

BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

May 1995, Vol. IX, No. 4

How Do You Spell [Tax] Relief?

by Hank Harris, BWH Board Member

On Saturday, May 6, 1995, virtually every Brookwood Hills homeowner received notice from Fulton County of a property reassessment. Having undergone a county-wide reassessment only two years ago, the expectation was that this year's figure would not differ significantly from the 1993 figure. For Brookwood Hills, there was no such luck. While two homeowners have been found whose property values have actually decreased, most owners are facing increases of 20%-40%, with others going as high as 74%.

The Community Club Board of Directors invited Mitch Skandalakis to address this issue at its meeting on May 8th. County Commission Chairman Skandalakis was unable to attend on such short notice, but he did send an aide, Josh Kenyon. Mr. Kenyon was responsive, but generally unhelpful on prospects for any relief. He explained that the Tax Assessor, Webster Pope, prepares the assessments, and that while Mr. Pope is appointed by the Fulton County Commission, he operates independently of it. Mr. Kenyon pointed out that Chairman Skandalakis's efforts to unseat Mr. Pope have made little headway.

Mr. Kenyon indicated that his office had been advised by Mr. Pope that any reassessments, for the most part, would not exceed 10%, and that an increase of as much as 25% would be rare. This, of course, is at odds with what we know to have happened in our neighborhood. Mr. Kenyon further stated that the only method of objection to the increase is the appeal process, with which many of you are already familiar. Several of the Board members indicated that they had tried the appeal process with mixed results at the time of the last county-wide assessment.

In cooperation with Mr. Kenyon, the Community Club is planning a seminar on how to file an appeal of your assessment to the tax assessor's office. That seminar will be conducted by an attorney expert in the appeal process. **The seminar has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24th.** It will be held in the Rich Auditorium at Piedmont Hospital. Anyone wishing to attend should call Hank Harris at 872-0119 so that we can get a head count of interested participants.

This program is being sponsored by your neighborhood association for association members. **We are asking that only members attend.** Those of you who have not yet paid your 1995 dues, or are planning to join the association, are welcome to make those arrangements prior to May 24th by contacting Elaine Moynihan (351-5479) or Nancy Bramlett (351-3609).

In addition to sponsoring the seminar, the Community Club has also arranged to research and make available to members the assessed values of all homes in the neighborhood. (This can be used to develop data on comparable homes which are assessed at a lower value than yours.) Once again, Elizabeth St. John has agreed to undertake the Herculean task of ferreting out these numbers, as she did for us only two years ago. We hope to have the data available at the meeting on the 24th.

B Members--Have You Paid Your Dues?

Bike Thief Caught Redhanded

by Mary Long

Thanks to good citizenship and effective police work, the brazen bicycle and mower thief who had targeted Brookwood Hills is behind bars. The thief ratted on his fencers, who are also in jail pending trial. The police recovered stolen property that may belong to BWH neighbors. Call Police Property Recovery at 818-6876 for details on how to reclaim stolen property.

Trees Update

by JoAnn Hagaman

Expect to see the City of Atlanta tree trimming department in the neighborhood during the next few weeks. They will be checking a group of trees which we have described to them as "troubled." Hopefully, I will be able to obtain feedback about each tree and will get back to each homeowner affected. They will also be cutting dead limbs from city trees. Plans are well underway to develop a maintenance plan for our neighborhood trees. More details upcoming. Please call me at 876-2606 if you have any questions concerning your trees.

Beware of Cat

Former resident Jaye Smith asked that Brooknotes alert neighbors to the fact that some cats have a very bad bacterial infection present in their mouth and claws. Jaye learned of the problem when a cat scratched her this spring, resulting in serious cellulitis. Within six to seven hours, her arm swelled dramatically, which left untreated, could have led to loss of her limb. Jaye reminds us to be careful handling cats because their reactions can be unpredictable. If you receive a scratch or a bite, call your doctor immediately.



