



THE BIRDCALL

9 Things You Can Do to Prepare Your Home for Fall and Winter

Excited about the upcoming change in season? Here are some home maintenance tips to help you prepare your home for fall.

1. **Roof inspection** - Have a professional inspect your roof for cracks or damage that could allow water to seep in during the winter.
2. **Gutters and downspouts** - Clean your gutters and downspouts to remove leaves, twigs, and other debris that can clog them.
3. **Chimney inspection and cleaning** - Have your chimney inspected and cleaned to reduce the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.
4. **Furnace filter replacement** - Replace your furnace filter before the heating season starts to help your HVAC system run more efficiently.
5. **Air leaks** - Seal any air leaks or gaps around your exterior doors, vents, and windows with silicone or caulk.
6. **Trees and shrubs** - Trim any branches and trees that are too close to your home to avoid damaging your roof and siding.
7. **Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** - Check that all your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly.
8. **Sprinkler system** - Winterize your sprinkler system to prevent standing water from freezing and damaging the components.
9. **Lawn fertilizer** - Apply fall fertilizer to replenish nutrients in the soil and strengthen the root system.

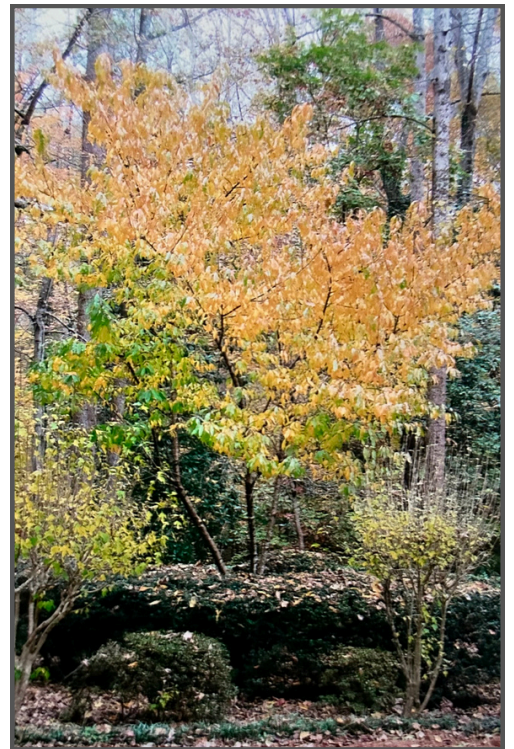


Photo Credit: Dr. James Densler

Looking for information on southern
pine beetles?

Visit
audubonforest.org

Community Resources

2024 Georgia General Election Information

Voter Registration

With early voting less than a month away, it's also a good time to remind anyone who plans to vote but isn't yet registered that the deadline for voter registrations or changes for the November election is October 7.

Access all Georgia voting resources on the My Voter Page at mvp.sos.ga.gov.

Early Voting

Georgia early voting begins on October 15 and ends on November 1. Early voting locations and timing information is available on the My Voter Page or **HERE**.

Absentee Voting

Georgia voters can submit request for an absentee ballot until October 25, 2024. Get more details about the absentee voting process on the My Voter Page or download the absentee application directly **HERE**.

Neighborhood Info

Street Captains

Street Captains are the eyes and ears for our community. They assist with:

- informing neighbors about issues that may affect the neighborhood and its residents;
- fostering a sense of community among neighbors within our area; and
- encouraging involvement and participation in AFNA.

Current Street Captains: Mario Wiley (Chair) and Anita Bridges (Oriole Drive). Interested in becoming a street captain? Please contact us at audubonforestna@gmail.com.



