

# northcrest news

Welcome to Summer!

WE BELIEVE  
HOMES ARE WHERE  
LOVE IS LOVE  
EVERYONE IS EQUAL  
WATER IS LIFE

## In This Issue...

- \* Living With An Original Northcrest Kitchen
- \* The Story of the P&H "Split-Level"
- \* Designing Your Perfect Pool
- \* The Northcrest Wandering Monkey







Howdy Neighbors! I hope that you are all enjoying these dog days of summer. Personally, I have been spending as much time as possible at the Northcrest Swim & Tennis Club pool and thanking Willis Carrier for the invention of air conditioning back in 1902. Atlanta would not be anywhere near what she is today without air conditioning and carpetbaggers such as myself might have stayed further North!

Anywho...enough of that and on to the business of the day. First, don't forget to come celebrate summer with us at the NCA's Steel Dreamin' Street Party on August 11th. There will be live music (thanks to neighbors Keren and Michael Barr!), food trucks, baked goods, and activities for the munchkins. Most likely, it is going to be hot as you-know-where, but that's what icy beverages and lawn sprinklers are for. See you there!

Second, just a reminder that the NCA is not an "exclusive" organization — our goal is for EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD to be involved. The NCA was created due to an obvious need for a general neighborhood group, open to all residents, that could focus on the various issues that pop up from time to time (e.g., cityhood, school construction, potholes, etc.) AND attempt to bring the neighborhood, as a whole, together. Our meetings are OPEN to ANY NEIGHBOR who would like to attend. What we can accomplish as a group is directly tied to your participation. As such, I once again ask you to please consider getting involved. At the very least — join. Beyond that, attend a meeting. Why is it better to work as a group? The NCA has resources: Insurance. Funding. A Tax ID number and the ability to accept donations and provide a receipt. Do you have an idea or a project that you would like explore? Talk to me. Let's band together and make Northcrest the absolute best neighborhood it can be.

Finally, I want to give a brief shout out to all of the people who dedicate so much time to this group. They are responsible for every newsletter, every event, every single thing that we require in order to operate as a group. In alphabetical order: John Eaton, Liza Everett, Chad Hannula, Chris Hester, Peggy Hilleary, Deb Knott, Liam O'Marah, and Sheryl Nelson.

Happy Summer Y'all!

Ingrid Nuss  
President

- August 11 - Steel Dreamin' Street Party
- August 18 - Mediterranean Night
- September 1 - Labor Day Cookout
- September 15 - Latin Night
- October 13-14 - Chili Cook-off and Camporee

Northcrest Civic Association | 3462 Summitridge Dr. | Atlanta, GA. 30340 | [www.NorthcrestCivicAssociation.com](http://www.NorthcrestCivicAssociation.com)

## Cover Story: Living with an Original Northcrest Kitchen.

When Joella first discovered her house on Northaven Lane nearly three years ago, she knew it was ‘the one’ as soon as she walked in. She loved the flow of the house, the beauty of the wood and the view of the Azaleas outside the kitchen window. Oh, and the original Northcrest kitchen, too!

Built in 1959, the kitchen (the whole house, really) is pretty much unchanged, and features original cabinets, sinks, lighting, and stove fan. “When most people move into a new house the kitchen is often a pain-point and the first to go”, said Joella, “but not me – I loved all of it, just maybe not the linoleum!”

The NCA team recently caught up with Joella to learn her tips for successfully living with an original Northcrest kitchen. Maybe it might make **you** think twice about removing **your** original Northcrest kitchen gem?

### Organization

There can be limited counter space in a Northcrest kitchen, so it pays to get clever about your storage options. Joella has cleverly used an over-the-stove organizer to maximize the space and take as much clutter as possible off the counter. Also, Joella has used the space formerly occupied by the dishwasher to cleverly hide her spice rack (on wheels), which she can easily pull out during cooking and then hide behind a cool piece of vintage fabric.

### Maximize Your Storage

One thing you do get with Northcrest’s original partitions and cabinets is plenty of above-cabinet space, which can be used for plants or additional lighting. Joella has also used her Midcentury furniture pieces in the adjoining dining space as they were intended — to store and display her cookware and dishes. Inside the cabinets, Joella added a unique pan lid holder and a built-in shelf for a small trash can.

### Accentuate the Strong Parts and Have Fun!

“I embrace the fact that this kitchen has history and is not a modern version”, says Joella. “I have fun with accessorizing it, from the vintage prints to the utensils, and I can make clever use of lighting to accentuate surfaces.”

Joella’s kitchen may not follow the modern trend toward ‘open-plan’ but that certainly doesn’t seem to deter people from still congregating in the kitchen when she has parties. “Because the house has such a good flow to it, I can still talk to and hear people in the main living area,” said Joella.

Who wouldn’t want an invite when cooking and conversation can be this much fun?!





