their time to pilot the flights and support the other programs. I helped as a member of the ground crew and also gave pre-flight safety briefings.

Building an RV-12 Aircraft

The chapter decided to build an RV-12 aircraft as a chapter project to raise funds for their programs. I was curious and challenged by the idea of building an airplane, so I started helping on this project.

Building a homebuilt airplane does not mean starting from a pile of lumber and chunks of metal. The pieces for a homebuilt RV-12 aircraft are prefabricated pieces of aluminum sheet metal. The pieces are already formed, and lines of holes have been drilled where pieces are to be riveted together.

Some snipping and trimming of pieces may be necessary before they can be riveted together. Before riveting two pieces together, the builder uses clecos (temporary fasteners) to ensure that all the holes in the two pieces line up.



This shows me working on riveting part of the fuselage.

IS THERE AN AIRPLANE IN MY GARAGE? CONT'D



One day, after spending hours working on the project, these EAA members and I posed for a souvenir photo.

How the airplane ended up in my garage

The chapter relied on donations to purchase the pieces for the RV-12 chapter project. After a while, donors and workers became more involved in other activities, and the partially-constructed aircraft project was placed in storage.

Then a friend of mine and I decided to buy the aircraft and finish building it ourselves. We pulled it out of storage, loaded it on a trailer, and hauled it to our homes. The fuselage is now in my garage, and the wings are at my friend's home.



The fuselage was loaded on a trailer to transport to my house.



As you can see, the fuselage and one car fit in my garage.

My garage used to be a two-car garage. Now it houses one car, one aircraft project, and a small, poorly-equipped but well-organized workshop for me to work on the project.

SPRING: TIME TO CLEAN, DECORATE, REPAINT, REPLANT AND RENOVATE

by Art Hansen (NBCA)

Inside the House

Spring cleaning—this season is traditionally a time to clean the house and sweep out the dust and debris that accumulated over the dreary winter. Although our winters are less dreary than elsewhere, we still often welcome the spring with projects to clean the cabinets, refresh the closets by storing the heavy winter clothing and bringing out the lighter warm weather clothing, redecorate the house by transposing or replacing what is hanging on our walls or some tired furniture, and maybe repaint some rooms or the whole house.



Oh my goodness! The house will be topsy-turvy!



Tired of your walls with their old whites, grays and browns. Millions of colors of paint are out there. Whee!

Outside

Outside, this is the time to investigate how the lawn, flowers, bushes and trees survived the colder weather. Everything started budding and blooming with the warm weather before a remnant of winter returned with a few freezing nights.

Then start weeding. Visit the nursery to buy the plants you need (flowers, herbs, etc.), then dig up and replant the garden. Cover everything with more mulch and start irrigating and fertilizing.

Renovating

If repainting, redecorating and replanting are not enough for you, there is always renovation and the opportunity to add and improve. We are fortunate to live in a mature neighborhood of good homes where people renovate. This is not a neighborhood where houses are torn down and replaced.

Spring is the time to think (or dream) about a new garden, a sidewalk, a fire pit, a treehouse, a screen porch or another project you have been dreaming about. Look around. Probably at least one neighbor on your block is renovating. Whee!

Keeping Undesirables Away This Season



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/greenandgrowingsb](https://www.facebook.com/greenandgrowingsb)

Spring has sprung! The possibilities this time of year are endless for those who love gardening and being outdoors. Yes, Mother Nature has a funny way of reminding us who's in charge though, as April can still bring freezing temperatures across the south east.

But while homeowners are busy dusting off patio furniture, mowing lawns and tending to busy bird feeders, the things we don't enjoy are emerging this time of year too!

With warmer, wetter weather comes mosquitoes, snakes, and deer. Be ready to keep these pests away with these few, simple tasks.

University of Georgia Extension Service and others share the following acronym to help homeowners control wildlife damage. "HERL method includes a step-by-step approach to addressing a damage problem: H - habitat modification or harassment; E - exclusion, including fencing; R - repellent or removal; and, finally, L - lethal control."

Mosquitoes



- ▶ Control them naturally by making adjustments to the surrounding landscape. Larvae need standing water, so eliminate the water that ponds on tarps, in buckets and pots, or in clogged gutters.
- ▶ For water features like ponds and birdbaths, invest in Mosquito Dunks. They're safe for birds and fish.
- ▶ Have an oscillating fan running while

enjoying time outdoors.

- ▶ Rather than treating the entire outdoor area indiscriminately, keep repellents like Off, Deet or Skin So Soft on hand.
- ▶ Finally, avoid dark clothing. Yep! Apparently that's what they're attracted to. Who knew?!