2024 GEORGIA GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 5: GENERAL ELECTION

OCTOBER 7: REGISTRATION DEADLINE

SEPTEMBER 21: EARLIEST DAY FOR A REGISTRAR TO
MAIL AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

OCTOBER 15: EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING BEGINS

OCTOBER 25: LAST DAY TO SUBMIT ABSENTEE BALLOT
APPLICATION

NOVEMBER 1: EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING ENDS

AFNA Boundaries

The streets comprising Audubon Forest are: Audubon Circle, Benjamin E. Mays Drive (Flamingo Drive to Peyton Road), Cardinal Way, Chickadee Court, Falcon Drive, Flamingo Drive, Jenny Wren Lane, Oriole Drive, Peyton Road (B.E. Mays Drive to Falcon Drive), and Willis Mill Road (north of B.E. Mays Drive.)

Membership

Join AFNA Today!

Want to be in the know about neighborhood activities, or get involved in future neighborhood initiatives? Join the Audubon Forest Neighborhood Association today by simply paying your annual membership dues.

Annual membership dues are \$50 dollars per household. Payment is accepted via **PayPal** or in-person by check at each AFNA monthly meeting. For more information and to pay your dues, visit **audubonforest.org**.

We welcome all neighbors with open arms!

audubonforest.org



Community Activities

Fall Activities

Looking for Fall activities for yourself or your family?

Evelyn G. Lowery Library at Cascade has a host of Fall activities planned for all ages - many of them are free. Check out their Fall schedule at fulcolibrary.org.

City of Atlanta Parks & Recreation

Youth and adult residents of the City of Atlanta residents can take advantage of the workshops and visual arts activities at our local Adams Park and CT Martin recreation centers. Check out their Fall schedule at atlantaga.gov/iPARCS.

City of Atlanta residents over the age of 55 can take advantage of the FREE Primetime Seniors programming that encompasses physical fitness, social networking arts & crafts, educational seminars, jewelry crafting activities and more! **See attached flyer for details!** →

AFNA Neighborhood Walking Group

Looking for light exercise and delightful fellowship with our wonderful neighbors? The AFNA Neighborhood Walking Group meets everyday at 5:30 PM in front of Hoosier United Methodist Church. **Contact Kisha Wiley at 678.471.5070** to confirm your participation by 3:00 PM on the day of your first walk.



Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU-I)

The City of Atlanta is divided by geographic area into 25 citizen advisory councils called Neighborhood Planning Units or NPUs. NPUs were developed in 1974 by Mayor Maynard H. Jackson to allow citizens to make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on zoning, land use and other matters related to city planning.

The NPUs are the official avenue for residents to express concerns and provide input in developing plans to address the needs of each neighborhood, as well as to receive updates from City government.

Audubon Forest is located in NPU-I. Audubon Forest resident, Eunice M. Glover, is the NPU-I Chair. She can be reached via email at chair.npui@gmail.com. NPU-I meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Learn more about NPU-I at npui.info >



CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS

Primetime Seniors



All Primetime Senior programming is Free For City of Atlanta residents!!
Programming begins Monday, August 5!

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- * BINGO!
- * Jewelry Making
- * Board Games
- * Computers
- * Day Field Trips
- * Arts & Crafts
- * Line Dancing
- * Chair Aerobics
- * Yoga/Pilates
- * Sewing & Quilting

REGISTER NOW via www.atlantaga.gov/iPARCS or visit your favorite Recreation Center!

Scan QR code below to see locations!



Scan QR code below to register on iParcs!



ATL311

NON-EMERGENCY CITY SERVICES

ATL311 After Hours and Weekend Help Lines

Watershed Emergency: **404.546.0311**

Emergency Traffic Light, Sign or Pole Repair: **404.290.7058**

For non-emergencies or if calling from outside of the Atlanta city limits: **404.658.6666**