# Willis Cox

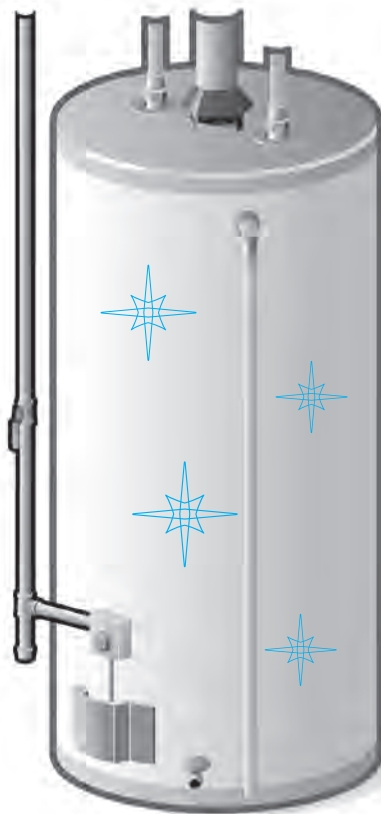
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## Neighborhood Watch

by Jim Taylor

This past spring, Northcrest neighbors collaborated to form a new neighborhood watch under the umbrella of the NCA's neighborhood safety committee. The primary hurdle faced by neighbors is the requirement that 75% of households participate to be "officially" recognized by the National Crime Prevention Council ([www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)). This distinction brings with it additional perks from DeKalb County Police.

With nearly 600 households in Northcrest, neighbors and DeKalb Police representatives collaborated on a new "ground up" strategy where the neighborhood was divided into 55 different "block" areas of seven to 12 homes each. (See block map online at [bit.ly/NCAwatchmap](http://bit.ly/NCAwatchmap)).

The concept was simple: Each block would be responsible for recruiting the people they are likely to know best. As each block garnered 75% participation, they could group together with nearby blocks of similar participation levels and from there, form as many as four or five independent, but collaborative watches.

In short, neighbors were largely unable to generate enough participation. In the coming weeks, door-to-door efforts will be made by neighboring blocks to recruit participation and fill the watch.

Participation is easy and requires very little action on the part of member households. Simply sign up at [bit.ly/NCAwatch](http://bit.ly/NCAwatch). More information on what the neighborhood watch is (and what it isn't) is available there.

## Summer Home Security Tips

by Chad Hannula (NCA Committee Member, Safety)

Summer is a fun season in Northcrest, but it can quickly become less fun if you become the victim of a home robbery. The warm air, open doors, and people coming and going for parties can be a prime time for thieves to make easy targets. Here are some quick tips to enjoy the summer season while making your home safe and secure.

### Time For the Yard

Summer is yard work and home improvement time. Don't leave tools and ladders in places that give criminals an easier opportunity to break into your home.

### Got Mail?

When going away for a period of time, make sure you have a friend or neighbor get your mail and all the advertisements that are taped to your mailbox or thrown into your driveway. Leaving these in place for an extended period of time is a sign that you are not home.

### Tell a Neighbor of Travel

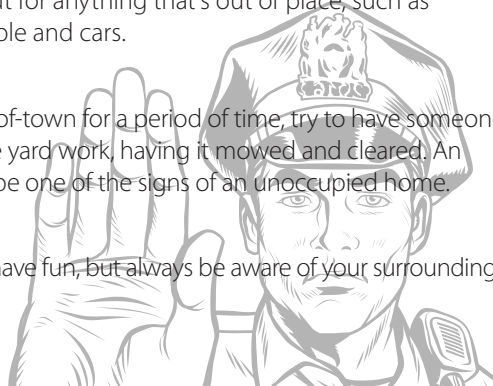
Let your neighbors know when you are out-of-town so they can keep an eye out for anything that's out of place, such as unrecognized people and cars.

### Keep it Tidy

If you're going out-of-town for a period of time, try to have someone to keep up with the yard work, having it mowed and cleared. An unkempt yard can be one of the signs of an unoccupied home.

### Finally...

While you're away, have fun, but always be aware of your surroundings.



## Northerest Civic Association Summer Block Party

# Steel Dreamin'

Neighbors, Michael and Keren Barr...and their 'Steel Dreamin' Caribbean Steel Drum Band... will help Northcrest gets it's "Buffett" on!

**When: Saturday, Aug 11, 5 - 10 PM**

**Where: Corner of Northlake Drive & Lori Lane**

**Who: All Northcrest Families**

### Schedule of Events:

**5:00 PM - 6:00 PM** Set up your "*Pirate*" inspired party area Northcrest Parrotheads! Bring beach chairs, blankets, and folding tables!

**5:00 PM - 10:00 PM** Dinner's on - 2 food trucks this year: the *Atlanta Burger Truck* will be serving grilled all-natural "Cheeseburgers in Paradise" & hotdogs, and homemade sides and *Mac the Cheese Truck*, will be serving gooey goodness. *Cold Frozen drinks* and *King of Pops* will be on sale too!

**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** Kids Events - Special 'Parakeet' activities sponsored by the *Northcrest Mamas*. This year's activities may include a little splashing! Bring towels!

**7:00 PM - 10:00 PM** Dance Party's on featuring - '*Steel Dreamin'*

**10:00 PM** Help us cleanup and keep Northcrest beautiful!

### Here's how you can help us:

Stop by our table and sign up as a **NEW** NCA member and get a **FREE** frozen drink for each family member - on us!

