

# Dunwoody North

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DUNWOODYNORTH.ORG • FEB 2022

## YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED!

Last fall we sent out our first survey to Dunwoody North to hear from you. We appreciate everyone who responded with so many wonderful ideas! As DNCA is a volunteer organization, there are many things we would like to do for our community but we can't without people like you to help. Are you interested in giving back to your community? If so, please reach out to [Help@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:Help@DunwoodyNorth.org) or [Events@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:Events@DunwoodyNorth.org).



### Survey Themes

More awareness of  
DNCA is needed

Keep Dunwoody  
North beautiful

More social media  
presence &  
communication

Desire for more  
community events  
through DNCA

Welcome new  
residents

Desire for in person  
meet and greets

After collecting all of the survey responses, there were several themes that clearly emerged (see left): the desire for more in person events, the desire to welcome new residents, and general awareness of the benefits DNCA provides and what the organization does. We need your support and engagement to make some of these happen!

**What does DNCA do for the neighborhood?** The Dunwoody North Civic Association (DNCA) represents the Dunwoody North Neighborhoods regarding local, city, county, and state issues specifically concerning our community. The

DNCA also assists the residents to protect and enhance the value of their property. The DNCA Board meets regularly to share information, thoughts and ideas, and then shares them with the entire community and City Government. The Civic Association has built a strong relationship over the years with city, county and the state government. That relationship has been instrumental in gathering support to fight detrimental development and secure development that enhances the area.

In addition, the DNCA has a reciprocal relationship with the Dunwoody Homeowner's Association and other nearby homeowner groups to assist and support each other.

### What benefits does DNCA provide?

- Neighborhood Watch and CallingPost alerts
- Zoning representation and Code Enforcement issues
- High school graduate scholarship
- Sponsorship of regular holiday meals for the City of Dunwoody Police Dept. and Fire Station 18
- Newsletters (twice a year)
- Email updates with community notices
- Printed neighborhood directory
- Donations to local schools in Dunwoody
- Support for the Driving Club, for example helping with storm damage and other clubhouse improvements
- Sponsors occasional neighborhood events
- Keep Dunwoody North beautiful through the Yard of the Month, monument landscaping, and holiday lights competitions



# Dunwoody North

## Annual Meeting

**Virtual AND In-Person!**

### Guest Speakers:

*DeKalb County Board of Education - Anna Hill*

*Region 1 Superintendent - Melanie Pearch*

**Tuesday, March 1st, 2022**

Join us in-person at the Dunwoody North  
Driving Club Pool House or on Zoom:

**[www.DunwoodyNorth.org/Meeting](http://www.DunwoodyNorth.org/Meeting) to RSVP**

**{We will gather at 6:30pm with the meeting  
beginning at 7:00pm}**

***See below and the insert for more info.***

## 2022 DNCA General Membership Meeting

This year's DNCA general meeting theme is EDUCATION... Many will disagree about such topics as how our schools should be funded, what they need or how much money is required, and how crowded is too crowded but we believe that everyone will agree that there is virtually nothing more important to the future than the education of our young people. That education is especially important to those students and their families.

**Tuesday March 1st 2022** is the annual Dunwoody North public meeting and elections. As we are still not clear of the pandemic, this year we will be holding a hybrid gathering. If you would like to join with us and your neighbors in-person, we will be at the **DNDC Clubhouse** but if you are unable to attend in person, you are welcome to join us on **Zoom**. **We will gather at 6:30pm and the meeting will truly start at 7:00pm.**

We have two guest speakers for this year, Anna Hill and Melanie Pearch. Anna Hill is our DeKalb County Board of Education District 1 representative. Anna Hill was elected in 2020 for District 1 which includes multiple schools including our three local schools, Chesnut Elementary, Peachtree Middle and Dunwoody High. Anna also happens to live right here in Dunwoody North so she is especially attached to our community.

(Meeting — Continued on page 6)

## GUEST SPEAKER BIOS

### Anna Hill



One of our guest speakers this year will be Anna Hill, our DeKalb County Board of Education District 1 representative. Anna Hill was elected in 2020 for

District 1 which includes multiple schools including our three local schools, Chesnut Elementary, Peachtree Middle and Dunwoody High. And Anna also happens to live right here in Dunwoody North so she is especially attached to our schools.

Ms. Anna Hill is a 20-year resident of DeKalb County and a native of Northern Virginia. She is a graduate of Fairfax County Public School System. She attended the University of Alabama and graduated from the University of South Alabama in 1997.