From left, Mary Lynn Eckl, Harvey Ross, and Betsy Robinson

Sidewalk Renovation Nearly Complete

The renovation of the sidewalks around the park and pool has been a community project in the best sense of the word. A joint venture of the Garden Club and the Community Club, it could not have been accomplished without the use of Club dues, generous pledges at the Garden Club auction, and the time and energy of dozens. Thanks to the donation of mondo grass from generous neighbors (with a special nod to Liz Bennett for supplying the bulk of it) and to the hours of labor put in by Garden Club members and neighborhood volunteers in planting it, we now have safe, attractive sidewalks in time for the opening of the pool.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

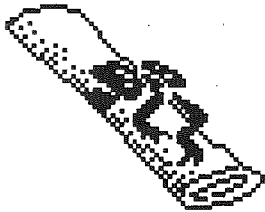
by Alison Caughman

In response to the requests of several residents, the Community Club is undertaking a study of the parking restrictions in the neighborhood. A number of homeowners have complained that the regulations currently in place cause more problems than they solve.

Residents living on streets with restrictions should find in this month's Brooknotes a survey on the subject. It's not clear that the association can do anything about the problems, but we are starting with collecting the data on how you feel about it and what, if anything, you'd like to see changed.

The survey is for residents of Huntington, Woodcrest, Northwood, Palisades, Montclair, Wakefield, Parkdale, Upper Camden, and Upper Brighton. If you live on one of these streets, but didn't receive a questionnaire, please call Judy Horton at 351-6257. Completed surveys are to go to Micki Gambrell, 22 Palisades, who has graciously volunteered to head up this efforts. Surveys are due by May 31st.

The next meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, June 5, at 7:15 at the home of Mary Lynn and Wray Eckl at 348 Camden. If you would like to attend, please call Mary Lynn at 351-9876. All Community Club members are welcome.



Class of '95

On the evening of May 8, neighborhood graduates of the high school Class of '95 gathered at the home of Cathy and Bob Fisher to compare notes on future plans and to exchange memories of growing up in Brookwood Hills. Present at the party were not just neighborhood graduates and their parents, but also past residents Christopher Bracken, Sarah Ferguson, Katherine Kidd and Laura McCall. The favorite memory by far was of the now defunct babysitting co-op, when parents dressed their children in pajamas and dropped them at the house of the co-op member brave enough to be home for the evening.



Front Row (L to R): Sara Elizabeth Burke, Lindsay Irvin, Lindsey Easterly; 2nd Row (L to R): Leslie Walton, Jessica Stokes, Margaret Wilgus; 3rd Row (L to R): Katherine Kidd, Neale Fisher, Melanie Davis; Back Row (L to R): Kevin Abernathy, Christopher Bracken, Chad Cook, David Parker.

Other favorite memories of these graduates: playgroups, afternoons in the park, soccer and t-ball games, Brookwood Boys, the Brookwood Brownie Troop, riding in carpool with neighborhood friends, trick-or-treating on Halloween, swim team, working at the pool, and driving carpool with friends. We wish them luck as they pack their bags for their next adventure. Many thanks to Anne Parker, Nancy Walton and Cathy Fisher for organizing the graduation party and for providing Brooknotes with a picture of the event. Below, organized by school, is a list a BWH high school graduates and the schools they will be attending.

From the Gow School, South Wales, N.Y.		From Pace		Jessica Stokes	Williams
Matt Junger	Elon	Chad Cook	Furman	Margaret Wilgus	UGA
From the Lovett School		Laura Freschi	Brown	From Woodward	
Laura McCall	Undecided	From Westminster		Kevin Abernathy	UGA
David Parker	UGA	Christopher Bracken	Rhodes	Lindsey Easterly	College of Charleston
Leslie Walton	UNC	Sara Elizabeth Burke	Wake Forest	Sarah Ferguson	Boston College
From Marist		Neale Fisher	Georgetown	Katherine Kidd	Agnes Scott
Melanie Davis	UGA	Lindsay Irvin	Kenyon		
		Charlie Maffit	UNC		

For news of college graduates, see Brookwood Buzz, page 5.



Go For the Gold

By Esther Stokes

So. You've sent most of your available cash off for Olympics tickets, but you still feel the need to do something to get ready for the Olympics. You want to make a statement, support the effort, welcome the world--right? So what can we as Brookwood Hills homeowners do to celebrate the centennial Olympics on our home turf? How can we say "welcome" to the world on our 1/4 acre plots? The answer: plant some Olympic Gold plants!