For all other emergency requests, **dial 911.**

Community Spotlight

Dr. James and Mabel Densler

Dr. James and Mabel Densler have lived on Flamingo Drive since June 1970. Dr. Densler was born and raised in Savannah where he graduated as Class Valedictorian. He received a B.S. in Biology from Savannah State College and taught high school before enlisting as a medic in the U.S. Army. With help from scholarships and his veteran's benefits, he obtained a medical degree from Meharry Medical School. While at Meharry, he met Mabel Wesley, a young nurse from Birmingham, Alabama, to whom he has been married for 63 years and counting. Dr. Densler did his internship and residency at the U.S. Public Health Service in Staten Island, NY and then completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Surgery. Over his long medical career, Dr. Densler wore many hats and had many firsts, including being the first African American Pediatric Surgeon to practice in the USA (1969), and the first African American to serve on the Hospital Authority of Fulton County for Northside Hospital. His medical practice, Atlanta Surgical Professional Association, was the first African American Incorporated Group Practice in Georgia. The City of Atlanta celebrated him and his impact on health services with a proclamation making March 6th, 2023 Dr. James F. Densler Day.

Because the medical practice that Dr. Densler joined worked primarily at the Holy Family Hospital on Fairburn Road, his partners said he needed to live close to the hospital. Dr. Leon Cooper, a friend who had just become the fourth African American homeowner on Flamingo Drive, told the Denslers that several white neighbors were looking for people to buy their houses. When the Denslers bought their home in July 1970, they became the fifth African American households on the street, joining Dr. Cooper, James and Alice Maddox, Morehouse College President Hugh Gloster, and Eula Credell. No white neighbor came to the house to welcome them to the neighborhood, but one neighbor came up to their mailbox to ask if they knew anyone who wanted to buy her house. The white flight from Flamingo Drive accelerated throughout the 1970s.

The Denslers said Flamingo Drive looked quite different in the early 1970s. There were 18 houses on Flamingo between Sewell Road (now Benjamin E. Mays Dr.) and Willis Mills Road; but only seven houses on Flamingo between Willis Mills Road and the cul-de-sac (i.e. four on their even number side of the street and three on the odd number side). There were no houses on Willis Mills Road. Chickadee Court and the paved Lionel Hampton Trail did not exist. The cul-de-sac at the end of Flamingo was the local Lovers' Lane. The police patrolled the area, knocking on any car window when two heads could not be observed. The Denslers said that periodically, half-dressed young women and men could be seen climbing the hill alone. If their lights were on, these individuals would sometimes knock on the Denslers' door to ask where they were.

Dr. Densler recalled that one night, a young white woman knocked on their door, asking for help. Dr. Densler called 911 and

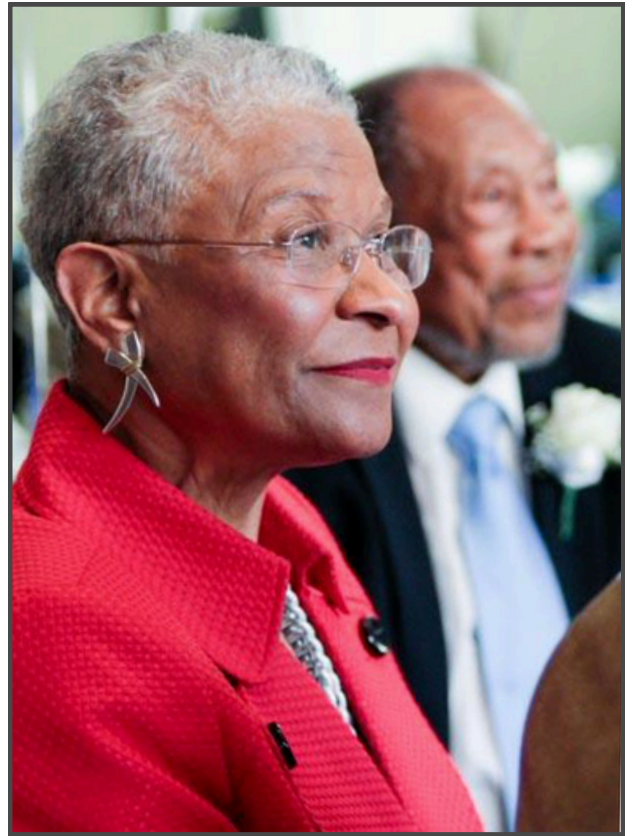


Photo courtesy of Morehouse School of Medicine

reported a white woman in need of assistance. The police arrived in three minutes to get her. Several times, the windows on the Denslers' car were broken and coins were taken, the likely thieves being people from the cul-de-sac, trying to get money to get home. The Denslers filed police reports, but no one was ever caught.