**Hoe 'N Hope Garden Club** Bake Sale – Homemade goodies! Donations accepted.

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*Additional parking at the Pleasantdale Elementary School*

[www.northcrestcivicassociation.com](http://www.northcrestcivicassociation.com)

# Designing Your Perfect Northcrest Pool

by Chris Hester (NCA Vice President)



It's summertime so that means parties, picnics, and pools! Many houses in Northcrest have pools and every summer the list keeps growing as more households embark on a pool project. Maybe you're thinking about putting a pool in your backyard, but you don't know where to start? Having undertaken a new pool build a few years ago, here are the top ten things to consider before taking the plunge:

1. **Purpose** – Why do you want a pool? Will the pool be primarily used for exercise (swimming laps) or for fun and recreation? Will the primary users be kids, adults, or both? The answer to these questions will factor in to the answers to some of the later questions. But it will be important to understand what your ultimate goal is before embarking on the project. You will need to have the intended uses in mind when considering the remaining questions.
2. **Contractor** – Once you have made the definite decision that a pool is right for you and your family, you need to start the process of selecting a contractor to build the pool. Be sure to ask anyone and everyone for recommendations about who to use or NOT use based on their experiences. Ask for references from the companies that you are considering and go visit their customers. This will not only give you a sense of the type of work that they perform, but will also help with design ideas. Often times the best advice that you will receive is about what not to do and what mistakes to avoid. Don't always just go with the best price offered.
3. **Costs** – Building a pool is not an inexpensive endeavor. There are a lot of costs included in the project and you need to consider them all now, even if you plan to install some of the components at a later time. The costs include site preparation, digging the hole, installing the pool and plumbing, decking, fencing, and landscaping. Always allow for contingencies and cost overages, they will pop-up in any construction project. Having a well thought out budget with cost contingencies built in will serve you well.
4. **Timeline** – It is important to consider the time of year that the project will start and again to build in extra time for unexpected delays. Some companies will quote you different prices depending on the time of the year. Here in Atlanta we are fortunate that some of the construction work can start in late winter and early spring. These are typically “off-season” times for the contractors and you can negotiate better rates.
5. **Location** – You need to make sure that your pool and everything that will accompany it will be laid out properly and fit in with your home and the rest of the outdoor spaces in your yard. The topography of your yard will be the biggest driver in this process. You should also take into account the amount and type of decking that will surround your pool as well as fencing requirements and landscaping plans when deciding on the location and design of the pool. Remember that you will spend as much time around your pool as you will in it. The pool and the surrounding spaces need to be easily accessible from the house and connect well with other spaces such as the grilling area, gardens, and a campfire area.
6. **Type of Pool & Materials** – Are you planning an in-ground pool or an above-ground pool? Above-ground pools can be built in such a way to look like an in-ground pool with the proper decking. Most companies no longer install vinyl lined pools, so your two choices now are fiberglass and concrete. Fiberglass pools are pre-formed and limit your design and size choices. Concrete gives you







the flexibility to custom design your own size and shape and add built in special touches. You will need to consider your answers from earlier about the purpose and users of the pool when deciding on the design of the pool. Do you really need a deep end? If you have kids, this may or may not make sense.

You should plan to build in ledges and benches to provide seating areas within the pool but not have them interfere with the main section of the pool. Again, visiting lots of other pools and asking around for advice is the best way to get good solid design ideas. When it comes to the materials that will be used to construct your pool, do your research. Don't just take the recommendation of your contractor. The samples that the pool companies have in their showroom are not always representative of the actual lots that are available from the manufacturers. Don't be shy about asking around or visiting the suppliers. Once your construction has started, it will be difficult to make changes. Lastly, you need to decide whether you will use a chlorine or saltwater system. Most pool companies today only install saltwater systems and not the sand filtration systems.

7. **Design & Features** – Don't be afraid to experiment with the size and shape or the features added. But do think long and hard before committing to the final design. Again, it needs to fit in with the house and the rest of the outdoor spaces. Considering the pool an extension of the house allows you to imagine how they integrate and what the view of the pool will be from the indoor living spaces. Adding a hot tub is highly recommended. It allows you more year-around use and adds another dimension to the project. It will also give you a built-in water feature with the soothing sounds of a waterfall. Don't forget that the pool depth affects the color of the pool. Shallower pools are lighter than deeper pools with the same finishes.
8. **Fencing** – Local code regulations dictate what is required in the way of fencing. In DeKalb County you are required to have a fence completely surrounding the pool and restricting access to outside people and pets. You can still be creative in incorporating the fencing in the overall design. The key factors are safety, privacy, and aesthetics.
9. **Landscaping** – It is tempting to think that this can be put off until later and it is true that this can be done incrementally in stages. However, it is very important to consider the entire plan when designing the project and developing the budget. Even if you plan to take several years to install all of the landscaping, you should have a master plan to ensure that the end result is the desired one and you should consider the total costs for planning purposes. Make sure that you allow enough room for the landscaping projects and that they will not interfere with the access to the pool and other areas.
10. **Costs to Operate/Maintenance** – A final consideration is the ongoing costs that will come with your new pool. In the summer, the pump runs at least 12 hours per day and in the cooler months, the heater costs can be exorbitant. You will need to factor in these increased costs in your monthly budget as you plan for the future. You will also need to decide whether you want to take on the responsibility of maintaining the pool and all of its equipment or hire a company to handle this for you.

Owning your own pool can be a very rewarding and pleasurable experience. It is also a great way to make new friends — everyone wants to be friends with you when you have a pool! Be advised, though, that the planning and construction phase can be harrowing. With proper planning and a good contractor you can be enjoying your new pool in just a few months. Dive right in, the water is fine!

# The Story of the P&H “Split Level”

by John Eaton

Shortly after moving into Northcrest in the late 80s I was in a conversation with a long-time area realtor. When I described my home (at the time on Thornewood Drive) she said, “Oh, you’re in a P&H Split!” which was the first time I’d heard that term. She then went on to describe the multi-level house I then owned — the most common layout in Northcrest.