The Pathways of Gold project sponsored by the Garden Club of Georgia applies to our front yards, as well as to Peachtree Street. Some plants which we can plant now are guaranteed to provide us gold color at the time of the Olympics in 1996, either in their blooms or berries or leaf coloration. It's kind of a nifty idea -- beautify things for the Olympics and at the same time plant something lasting which will remind

you of the centennial Olympics long after the competition is over.

One such plant, a perennial, is Rudbeckia hirta 'Goldstrum,' a superior form of Black-Eyed Susan. 'Goldstrum' rudbeckia grows 2 feet tall, has a long bloom period (July-August--just the right timing!), is a good cut flower, doesn't need stalking and self-sows so you'll have it forever. It is one of the best perennials available today. Combine it with silver Artemisia 'Powis Castle' and Salvia 'Indigo Spires' for a terrific effect in full sun. If you have part shade, combine it with Hosta 'Royal Standard' and Southern Shield fern.

Another golden perennial is the daylily 'Stella d'Oro,' a repeat blooming daylily. 'Stella' is a rich buttery gold. It starts blooming in May and repeats periodically through the season. If you're lucky, one of the repeats will be during the

Olympics. If not, you still have a great plant in your garden.

A super golden rose for your rose garden is 'Sun Flare,' an All-America Selection for 1983. It blooms all season long, with a terrific show from May to frost. 'Sun Flare' is upright, vigorous and spreading. You'll love it.

And in May of 1996, when you're planting your annuals for the summer, plant lantana 'New Gold' in full sun for a spectacular, reliable golden show till frost. I can't think of any golden annuals for shade, but if you know of one or two, give me a call.

For more information and for a complete list of suggested plant materials for "Pathways of Gold," contact Mrs. Dan E. Sweat, Jr., Chairman, 1996 Georgia Pathways of Gold, The Garden Club of Georgia, 7 Gilbert Trail, Atlanta, GA. 30308.

Drawing by Kay Summers

WORD OF MOUTH

Fine Dining - Luna Si

You may have noticed recent articles in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution about our neighborhood restaurant, Luna Si. The original chef-owner has moved on to New York and Chicago, leaving able and creative brothers Albert and Juan in charge of the kitchen and dining room. The food is consistently delicious and light, the service friendly and exemplary. We are fortunate to have them in Brookwood Village, so let's support them and keep them!