For almost three decades, Mabel Densler worked at different places as a psychiatric nurse, including at a Fulton County satellite clinic on Fairburn Road and at Morehouse. She often worked night shifts that allowed her to spend time with their two sons during the day. The Denslers' sons attended neighborhood schools which no longer had white students: Beecher Hills Elementary; Southwest (now Jean Childs Young) Middle School and Benjamin E. Mays High School.

Ms. Densler was one of the most active members of Southwest Community Groups, an organization that James Maddox founded to address the variety of issues impacting their Southwest community.

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Community Spotlight ...continued

For thirty-five years, she served as the organization's Treasurer, meeting on Sunday evenings with neighbors, Gloria Borders and Eula Credell, and others to address neighborhood issues. Mrs. Densler has also been a dedicated member of the Audubon Forest Neighborhood Association, chairing its Social Committee for many years and currently serving as Hospitality Chair.

When Dr. Densler served as Chief of Staff at the Southwest Hospital, the Morehouse School of Medicine ("MSM") was being planned. He arranged for Morehouse to use the hospital to train their students and residents. After Dr. Densler retired from private practice in 1999, he joined the Department of Medical Education at MSM where he taught first and second year students. For several years, he ran the Pediatric Surgery Clinic at the Southwest Grady Healthcare Center and later served as a Medical Officer at the Atlanta Military Entrance Processing Station at Fort Gillem, GA. As career medical professionals, the Denslers lament the current lack of a medical facility with emergency services serving our Southwest community and the areas south of I-20.

Utoy Creek runs behind the Densler house. When the creek overflows, it puts sand on the bank. Dr. Densler liked to tell people he bought waterfront property. In his retirement, Dr. Densler enjoys photography and gardening, and he brightens Flamingo Dr. in the spring with his beautiful azaleas.

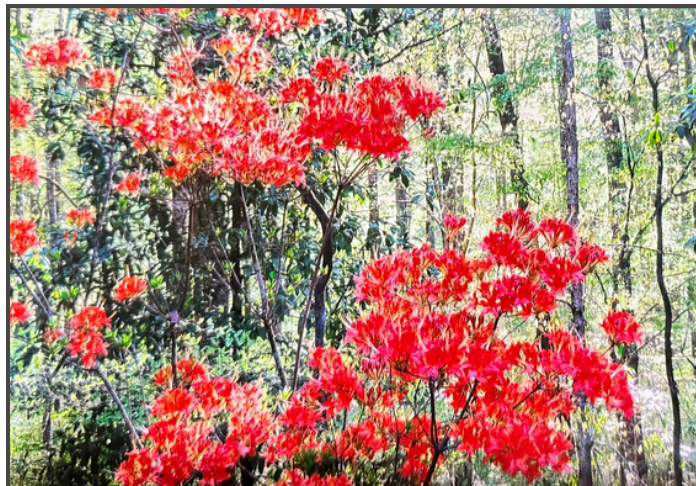


Photo courtesy of Dr. James Densler.

Call for Volunteers



We need your help! Please consider volunteering for one of the committees listed below:

Executive Committee:

- President
- Vice President*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer
- Chairpersons of Standing Committees

*Open Executive Committee Position

Standing Committees:

- Communications
- Courtesy and Hospitality
- Community Safety*
- Economic Development*
- Membership*
- Social*
- History
- Zoning and Land Use*

*Open Committee Chair Position

AFNA meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Hoosier United Methodist Church Conference Room; 2545 Benjamin E. Mays Drive.