I’ve since been in several discussions with local architects and realtors who made it a point to correct the notion of a “split-level” being used to describe out homes. The correction given was “tri-level” as the preferred term, with the idea that a split-level has one entry point that splits the flow either upstairs or downstairs. Since our homes usually have three levels, I was told that the proper description was “tri-level” as distinctively different from a “split-level” forcing you to either go up or downstairs upon entry – basically stating that a split-level was equivalent to a split-foyer – a bit confusing, right?

Fast forward into the 20-teens and having a conversation with architectural historian Richard Cloues during his first presentation of “The Ordinary Iconic Ranch House”— I brought up the “P&H Split” realtor nickname and the distinction of the split-level being the same as a split foyer, and that tri-level would be more appropriate. He looked at me and said, but what if the house has four or five levels? Isn’t it still a split-level? Then during our discussion he brought up – “What’s the difference between walking into a small landing and going either upstairs or downstairs, or walking into a floor with the same options? Aren’t they really the same thing, the room being an extension or larger landing?” He later spoke about this again during the Q&A of his next presentation “Mid-20th-Century Split Level Houses in Georgia” where Northcrest homes were prominently featured as examples of the split-level (this was an extension of a broader presentation I attended...and the first runner-up is: the split-level house, Mid-20th-Century Split-Level Houses: A National Overview).

It’s Richard Cloues’s hypothesis that “the unique suitability of the split-level house” was “Atlanta’s sloping terrain.” In his second presentation he walks through the history of the split-level in Atlanta and how there’s a bond between the architectural style, the landscape (terrain and changes in elevation) and developer’s desire (basically, who was being marketed to). He also walked through the advent of contemporary styling and the involvement of the architect, Ernest Mastin (who is probably at least indirectly responsible for the classic look of Northcrest homes — as he was used extensively for Northwoods and some of P&H Homes’ earlier projects). My favorite part is his assertion that the earliest split-level design, based on his historical research, was from Frank Lloyd Wright placing some of his masterpieces on the hillsides of California as part of his “Organic Architecture” practice.

So what does it all mean? I think that over-time the nomenclature has evolved. Where definitions were once very specific, they’ve since become a bit more generic and applicable to what were distinctions into general groupings to make things simpler. So no matter what you want to call our homes — “split-levels,” “tri-levels” or my favorite, the “P&H Split” — they would all be considered correct.

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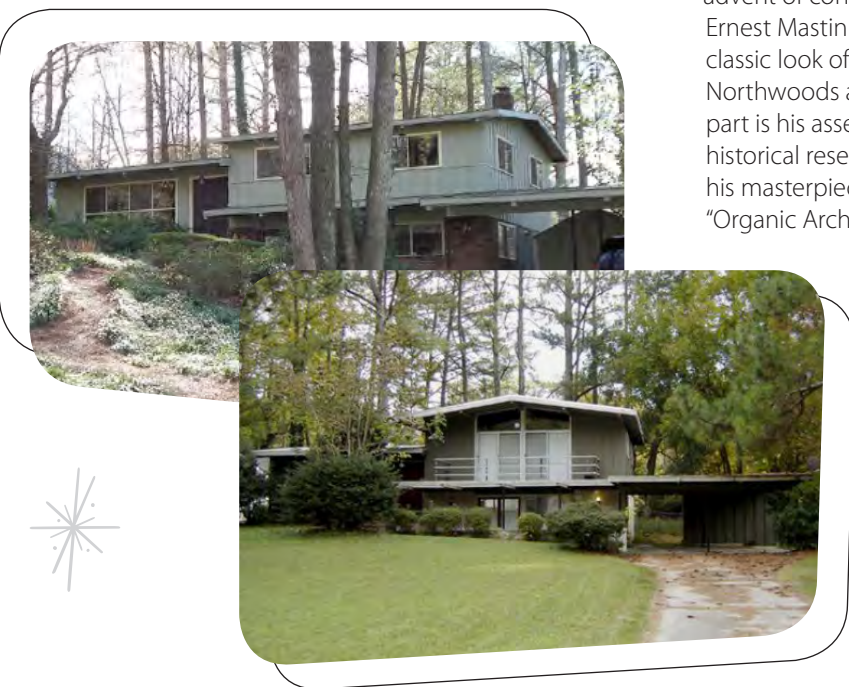
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## Northcrest July 4th Parade

The annual Northcrest July 4th parade was another hit, providing fun for the family and a convoy of cars, convertibles, and classics! With music by the neighborhood 'Steel Dreamin' band, the parade left Pleasantdale School to proceed down Summitridge Drive, turned up Archwood Drive then down Beachhill and Bowling Green Way to finish up at the Northcrest Swim & Tennis Club. Thank you to everyone who either participated in the parade or cheered from the side streets.







**"It has become a tradition for our little girls that we can't miss."  
Sara, Eaglerock Dr.**

**"Our adopted Syrian family was so excited for the parade that they showed up early, flags ready. What a great event to bring the neighborhood together."  
Melanie, Archwood Dr.**

**"We loved being part of the parade, listening to the music, watching the cars, and feeling a part of your special neighborhood!"  
Jennifer (visitor),  
Regalwoods Dr.**

**"My heart fills with joy and pride as I see little children participating, the band playing, and my friends sharing in the joy and pride of country and community. Northcrest, you rock!"  
Carmen Lourdes,  
Lynnray Dr.**

**"The funkiest July 4th parade in town! And there's even DONUTS!!!"  
Ingrid, Summitridge Dr.**



# The Wandering Northcrest Monkey

We've all heard about the people, personalities, and parties that have contributed to Northcrest's storied past, but one of these myths is about to be brought to life by local artist Shawn Vincelette. "The Wandering Northcrest Monkey" is an illustrated book written by Shawn and loosely based on a myth from the 1960s about a monkey who escapes from a nearby traveling circus. The monkey evidently ends up in the brand-new neighborhood of Northcrest and makes Northcrest its home.