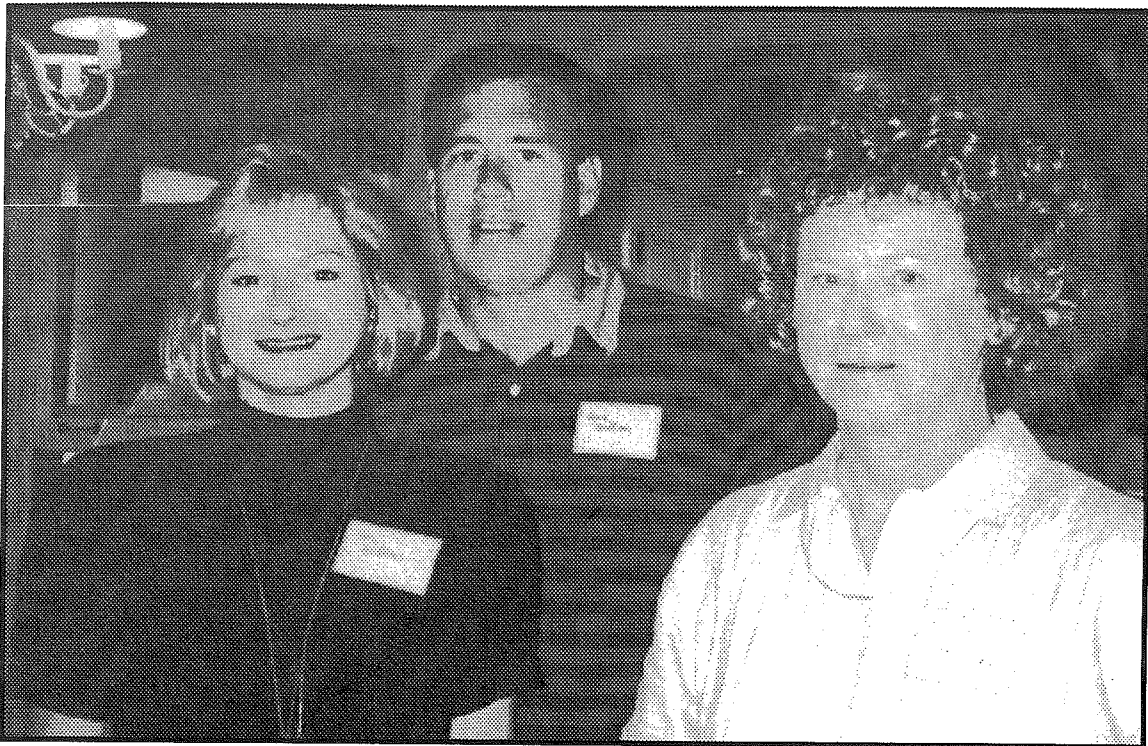
Beverly and David Stacy

Carpentry, Water Proofing of Basements, Sheetrock Work, Painting, Ceramic Tile Work

Andy Mock 977-2876

We have had excellent results on several projects with Andy, who always comes when he says he will, and does very good and professional work

Larry Pless 892-6024



From left, Patty and Mark Griffith, Elaine Moynihan

Patty and Mark Griffith were among the new neighbors who gathered at the first annual New Neighbor party sponsored by the BWH Community Club. The party was organized by the Membership Committee Co-Chairpersons Elaine Moynihan (pictured above to the right of the Griffiths) and Nancy Bramlett. Many thanks to Barbara and Chuck Slick for the use of their attractive home and to Elaine Luxemburger for her entertaining and informative talk.

BROOKWOOD BUZZ

Jon Goldstein, son of Joel and Eve Goldstein, will graduate with Honors in May from the Johns Hopkins University. He plans to work, study German and Latin, and then begin a graduate program in Art History.

Charlie Wilgus graduated May 13th from Rhodes College in Memphis with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology. He plans to work at Camp Laney this summer and travel in the Fall.

Elizabeth Irvin also graduated from Rhodes College with a degree in Psychology. She hopes to be teaching in Memphis. Other Rhodes graduates include former BWH residents **Alison Hawkes** and **Libby Houk**.

Carter Gray, former BWH resident

and daughter of Jim and Beth Gray of Pound Ridge, N.Y., graduated from Wake Forest and will be attending medical school next fall.

After some beach time, **Lindsey Easterly** will begin summer employment at Lake Toxaway Country Club near Sapphire, N.C. Neighbors and friends, please stop and say "Hello."

Kate Irvin (Westminster), **Hamilton Fryer** (Lovett) and **Melanie Davis** (Marist) are some outstanding runners in our neighborhood who will be competing in the State Championships in Albany. All took second in Regionals in their respective divisions.

New neighbors **Lynne and Michael McAlevy** are proud to announce the

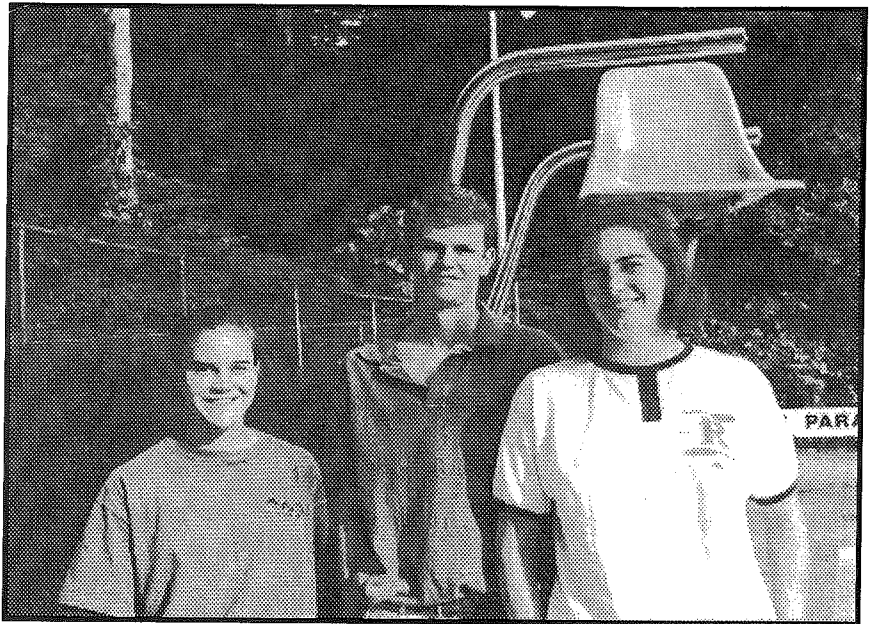
birth of their daughter **Isabelle Taylor McAlevy**. She was born on April 8th with lots of black hair that just might turn curly like Dad's. Michael is an attorney at Alston & Bird, and Lynne is recently retired from the children's book publishing business. The McAlevy's live at 70 Huntington..