She is a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the State of Georgia and was a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs 2008 Leadership Academy. She has worked in various professional roles including white collar crime investigations, business litigation matters, audits and other accounting investigations. She is the founder of Accounting We Will Go, a business providing accounting and business training services for clients across the United States. Ms. Hill was also the CPA for the Chamblee Downtown Development Association.

Anna Hill is married and has one son who is a 2019 graduate of Chamblee Charter High School. Her son also attended Huntley Hills and Chamblee Middle School. She is currently working towards her Masters in Museum Studies from Harvard University.

### Melanie Pearch

Our other guest speaker this year is Melanie Pearch. Melanie started her educational career in

(Melanie Pearch - Continued on next page)





Daine Pearson - President  
President@DunwoodyNorth.org

# President's Message

Hello Dunwoody North Neighbors,

I regularly describe this period in our collective lives as a really bad B-movie. The problem is, good or bad, most movies just don't last very long while it seems this one has become a never-ending story, so my message today; Be thankful for what you have, be understanding of those around you and please accept my best wishes for a great 2022! We all deserve it!

I would like to personally invite you all to an in-person annual DNCA meeting. We realize that not everyone is ready or available for hanging out with a crowd so Tuesday March 1st we will hold our meeting at the DNDC Clubhouse and also provide a Zoom connection for those that cannot attend in person. Look for the enclosed yellow page for meeting details as well as the voting ballot (I'll come back to that) - I hope to see you at the meeting.

In the meantime, your DNCA held its first survey in 2021 and while we didn't get a huge response, we did collect input from about a hundred of you, thank you! And I will note that we've decided to leave the survey open so if you would like to contribute to the DNCA's direction, please fill it out: [www.DunwoodyNorth.org/Survey](http://www.DunwoodyNorth.org/Survey).

To my surprise, about 80% of the respondents say they have lived in Dunwoody North for 10 years or longer and while there was a lot of useful info conveyed, one clear signal is you would like to see more neighborhood events of some sort. We absolutely agree and to that end, we will be forming an events team but keeping in mind that the DNCA is all volunteers and always short-handed, I'm asking now for your help. We cannot make this happen on our own so if you want events, you need to put in your hands and get involved, otherwise it will simply not be possible. Specifically, please send an email to [Events@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:Events@DunwoodyNorth.org) to make it known that you are ready to help. And even better, if you think you would be a good choice to help lead this team, please do get in touch.

And as I said, we NEED YOUR HELP and that also includes on our board - we again have multiple open positions. Holding a board position is very much what you make of it. There are a few posts that have specific regular duties but many, particularly the Member at Large spots, have no specific responsibilities. Members at Large are voting members of the board and it is desired that they will take on \ lead specific projects and that kind of thing but we are all volunteers so again, it is what you can put in. There are other positions open as well so if you are tempted to jump in, please contact me: [President@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:President@DunwoodyNorth.org).

Can't wait to hear from you!

Daine Pearson

## MELANIE PERCH CONT...



DeKalb County School District in 1994 as a Spanish teacher at Redan High School. She continued as a Spanish teacher at both Redan and Stephenson High, where she also coached softball and sponsored numerous extra-curricular activities. She improved her Spanish skills each summer by living with native families and taking intensive language courses throughout South and Central America.

In 2001, she transitioned to an administrative role at Cary Reynolds Elementary School. She remained in the Cross Keys cluster for 15 years serving as principal of Cary Reynolds and Woodward Elementary. During this time, she earned recognitions of Superintendent's Excellence in Parental Involvement, Department of Education Outstanding Achievement School, Title I Distinguished School, Title I High Progress School, Georgia Family Friendly School, and Region I Principal of the Year. She transferred to Kingsley Elementary in the Dunwoody cluster in 2016. Her focus has always been on developing leaders and "doing the right thing, even when no one is looking".

Originally from New England, Mrs. Perch graduated from the University of Rhode Island and earned her Master's degree from Georgia State University. She currently resides in Region I with her husband and two middle school children.



## DNCA CELEBRATES DUNWOODY'S FIRE FIGHTERS BY PAT CLOUD

DNCA expressed our appreciation of Fire Station 18 during the week of December 6, 2021. Our annual Bring Cheer and Thanks week was a huge success with many neighbors volunteering their time and baking skills to celebrate these first responders of "Truck 18". Each day during the week, a treat of the volunteer's choosing was delivered to the fire station. I think all our volunteers would agree that it is very rewarding to personalize their thanks by hand delivering treats.