The NCA recently caught up with Shawn to find out more about his book and publishing plans.

## **How did you get inspiration for the book?**

I came across the myth a couple of years ago and immediately decided it would make a great illustrated book. A friend shared a photo of himself with a stuffed monkey and the photo sparked the discussion on a post in the Facebook Northcrest group. After hearing about the myth I began asking about the details from some of the original Northcrest neighbors. My research led me to some interesting facts and events about Northcrest, which have made their way into the story. With the cool mid-mod architecture and colors, along with the great forest-like setting of the neighborhood, the visuals of the book immediately came to mind.

## **When will the book be published, and is it suitable for all ages?**

The book is being self published and I am currently working toward an August 23rd publish date to coincide with and honor the birthday of my mother and grandmother. The book is not being created with a specific age group in mind, but the goal is for the book to be suitable for a parent to share with their child.

## **We hear Northcrest provided a lot of inspiration for the story.**

With an escaped monkey as the focus, the story is carried along by a list of eccentric and colorful Northcrest characters. The drama is introduced by the divide of those who believe the myth of the wandering Northcrest monkey, and those who roll their eyes at the thought of it.

There is no shortage of inspiration when it comes to our Northcrest neighbors. I believe it is the non-conformist architecture of Northcrest that attracts some of the most interestingly creative individuals. Along with some artistic embellishment of my own, there is a bottomless well of characters, events,



and stories for our wandering monkey to encounter. From neighborhood block parties, to the 4th of July parade, there is always something to attract the attention of an inquisitive primate.

## **When you began writing the Wandering Northcrest Monkey book did you know how it was going to end?**

That has turned out to be the most exciting part of this project. The more research I do, the more interesting stories I find. Since there is no way to cram all

the good stuff into one story, I am already building future stories/books in my mind. I'm sure there is an end somewhere but at this time it is too far down the road to see it.

## **Is there a particular author who has inspired you?**

Yes. Robert Hastings was the first wordsmith to grab my attention, which started my lifelong love of storytelling. His book, "A Nickel's Worth of Skim Milk," is a non-fiction narrative describing the author's experiences growing up in my neighborhood during the Great Depression. I spent a Summer wearing my copy of his book out, taking it along with me to explore the locations he so cleverly described in words. I even shared the highlights of the book with neighborhood friends, giving guided tours by bike. Yes, I was that neighborhood nerd outgoing enough to organize a book/bike tour. Ha, ha!

## **You mention the inclusion of your own personal history into the story. Can you explain?**

When it came to creating the background for the story I needed a specific character to fit into the history of the area

before the neighborhood. I chose to base that character on my great-grandmother and the family lumber/sawmill business. Although my family's homestead/business was located in Southern Illinois, I took some artistic license to relocate it to the site of the soon-to-come Northcrest neighborhood. Mrs. Tanner is the first to encounter and befriend our little wandering monkey and gives him a place to stay in the old sawmill office.

The Wandering Monkey is due for publication August 23rd, 2018.



## Mid Century & Me

The NCA newsletter editorial team has sifted through a plethora of MCM goodness these past weeks to find and show you some of our favorite MCM things. Here's just a selection of what we've read about lately that we really love.



Picture courtesy of Bedgood & Associates

### A Peyton Princess?

Abandoned and neglected in Peyton Forest (West of Atlanta), this Midcentury gem has some serious issues, but also some excellent bones (e.g., original bathrooms with floating vanities and a unique, barrel pattern roof). Will someone take on this beauty and bring it back to its original MCM glory? We think so!

Stay updated to see what happens: Join the 'Midcentury Atlanta' Facebook group or follow [#MidcenturyAtlanta](https://twitter.com/MidcenturyAtlanta)



Image Credit: Dazey Desert House

### Desert House Delight

Ever dreamed of a desert house with some cool, MCM style? We found this delight on Instagram in Palm Springs.

'Dazey Desert House' is currently taking bookings on Air BnB. Available from \$100 a night, this Midcentury gem was designed by William Krisel in 1958 and features gorgeous desert views and mountain tranquility.

Find out more at [bit.ly/2zNHCFD](https://bit.ly/2zNHCFD)



Image credit: City Issue

### Get Your City Issue

The NCA team loves walking through Inman Park, and who doesn't need an excuse to pop in and visit City Issue?

One of Atlanta's well-established MCM stores, City Issue has a more upscale MCM inventory from sideboards to sofas — and features some very well-known Danish names.

For more information check out [cityissue.com](https://www.cityissue.com)

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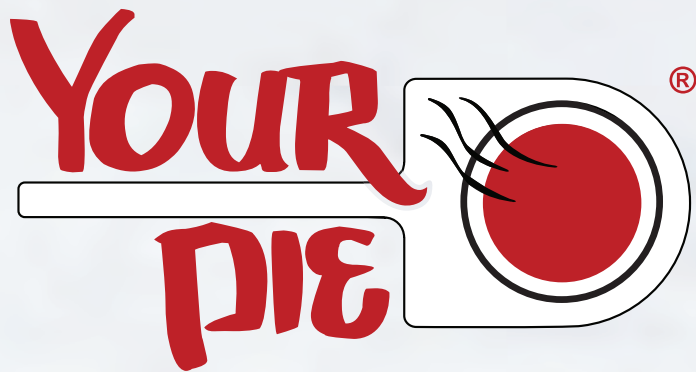
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## Your Pie Comes to Embry Hills

The NCA team (and I'm sure everyone else in the neighborhood) is excited to see more new businesses coming to nearby Embry Hills Shopping Center. With the recent additions of Circle K and Dunkin Donuts (and another soon-to-be-launched burger venue), we're pleased to welcome the **Your Pie** team to the neighborhood.