Connect with us on Instagram!

@audubonforest

Did You Know?

Did you know . . . there used to be a 125-bed hospital on Fairburn Road for African American patients??

By Joanne Huntley, AFNA History Committee Chair

In 1943, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (established in 1912 and located in the Sweet Auburn neighborhood) and the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries founded the Catholic Colored Clinic to provide medical care for African Americans who were financially unable to pay for medical services and who were not eligible to receive medical service at Grady Hospital because they had less than six months of residence in Atlanta or they resided outside of Fulton and DeKalb counties. The clinic was a two-story building with only four beds and space for four cots, but it held regular clinics providing medical, pre-natal, gynecology, surgical, urology and pediatrics services.

In 1962, the Medical Mission Sisters decided to build Holy Family Hospital on the 500 block of Fairburn Road to continue their vision of providing needed medical services for African Americans. At the time, Hughes Spalding was the only fully equipped hospital serving black patients in Atlanta. The Mission Sisters raised funds from white donors to help finance the construction of the new hospital. In 1964, when it opened, Holy Family Hospital became the first hospital in the Southeast to allow black and white doctors to work together.

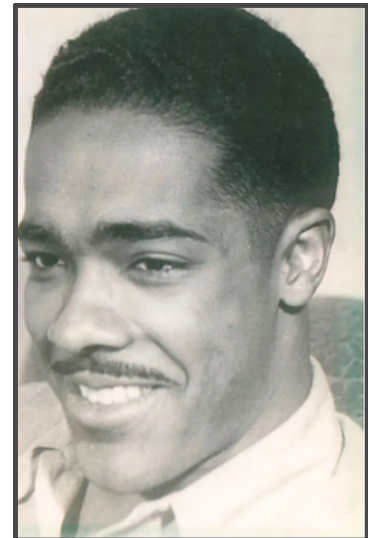
The Sister nurses lived in the historic antebellum mansion of Judge William Wilson that was used as a temporary headquarters by General W.T. Sherman and his troops during the Battle of Utoy Creek. The house was demolished in 2016, but the foundation remains visible from the street.



Judge William Wilson mansion circa 1962.
Photo courtesy of the Atlanta Journal Constitution.



To ensure that they had quick and easy access to the hospital, many of the doctors chose to live in the nearby Southwest communities. In 1962, Dr. Clinton Warner, an African American veteran, civil rights activist and founding member of the Morehouse School of Medicine, purchased a house in the previously all white subdivision of Peyton Forest from a financially strapped contractor who was unable to find a white buyer. After the sale to Dr. Warner, white residents grew fearful that more African Americans would move into their neighborhood. They asked Mayor Ivan Allen to erect a barricade along Peyton Road at Harlan Road to stop more African Americans from moving into the area.



Clinton E. Warner, Jr, MD - Photo
courtesy of The Atlanta Inquirer.

Ten of the 13 Atlanta Board of Aldermen voted in favor of the bill to build the barricade which Mayor Allen signed into law the same day, December 17, 1962. To discourage

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Did You Know? ...continued

African Americans from seeking more housing in Cascade Heights, Mayor Allen also announced that he intended to rezone about 800 acres of the commercial land north of Peyton Forest that was serving as a “racial barrier” to be a residential area for African Americans.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

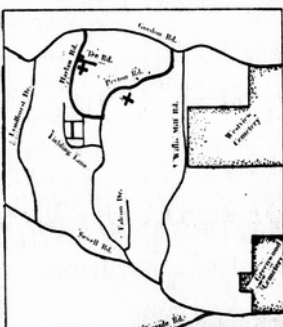
ATLANTA, GA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1962

Race Buffer Goes Up, Is Hit in Court

By TED SIMMONS and JACK STRONG

The City of Atlanta erected barricades across Peyton and Harlan Roads Tuesday, prompting the second court action in two days against an ordinance creating a racial buffer zone and setting off a “selective buying campaign” by Negroes against merchants who they said supported the ordinance.