**Thank you to our 2021 volunteers:** Andrea Waters, Debbie Maguigan, Edye and Rob Disner, Rebecca Parker, Jessica McDaniel, Nissa Koenigsberg, Patty Cottle, Erica Kuniansky, Theresa van Staden, Stacy Garner, Sylvia Ratchford, and Valerie Cook.

The 2022 Bring Cheer and Thanks week is planned for December 5th through the 11th. Anyone interested in participating may contact [Help@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:Help@DunwoodyNorth.org).



## \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP



**ATTENTION!**  
**ANY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR  
GRADUATING IN 2022 WHO LIVES  
IN THE DUNWOODY NORTH  
COMMUNITIES**

DNCA offers you the opportunity to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship by submitting a 500 word essay entitled:

### **"What is Your Vision for Your Future?"**

The essay should be approximately 500 words in length and include correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

The deadline for submission is Saturday, May 29, 2022, and the winner will be notified by Sunday, June 26, 2022. High school seniors must live in the Dunwoody North neighborhoods to be eligible.

We look forward to receiving lots of essays and hearing about your visions for the future!

Send your essays to Gerri and Lyn at:

[SCHOLARSHIP@DUNWOODYNORTH.ORG](mailto:SCHOLARSHIP@DUNWOODYNORTH.ORG)



## HELP KEEP DUNWOODY NORTH BEAUTIFUL!



Recently DNCA sent out a survey to the community and one of the more common requests was to keep Dunwoody North communities beautiful. There are many ways for us all to do that without any cost.

### Here are some ideas:

- Do not leave papers in your driveway.
- Make sure your curbs, roof, and driveway are clear of debris.
- Maintain your yard by cutting your grass, picking up dead limbs, removing dead trees.
- If you are on Facebook, you can join the Dunwoody North Garden Club page. People give away free plants that can beautify your yard.
- Follow DeKalb's guidelines for when to roll trash and recycles trash bins to the street. Remember to pull them back to your house soon after they've been emptied.
- If you have trailers or boats in your driveway beyond the front plane of your house, please abide by code and move them.
- Per code, do not leave inoperable vehicles on the street or in your driveway and do not park in the yard.
- In consideration of your neighbors, make sure your backyard is maintained as required by code.

*Hopefully doing these things will help to keep our community looking beautiful! We love our neighborhood!*

## DNCA CELEBRATES DUNWOODY'S POLICE OFFICERS



Another successful DNCA Police luncheon was held on December 1, 2021. There was high attendance by the Dunwoody Police and staff. We again thank Shane's for providing the main courses, and for delivering and setting up the food, as well as, providing the food at a discount.

We would also like to thank Judy Hofer, Pat Cloud, and Joyce Foster for volunteering to attend and help with the set-up, serving and clean-up, as well as providing home-baked goods.

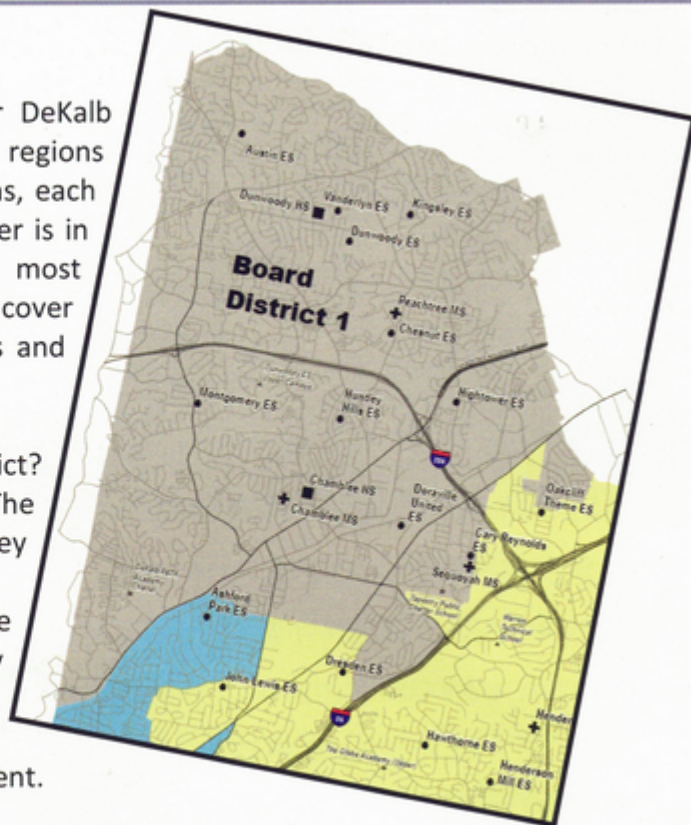
Special thanks to Anna Kaminer and Maggie Eckard for baking and Joyce Foster for recruiting some of her Dunwoody North neighbors: Betty and Diana Niemy, Jess Miller, and Anna Ullman who also provided home-baked goods for the luncheon. A good time was had by all and the DPD featured the luncheon on their website!