Sheree and Sean Boyd are renovating their new home at 114 Brighton Road before moving in with daughter Tiffany, 8 months. Sheree's business is interior design, and Sean is President of The Fidelity Group, a mortgage bank. Sheree was hoping for a Mother's Day present of a jogging stroller so that she and Sean can resume one of their favorite hobbies, jogging.

CLASSIFIEDS

- ◆ **Wanted.** Baby grand piano. Call Lynne McAlevey, 872-6550.
- ◆ **Help Wanted.** Domestic help wanted for a few hours three days a week to help with baby and light housekeeping. Lynne McAlevey, 872-6550.
- ◆ **Babysitting Available.** Both John (12) and Carson (13) Weitnauer are available to babysit neighborhood kids on the weekends. Call 355-2803 for more details.
- ◆ **Helping Hands for Hire.** Serving BWH neighbors for three years--will water plants, pick up mail/paper, feed pets while you are out of town. Plan ahead for your vacation and those dry summer days. Call Virginia or James Porter, 355-8876.
- ◆ **Camp Cool.** Sarah Parker and Emily Withrow are once again offering Camp Cool on June 19, 20 and 21st, from 9:00-1:00p.m. Camp Cool is open to ages 4, 5 and 6, and the cost is \$60 for 3 days. Camp Cool will also accept campers on a one or two-day basis. Call Emily (352-1315) or Sarah (355-2303) to reserve your place.
- ◆ **Cottage Wanted.** 33-year-old management consultant moving here from Boston is looking for a 2 bedroom cottage or apt. to rent. BWH reference available. Call Andrew Feiler, (617)-266-6420 (night) or (617) 973-1314 (daytime).
- ◆ **Garage Apt. Wanted.** Student interning at CNN for summer needs garage apt. for 3 mos. BWH reference. Call Linda or Roger Moffat, 872-6693.

Don't forget the Cancer Society Party this Sunday, May 21, 6:30 to 8:30, at the home of Caroline and Harry Gilham, 106 Camden Road.



From left, Sarah Ferguson, Chad Cook, Jessica Stokes

Coaches Get in the Swim

There are some familiar faces coaching the 1995 BWH Swim and Dive team. Jessica Stokes and Chad Cook are back, with Jessica taking on the job of Head Coach this year. Sarah Ferguson, a well-known BWH diver, will serve as coach of the dive team.

Swim team members will be pleased to hear that the practice times will be shorter this year, and staggered, so that there will be less overlapping of age groups. This gives the swimmers more lane space during practice. The coaches plan to concentrate on more stroke work, but also on having more fun during practice. If the pool manager approves, there will be another lock-in this summer when the swim and dive teams get to take over the pool. The coaches (and their mothers) would welcome volunteers to host movie parties in their homes.

Last year, BWH finished 4th in Fulton County and tied for 3rd in individual meets.

Calling All Entrepreneurs and Thrill-Seekers

Do you like to make money?

Do you like to have fun?

Are you a kid (in body or mind)?

If you have answered yes to any of the above and would like to participate in a neighborhood carnival this summer to raise money for charity, please leave your name, address, phone number and age with the Longs (Alex, Katie, Mary, Bill, George or Georgina) at 30 Montclair, or call 352-3464.

Swim Team Practice Schedule

May 30- June 2 4:00-5:30

Starting June 3:

Mon, Tues, Wed.	am	p.m.
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6/under	10:00-10:30	4:00-4:30
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8/under	10:00-10:45	4:00-4:45
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9/10	10:00-11:00	4:30-5:15
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11/up	10:00-11:30	5:00-6:00
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Thursdays and Saturdays, just morning practice.

Fridays, just afternoon practice

Pool and Tennis News

Opening Day Sat. May 27

Noon to 6.00 p.m.