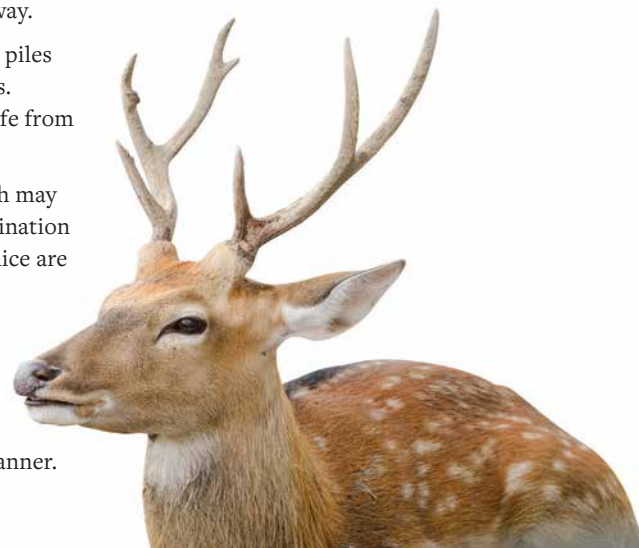
Snakes



- ▶ They're going to be active in landscapes near water no matter what, so expect to see them.
- ▶ Know the difference between the 'good' guys and the venomous snakes. The four venomous snakes found in this area are copperhead, cottonmouth, coral snake and timber rattlesnake.
- ▶ When working around thick ground cover, water, or brush, make as much noise as possible to scare them away.
- ▶ Eliminate brush, lumber and junk piles near the house and common areas. These places are protected and safe from predators.
- ▶ Eliminate their food source, which may be small rodents. Have an extermination company out to help if rats and mice are a problem.
- ▶ Do NOT toss mothballs outside as repellents! It is a violation of pesticide laws and is therefore illegal, to endanger humans and other mammals outside in this manner.

Deer

- ▶ This is where the HERL method comes in handy! Harassment would include sounds and dogs on the property.
- ▶ Exclusion, which includes fencing, can be costly but is often effective if built tall enough. Recently on my radio show, a wildlife management specialist said to monitor the paths they take through the yard, and keep the plants that they like to browse out of those areas.
- ▶ Many repellents use smell and taste to deter deer. Scented repellents often employ a rotten egg smell or coyote urine. Believe it or not, deer are picky about taste and texture.
- ▶ For a thoughtful list of plants that deer don't prefer, visit the University of Georgia Extension website, and search "deer" in their publications.



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POLLEN

Yuck. It comes in through the window, the window that is open so you can smell the sweet smells of spring.

It comes in on your clothes after working in the garden. It comes in from your garage where it has been hitch hiking on your car for the past 2 weeks.

However it is not the only yuck in your house. Dust, mold, little bugs and other trash can find its way into your vents and settle in your ductwork.

How do you keep your ductwork clean in order to keep that yuck out of the air that you are breathing?

Well, to start with you can change the filter on your furnace on a regular basis. Almost all of the air in your house passes through the filter at some point, keeping the filter clean can help keep your air clean.

But what about cleaning those ducts? You know they are just loaded with yuck. What's the deal with duct cleaning?

Here are a couple of things you should know about cleaning your ducts, or as I like to call, 'Duct Sucking'.

- ▶ Maybe one of the biggest scams in the home services field unfortunately, centers on cleaning your duct work. I am talking about carpet cleaning companies that say they can clean your air ducts for some really cheapo amount – and by the I mean like \$49.95 - "As long as we are here" then all they do is vacuum around your registers and if you are lucky they stick the vacuum 2 ft. into your duct.
- ▶ For your information – a good thorough duct cleaning by a professional will run you in your average sized home \$500 - \$600.

While I don't generally give out prices here I will in this instance to illustrate A – that it is a serious procedure that calls for serious money and 2 – to show you how ridiculous and how little work or good you will get out of a \$49.95 deal.

This is really when you should absolutely have your ducts cleaned:

- ▶ Immediately after you move into a newly built home. Lots of construction debris, saw dust, dry wall scraps, and Doritos bags end up in the duct work of a newly build home.
- ▶ And after that every 4-6 years. Lemme repeat that, every 4-6 YEARS is sufficient.

(This is unless you have someone in the house with breathing problems. If that is the case, then you should get your hvac man/lady out to your house to upgrade your furnace filtration situation. That is money better spent than on a yearly or every two year duct cleaning scam.)

I will repeat: every 4-6 years. The beauty of this is that a good, honest, reputable duct cleaning company will agree that it is not a yearly maintenance project, and that you can go years in between cleanings.

One more thing. A quality duct cleaning company will/should clean your drier vents too. Hey - they are also ducts...

If your duct suckers can pass the mustard on all that, you are on to a good one. Get your ducts cleaned. Then do it again.

In 2029.



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Waiting to plant until after Easter?

Tax Day may be a better rule of thumb!

Easter's calendar date is variable, so a better rule of thumb may be to wait to plant sensitive plants until after Tax Day.