Melanie Peach is the Region 1 Superintendent for DeKalb County School District. If you look at the districts and regions on a map, DeKalb County is divided into seven regions, each with a Regional Superintendent. The Dunwoody Cluster is in District 1, which happens to be in Region 1, the most northern of all the regions. Region 1 also happens to cover almost the same area as District 1 but other regions and districts are quite different.

How does Anna fit into the DeKalb County School District? A Board of Education member is an elected official. The Board of Education (BoE) has seven members, and they have one employee, the Superintendent.

The BoE is responsible for policy while the Superintendent is responsible for day to day operations (masks, virtual learning, inclement weather, etc.). A Regional Superintendent like Melanie Peach is an employee who reports to the Superintendent.



Some of what will be discussed centers around the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP), financed by the E-Splost approved in November 2021. The final draft of the CMP will be presented to the Board of Education a week or so before our meeting. This will be fresh information that touches every aspect of our schools -- including the physical condition of facilities, how suitable they are for current and future needs as well as demographics, enrollment, capacity, utilization, and more.

### **If you want to attend the general meeting:**

You can attend *in person* at the DNDC Clubhouse - doors will open at 6:30pm. The meeting will start at 7:00pm so please try and be inside well before then. If you prefer to join via Zoom, *please go to* [www.DunwoodyNorth.org/Meeting](http://www.DunwoodyNorth.org/Meeting) to RSVP. Let us know you want to attend so we can plan accordingly. Meeting details are on page 2 of this newsletter and in the included yellow insert.

Also, if you are logged in to your DNCA account, meeting details will be shown on the above web page. Note: This meeting is specifically for the Dunwoody North communities so please do not share the Zoom meeting information.

If you have questions for Anna Hill or Melanie Peach, please *submit them by email in advance to:* [Meeting@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:Meeting@DunwoodyNorth.org). During the meeting you can pose questions in the chat box and depending on attendance, you may be able to ask questions live.

For most of the meeting we will mute everyone however we may miss you so please be aware of your microphone setting and assure you are muted when you are not speaking. Closed captioning will be provided during the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you all on March 1st and please save the insert for meeting details!



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

As the Pandemic continues, most people remain close to home. I have not had any calls about crimes committed in our neighborhood in the last couple of months. Let's hope that continues. If you experience a crime, after you call 911, please call me at (404) 402-9354.

The criminals, however, are increasingly reaching out through Cyber scams. As always, never hit any links contained within a questionable email. When you get an email that raises your suspicions, the first thing you do is single tap the source of the email in the upper left hand corner. If it doesn't say the same source underneath, close it immediately! For example: I got an email ostensibly from Amazon confirming my purchase from my Amazon account. I don't have an Amazon account. When I tapped the "source" (Amazon), instead of it saying Amazon.com, it had a series of numbers and letters which would have directed me to a totally different email location. BEWARE. This is how criminals get your personal information. Hopefully, people are wising up to these criminals by now, but some people still get pulled in because they sound or look so legitimate. Remember, NO genuine government agency, like the IRS, the courts, or any police department will ever contact you asking you to send money period, especially not in the form of gift cards. Be careful, if you send money in that form, you can never retrieve it.

The Dunwoody Police Department has now instituted a new online portal called P2C which allows residents to directly access events (like incidents and arrests), daily bulletins, community calendars, and register for residential security checks. This portal can be accessed directly from the Dunwoody Police website, or at <http://p2c.dunwoodyga.gov>.

The only other issues we have been having have been with dead deer in the neighborhood – two in the last few weeks. If you see any dead animals, please call DeKalb County Sanitation at (404) 294-2996 for removal. For wild animal removal, call DeKalb County Animal Control (404) 294-2996.