The NCA recently caught up with Terrence, Kimberly, and Cory from the **Your Pie Tucker** franchise for a quick interview to hear about their plans and what's in store for Northcresters in a couple of months when Your Pie opens its doors.

### **Can you tell Northcresters a bit about Your Pie?**

Your Pie is the original fast-casual pizza concept, founded in Athens, GA, in April 2008. Over the last decade, Your Pie has grown to more than 55 locations across the United States. Your Pie offers fresh pizzas, paninis, layered salads, and craft beers, all served from an à la carte menu.

### **Are you (Terrence) and Kimberly local to the area?**

Yes! We're both very familiar with the area, having studied at Mercer University. We live nearby, too, so we regularly drive through the neighborhood. We're definitely looking to make a positive impact on the community with the opening of Your Pie Tucker.

### **What made you choose this location for your franchise?**

We researched several potential locations for Your Pie Tucker, and finally decided that the Your Pie concept — fresh, customizable pizza, cooked to order in a brick oven — resonated well with the Embry Hills community. No one else in the area is doing this, plus, we were encouraged to see the shopping center being revitalized with the introduction of several other new businesses. We look forward to helping the Embry Hills community express their inner pizza!

### **Can you tell us more about your two-phase opening?**

During the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday prior to our Grand Opening, we will host 'Dine & Donate' events during which we'll serve free pizza for up to 400 registered guests per day in exchange for donations to a local charity. We will then close the store on Thursday to prepare for our official Grand Opening on Friday. Dates are still TBD, but readers can follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/yourpietucker](http://www.facebook.com/yourpietucker)) for the latest updates.

### **How do we find out more about the Dine & Donate event?**

As soon as our Dine & Donate dates are confirmed, we will open our Dine & Donate registration on our Facebook page.

The NCA team and the whole Northcrest neighborhood look forward to welcoming Your Pie (and trying out some delicious pizza!)

## Northcrest Swim and Tennis Club

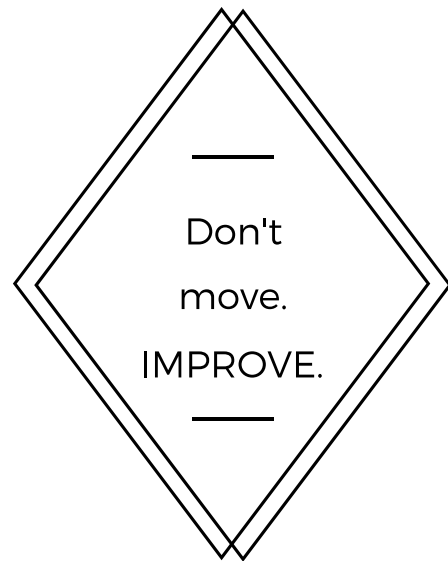
After a strong start this spring with several pre-season events that helped introduce the Club to newcomers, Northcrest Swim and Tennis Club is having yet another record year! Over 140 memberships include more than 370 individual members — many of whom have stepped up to take on volunteer roles within the organization, helping to keep costs down for all members.

Events this year have been extremely popular and there are still several yet to come, including Mediterranean Night on August 18, Labor Day Cookout September 1, Latin Night September 15, and a Chili Cookoff and Camporee October 13-14.

Planning for fall and the 2019 membership year has already begun. The primary focus for the volunteer board at this point is the construction of a new pavilion, which will provide more covered space for parties and special events. A volunteer committee is working through the details of squaring away utilities and getting the right contractors in place to break ground around Labor Day.

This project will not only mean a great new place to relax, but the project itself includes a lot of improvements and future planning for a play area behind the children's wading pool. We hope construction will be complete before winter and that members can make use of the new facilities as early as November.

For newcomers to the neighborhood with questions about membership, please email the club directly at [membership@northcrestclub.com](mailto:membership@northcrestclub.com).



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## Summer Fun in and Around ATL

by Juli St. George

School's out, grills are fired up and Atlanta's steamy days of summer are officially underway. If you're looking for some fun activities to enjoy during this year's heat wave, I've rounded up a few of my top picks for this summer.

### Coosawattee River Tubing

Georgia is known for its majestic scenery and numerous beautiful rivers, so if spending a little time and nature floats your boat, in just over an hour you can get to the Coosawattee river in Ellijay, for a fun, relaxing day of tubing. Gently floating down the river is the perfect way to beat the heat as you take in the scenic views. And the Coosawattee is a "lazy" river, so it's an outing fit for the whole family (kids must be 48" tall). Tubes, life jackets, and shuttle are available for rent, so all you have to do is show up! ProTip: Sunscreen!