The second court action came in the form of a petition filed in Municipal Court. The petition seeks to remove the barriers, contending they are a public nuisance.



ALL BUSINESSES

The “selective buying campaign,” officially launched Tuesday night at a meeting of the All-Citizens Committee, is aimed at all merchants and businesses in the West End section.

The Negroes said West End merchants had financially supported the move which resulted in the creation of the buffer zone. They also said West End merchants had not lived up to an agreement to end discrimination in employment practices.

HEARING TOMORROW

Residents living just south of the barriers say that closing the streets force them into taking such longer routes to work and shopping areas, adding as much as five or six miles to travel to nearby areas. Some say they now have to travel five miles to go from the Cascade Heights area to Gordon Road.

The Municipal Court petition was filed by Negro attorney D. L. Hollowell on behalf of white and Negro clients living in the affected area. Municipal Court Judge James L. Webb set a hearing for tomorrow.

The new barricade law resulted in immediate protests including the boycotting of businesses that supported keeping the barricade. The Ku Klux Klan burned a cross on the lawn of Rodney Mims Cook Sr, one of the three Aldermen who opposed the wall and who later introduced the resolution to remove the wall. On January 7, 1963, the Aldermen voted again to keep the barrier in place.



Atlanta Wall Protest - Photo courtesy of The Atlanta Inquirer.

Litigation followed immediately and on March 1, 1963, a Fulton County Superior Court judge ruled the barrier unconstitutional and the decision to erect the barricade “unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious.” Mayor Allen immediately had the barricade removed. He later acknowledged that his decision was “completely in error”. The barricade was only in place for 72 days, but the story of the Peyton Wall (which was sometimes called the Atlanta Berlin Wall) attracted national news and focused attention on race relations in Atlanta. By July 1963, only 15 white families remained in Peyton Forest. White flight from Cascade Heights and from Atlanta as a whole increased dramatically. During the 1960s and 1970s, approximately 160,000 white residents moved outside the city limits of Atlanta.

In 1972, Holy Family Hospital ceased operation. A group of investors, including Black doctors, acquired the hospital property for the purpose of establishing a new hospital. In 1975, the Joint Commission licensed the Southwest Hospital & Medical Center as a private, not-for-profit acute-care facility with 125 beds. Sometimes referred to as the Southwest Community Hospital and located at 501 Fairburn Road, the hospital had a fully operational emergency room with a medical staff of over 200 physicians specializing in different fields of medicine. The hospital and its staff were able to service a wide range of patients because they participated in a range of managed care programs and accepted a range of private health insurance plans.



Photo courtesy of the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

By the late 1990s, however, the hospital was struggling financially. Patients with private insurance were choosing to go to other Atlanta area hospitals. The bulk of the hospital's patients were uninsured, underinsured or enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare. After experiencing low reimbursements for its services, the hospital closed in 2005. It subsequently reopened without an emergency room but without more financial success, leading to another closure as its owners declared bankruptcy. In its last reiteration, Southwest Hospital opened with a new owner and a smaller footprint. It operated an outpatient center on one floor of the six-story building with only 20 beds, down from the licensed 125 beds; but the impacts of the 2008 recession forced the owners to close Southwest Hospital for good on January 16, 2009.

The 65-acre campus was sold to the Atlanta Center for Medical Research which moved its offices from Midtown Atlanta in October 2014, after a \$25 million renovation. ACMR is a research organization that conducts clinical trials for pharmaceutical companies and medical device firms and employees about 300 people.

On November 22, 2017, Doctors Memorial Park was opened at 500 Fairburn Road SW. The park is named in honor of the doctors who provided health care for underserved African American patients at Holy Family Hospital and Southwest Hospital & Medical Center from 1964 until 2009.