Judy Hofer  
DNCA Neighborhood Watch Chair  
[NeighborhoodWatch@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:NeighborhoodWatch@DunwoodyNorth.org)  
(404) 402-9354

## 7TH ANNUAL DNCA HOLIDAY LIGHTS DECORATION CONTEST

The Dunwoody North Civic Association held its 7th annual Holiday Lights Decorations contest in December 2021. This year, the Beautification Committee mixed it up with 4 categories for voting and had so much fun!

- The Clark W. Griswold Award—the display you can see from outer space
- Traditional Award—the display that captures the classic holiday spirit
- Family Fun Award—the display that brings out the child in all of us
- Best Use of Inflatables Award—the display that captures the fun and creativity of inflatables



There were four houses nominated for each category with almost 60 members voting. The winners of each category were as follows:

- *Clark Griswold (Dybing Family) – 2428 Brookhurst (see pic, page 8)*
- *Traditional (Conreaux family) – 2611 Briers North (see pic, page 8)*
- *Family Fun (Ringler family) – 2471 Old Orchard Court (see pic above)*
- *Inflatables (Ramo family) – 4337 Huntington Circle (see pic to the right)*



We caught up with a few of the winners to congratulate them on their awards. **The Conreaux family, winner of the Traditional Lights award**, said: "We've lived in Dunwoody North for almost 20 years, all of them in the Briers North subdivision. We've always appreciated how people in this area put so much effort and

Decorations - Continued on page 8)



We had some beautiful yards win Yard of the Month in 2021! Congratulations to all the winners. Due to Covid, we will continue to take nominations for Yard of the Month and have judges drive to see the nominated homes on their own and choose a winner. You will still be able to nominate your own yard.

We will start taking nominations in mid-March and winners will be chosen at the beginning of April. October will be the last month for Yard of the Month.

I want to thank our judges and photographer for their help in 2021. Please contact [Beautification@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:Beautification@DunwoodyNorth.org) if you would like to be a judge as we are in need of additional judges.



Gerri Penn - Beautification Chair

## Beautification & Yard of the Month

### ADOPT A MONUMENT

Thank you to the anonymous person who beautified the monument at Binghamton Road. DNCA really appreciates it!

Please volunteer! Email Gerri at: [Beautification@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:Beautification@DunwoodyNorth.org).

## 7TH ANNUAL DNCA 2020 HOLIDAY LIGHTS DECORATION CONTEST

Decoration's - Continued from page 7

heart into their decorations for the holidays, especially for Christmas and Halloween. It brings out the kid in all of us. The wonder, the awe, the inspiration--sometimes even the humor-- that goes into the placement of every bulb delights our spirit as we drive around town and see the creativity of our neighborhood come alive in so many unique ways. It keeps us young, and sparks a renewed twinkle of hope as we approach each coming new year.

The reason we hang lights is because it brings us joy to see our home decorated and reminisce back upon generations of holiday lights we shared with our parents, siblings and grandparents. And now it's become a special tradition we share with our own children too! But it brings us something else, too. We know not everyone has time or even the capability to decorate every year. And for those that do, we sincerely appreciate the late nights, the countless trips to the store, the subtle sacrifices of valuable weekend time that could be spent doing something else or crossing another errand off your list. There's an undeniable feeling of connection to the person you see hanging lights across the street, or who drives by your house and stops to offer a kind word. We can't always talk to or reach out to people around us the way we'd like to -- and there's just so many neighbors we don't know a thing about. But somehow we always feel more connected to our community during the holidays. If these lights have anything to do with that, then it's truly a pleasure and an honor to hang them."



**The winners of the Clark W. Griswold award, the Dybing family,** said: "We sincerely want to thank all who voted for our Christmas decorations on us winning the Clark Griswold category. It was truly an honor. Christmas has always been a very special time for our family since childhood and will follow the tradition in generations to come. We enjoy decorating, cooking and the true Christmas Spirit of sharing, caring and giving. Our 3-year-old grandson Jayden is very eager to help with the decorating and will just look at them for hours with excitement. There is not a thing that could make us happier than to see our lil guy get so excited and being so happy. The smile on his face makes it all worth it. We want to thank you again for making our family very happy and also very surprised. Many wishes for a Happy 2022."



Congratulations to all the winners! A special thank you to Julie, Staci, Stacey, and Rebecca who served as judges this year.

**Are you interested in getting involved with our neighborhood and giving back? We would love to have you join the team! Please contact the DNCA Beautification Committee via email at: [Beautification@DunwoodyNorth.org](mailto:Beautification@DunwoodyNorth.org)**