[www.coosawatteerivertubingco.com](http://www.coosawatteerivertubingco.com)

### Music Midtown Festival

Summer just isn't complete until you've sung at the top of your lungs, danced the weekend away, and consumed too many funnel cakes (ok—beers) at a great music festival. Get down to Piedmont Park on September 15th & 16th to enjoy some of your favorite artists at Music Midtown. As one of Georgia's largest music festivals, Music Midtown is known to feature a diverse selection of some of the industry's biggest names. This year be ready to rock out with: Imagine Dragons, Kendrick Lamar, Fall Out Boy, Foster the People, Chromeo, and many, many more. ProTip: Hydrate! [www.musicmidtown.com](http://www.musicmidtown.com)

### Hotel Clermont Rooftop

Have you heard the news? Atlanta's most (in)famous historic hotel and lounge, Hotel Clermont, has undergone a MAJOR makeover and has reopened for business. The newly renovated digs now feature a rooftop, fitted with astro-turf, lounge chairs, a full-service bar with street food, and of course, the Hotel Clermont tower lit up in all of its neon glory. Enjoy some cocktails, bites, and interesting characters as you take in the skyline view. And if you're feeling especially saucy, stay for a night in the hotel and enjoy some entertainment down in the lounge (Note: not for the prude or faint of heart). ProTip: Aviators! [www.hotelclermont.com/food-spirits](http://www.hotelclermont.com/food-spirits)

Read more of Juli's ProTips and view her current listings at [www.ThePerfectProperty.com](http://www.ThePerfectProperty.com)

## Home values have skyrocketed in the **NORTHCREST NEIGHBORHOOD.**

If you are curious about your current home's value, even if you are not looking to sell, I would love to meet with you and share current market statistics.

And if you are thinking about selling I have buyers looking to live in Northcrest.



**JULI ST GEORGE**  
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# [Re-]Discovering The Benefits Of Wild Spaces Within Our Gardens

by Sigrira Savitski

Following up on my previous article about connecting more deeply with our gardens, this one focuses on creating gardens that are sanctuaries for ourselves as well as for wildlife. Summer is when nature feels fully awake, there is abundant native plant food for animals and we have been enjoying much rain. Hummingbirds enchant us by day and as soon as dusk falls the fireflies draw illuminated paths across our yards. Vegetables have already been planted, so this is a season for harvesting and maintaining.

1. It's a perfect time to find an area of the garden that we can allow to be "wild." In our daily lives we are confronted with constant structure and order. We may enjoy carrying this over into our gardens and planning our rows of vegetables and flowers beds, which is great. However, when we sit back to relax after a long day, our hearts seek the refuge of nature untouched by the human hand, our eyes wish to rest, to soften by gazing at wild natural beauty.
2. There is a long tradition of leaving a small portion of the garden wild or uncultivated for the nature elementals or faeries/elves (a type of mythical being or legendary creature in European folklore) so they can have their own space. This is a lovely way to approach this and for any of you with children it may be fun to encourage them to leave gifts such as small crystals for the faeries and to "befriend" them by providing food and water for wildlife, which they feel protective toward.
3. This wild area could be tucked away in the backyard and as large or small as you wish. It may be surrounded by stones or some kind of marker or special sign, which separates it or blends in. When creating a certified wildlife sanctuary, in addition to avoiding herbicides/pesticides – the requirements are food, water, shelter (in the form of trees/shrubs), and a woodpile that birds can use to escape predators. The wood pile could become the wild space or somehow connect to it. Wild spaces serve as shelter for wildlife, with taller grasses and native plant food sources.
4. As I mentioned above, summer is also when hummingbirds visit our neighborhood and delight us with their presence. They love wildflowers and will enjoy a wild space in addition to the nectar we provide for them. As temperatures rise please remember to replace their sugar water every three to five days (depending if it is in the sun or shade) and to avoid the red dye if possible. There are lots of recipes for easy homemade nectar online.
5. Find time to relax and observe your wild patch of nature. Notice how it attracts more butterflies and hummingbirds, and how spiders feel safe weaving webs that sparkle in the morning light. Maybe a bunny will burrow and make their home there. Perhaps native passionflower vines will grow or pokeweeds which are a stunning magenta shade with berries for birds. Photograph it, draw it, or take notes each season as it grows and notice the changes. Imagine what types of faeries inhabit it. Enjoy a tiny (or larger) space that mirrors wildness and beauty to our hearts.





## Fresh In! Get Your New Recycling Can!

Are you fed up with squeezing your recyclable material into those small blue boxes? Tired of dragging it to the curb and looking for the lid on a rainy Northcrest day? Don't worry — DeKalb County can help! Yes, you **did** read that right for once!

Just in, DeKalb County has a fresh delivery of the new 35-gallon roll carts which make taking your recyclables to the curb so much easier. All you need to do is take your existing blue recycling box to the DeKalb County Sanitation facility and swap it for a new one. If you have a large family or are a super recycler, you can also request one of the larger, 65-gallon roll carts.



For more information and about recycling in general please visit [www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sanitation](http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sanitation). The deadline for exchanging your existing trash can has been extended, and now runs until December 28, 2018.

Exchanging your current trash can for a 35-gallon roll cart is free for existing recycling subscribers. You can upgrade to the 65-gallon roll cart for a one-time additional fee of \$15.

## The Northcrest Civic Association (NCA) Needs You!!

The NCA has come a long way from our (latest) beginnings in March of 2016. We currently have over 150 member households; host several annual events, such as the 4th of July Tie Dye Party and Parade, Black Friday Market, and the Steel Dreamin' Block Party; and help to keep people in the neighborhood connected and informed.

As we head into our 4th year, we need **YOU** to get more involved in the NCA! We are currently looking for new Board members (President, Vice President, and Secretary) as well as committee chairs and committee members. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact our Vice President, Chris Hester, at 404-374-0636 or [c\\_hester@bellsouth.net](mailto:c_hester@bellsouth.net). The opportunities are limitless.