Spring temperatures in Atlanta are highly variable, and a wise gardener should always note which plants are more cold hardy versus tender during a cold snap.

The old adage "wait to plant until Easter" is usually good advice, however Easter's calendar date varies year after year -- and some years, it is as early as March 23!

That lines up with the average last spring freeze date for the Atlanta area, but the latest freeze on record did occur on April 25, 1910.

With that said, the majority of the killing freezes should be done before April 15, which is Tax Day -- so perhaps that is the better "rule of thumb" date!

WHY THE EXTRA CAUTION AROUND THE SPRING FREEZE?

Often, temperatures will swell in February and March before dropping in early April. This happened in 2007 when temperatures trended well above average in March before crashing into the low to mid 20s in early April.

95.5 WSB
ATLANTA'S NEWS & TALK

"Wait to Plant Until After Easter"
BEWARE THE SPRING FREEZE

March 23
Average Last Spring Freeze

Record Earliest: Feb 5, 1880
Record Latest: April 25, 1910

The April 6-9, 2007 killing freeze arrived just in time for the Easter holiday, when temperatures dropped into the mid 20s as far south as Middle Georgia.

According to NOAA, the Easter 2007 freeze resulted in a state-wide agricultural production value loss of \$257.5 million, with peaches, blueberries and apples experiencing the most freeze damage.



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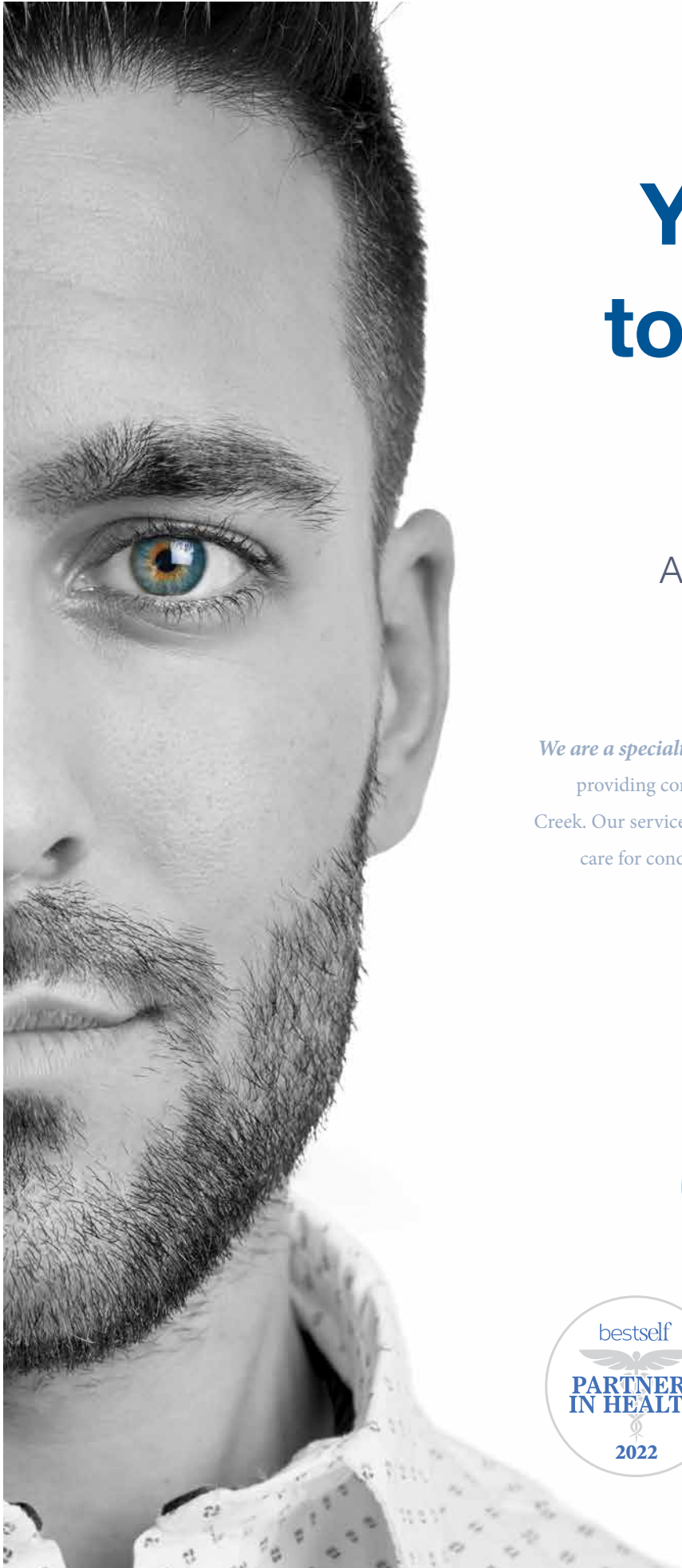
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