The current standing committees of the NCA are open to all NCA members and can be chaired by a Board Member or a general member, unless otherwise noted:

1. **Governance Committee** – Open to Board Members only. Main responsibilities are to review and update the by-laws as needed and to recruit and present the Board Member nominations each year. Meets as needed.
2. **Finance Committee** – Chaired by the Treasurer. Main responsibilities are to review the financial reports and prepare the annual budget. Meets monthly.
3. **Communications/Marketing** – Main responsibilities are to maintain the website, social media accounts, and email blasts; generate newsletters and other marketing materials (flyers, signs, etc.); and design, procure, and sell promotional materials. Meets as needed.
4. **Community Involvement** – Main responsibilities are to monitor and report on activities related to businesses near our neighborhood, governmental agencies, other organizations within the neighborhood, and the Pleasantdale Elementary School. Meets as needed.
5. **Membership/Welcoming Committee** – Main responsibilities are to plan and execute the annual membership drive, solicit new members throughout the year, and welcome new members. Meets as needed.
6. **Safety Committee** – Main responsibilities are to collect and disseminate information regarding safety issues affecting the neighborhood and to organize and oversee the Neighborhood Watch program. Meets as needed.
7. **Social Committee** – Main responsibilities are to plan and execute all social events hosted by the NCA. Meets as needed.

There is also currently one ad hoc committee:

**Historic Northcrest Committee** – Open to all NCA and Hoe N Hope Garden Club members, can be chaired by a NCA Board or general member. Main responsibilities are to design, raise funds for, procure, and install signs for the neighborhood entrances, proclaiming our designation as a Historic Neighborhood; design, raise funds for, procure, and install street sign toppers for all street signs within the neighborhood; design and implement a marketing plan to promote our Historic Neighborhood designation; and plan and execute a celebratory event working in conjunction with the Social Committee.

If you aren't able to commit to participation at one of these levels, you can always volunteer to help with individual events or projects. We will never turn down help from our neighbors!



We need **YOU** to bring your **ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM, IDEAS, MUSCLES, TIME, CREATIVITY, SKILLS, SUPPORT, CONNECTIONS, and LOVE OF NORTHCREST** to the NCA!



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## Pleasantdale School Construction Update

by Chuck Hunt

Well, by now I'm sure most everyone is aware that construction has finally begun on the new Pleasantdale Elementary School! The contractor arrived on site the second week of June and site clearance began immediately. It is continuing at a fast pace, especially in front of the school along Northlake Drive where the contractor has to complete a new driveway with temporary student drop-off zone and limited parking in time for the school year to begin the first week of August.

The first couple of weeks of construction were marked by some heavy rains that complicated site preparation and brought out community members distressed by both the loss of trees and some excessive runoff of water and mud from the site. These concerns were made immediately known to the contractor and school administration. While it took longer than some wished, both contractor and school officials were responsive and have installed what appear to be adequate solutions to control these issues — including temporary retention ponds on the site and other runoff control measures.

The Northcrest neighborhood has three community representatives on the Pleasantdale School Construction Advisory Committee who meet and communicate with school administration regarding construction issues. Paige Lozier, Kathleen Curry, and myself, Chuck Hunt, have been actively engaged to address issues regarding the impact of the construction on our neighborhood. In addition to working to resolve the runoff issues, we have also met with neighbors adjoining the work site to provide updates on the work, answer questions and relay concerns back to the county. The most recent issue brought by a neighbor, and seemingly resolved, was to ensure that the contractor conformed to the work hours allowed by county code. No work is allowed after 7PM Monday through Friday, after 5PM Saturday, and all day Sundays and major holidays. We encourage you to contact any of these committee members if you have questions or concerns you want addressed, as they have a direct line of communication to school administration to get answers and resolution of issues.

I'm sure we all miss the section of "our forest" that had to be sacrificed for the new school, but once completed in the fall of 2019, we will have a new school the community can be proud of.



Northcrest Civic Association thanks **Three Dollar Café** for Hosting the NCA Membership Madness Final Four Party! They are a great neighborhood partner (and they have great WINGS!)

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Open Sunday – Thursday 11am to 12am and  
Friday – Saturday 11am to 2am.



## Northcrest's Annual Tie-Dye Event

Northcrest Swim & Tennis Club was the venue recently for the third annual tie-dye event which saw Northcresters gather with their cotton t-shirts and dye, ready to create their patriotic wares (many of which could be seen in the Northcrest July 4th parade!)

Not familiar with tie-dye? Tie-dye is a term for the ancient art of 'resist' dyeing, where you fold, crinkle and press a garment applied with a dye to achieve a patterned, often colorful, design. Many neighborhood children and adults had super fun creating their colorful t-shirts — did you spot any in the parade? If you missed it this year then be sure to attend next year. The event is free and all you need to do is bring your own 100% cotton white t-shirt and a sturdy Ziploc-type bag.



Some of our recent closings in the Northcrest neighborhood...



3237 Lynnrays Drive **SOLD \$440,500**



3889 Foxford Drive **SOLD \$450,000**



3316 Lynnrays Drive **SOLD \$399,400**



3720 Eaglerock Drive **SOLD \$427,500**



3503 Bowling Green Way **SOLD \$382,300**



3564 Beachhill Drive **SOLD \$381,000**

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—Jennifer Kestler | 3889 Foxford Dr, Atlanta, GA 30340

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