Special Activities: Moonwalk, Clown, Games, Races and Prizes

Special Food: Grilled Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chicken Filet

Pool Hours:

Sunday May 28 Noon to 6:00

Monday May 29 10:00 to 6:00

Tues. thru Friday Closed

(Except for Swim Team)

Sat. June 3 10:00 to 9:00

Swimming Lessons

Kelly Holt, the swimming instructor listed in last month's Brooknotes has been replaced. The new instructors are Jennifer Coers and Ili Savoy. Please call Jennifer (565-3232) or Ili (843-8130) for lesson times and to reserve your place. Lessons are Mondays and Wednesdays. Two sessions are being offered: June 12-July 12 (no lessons week of July 4), and July 17-August 9. The cost of each session is \$50.

Water Aerobics

Interested in forming a work-out group? Call Jennifer Coers (565-3232).

Tennis Lessons

Lee King will be teaching children's tennis clinics at the BWH courts again this summer. The cost will be \$40.00 per child for the entire week. The one hour clinic will start at 9:30 a.m. (The clinic for older children may last 1 1/2 hours, depending on the response.) To sign up, please call Lee at 261-8643.

June 5-9	4 and 5 year olds
June 12-16	6 and 7 year olds
June 19-23	8 and 9 year olds
June 26-30	10 and 11 year olds
July 3-7	12 and 13 year olds
July 10-14	14 and 15 year olds

Dive Team Meets

June 14	St. Ives	Home
June 21	Brookfield West	Away
June 28	Windward	Home
July 5	Atl. Athletic Club	Home
July 12	Dunwoody Ctry Club	Away
July 13	Fulton Cty Champ.	St. Ives (?)
July 16	State Qualifying	St. Ives (?)
July 22-23	Georgia Games	Lithonia Pool
August 9-10	State GRPA	Lithonia Pool

SWIM TEAM MEETS

June 8	Intrasquad Meet	Home
June 15	St. Ives	Home
June 22	Hanover West	Away
June 29	Shakerag	Home
July 6	Doublegate	Home
July 11	Horseshoe Bend	Away
July 14 & 15	Fulton Cty. Champ.	Alpharetta
July 17	State Qualifying	St. Ives
Aug. 11 & 12	State Champ.	Columbus

Correction



Brooknotes has discovered that last month's issue misidentified the finder of the silver Easter egg in the 5 and under age group as Carolyn Harris. The real finder of the egg was sister Helen Harris, pictured above. Helen has already corrected the error on her copy of Brooknotes by scrawling HELEN in black crayon across her sister's name. Congratulations to Helen and deepest apologies for the error.

The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes is Friday, June 9. Submissions must be in writing and should be dropped off at Betsy Crosby's house, 34 Brighton Road.

FROM THE EDITOR

"That's it. I'm moving to Cobb County." How many of us have said this, or at least thought it, in the wake of our property tax reassessments? Some of us don't really mean it. Others are deadly serious.

What will we go looking for? Backyards big enough for baseball playing. Two or three car garages that will fit the Suburban. Streets that are safe for bike riders. Bathrooms and closets. Lower taxes.

What will we give up? A lot. Before you strap your bedroll to your car and head up I-75, consider the May 15, 1995 issue of Newsweek about what's wrong with the suburban dream and how to fix it. These tips for making the suburbs less sterile, more intimate places to live sound strikingly like a description of Brookwood Hills. As the magazine states, "a small traditional neighborhood is what people want." More than anything, what makes a neighborhood a neighborhood is knowing and interacting with your neighbors.

Among the suggestions offered by the article:

- ◆ **Give up big lawns.** Says Newsweek, "When houses are set back behind 30 feet of lawn, the streetscape becomes oppressively desolate." Our small front yards make us more visible to our neighbors. As we rake our leaves and weed our ivy banks, we find ourselves striking up a conversation with the neighbor next door or people walking by.
- ◆ **Bring back the corner store.** Who hasn't chatted with a neighbor while picking up something for dinner at Harry's in A Hurry or the Bread Market?
- ◆ **Make the streets skinny.** Narrower streets are more inviting to pedestrians. Going for a walk is one of the great pleasures of Brookwood Hills. Children come here from all over the city to trick- or- treat on our streets.
- ◆ **Drop the cul-de-sac.** These dead-ends force everyone onto the same busy roads during rush hour. Giving motorists a choice of routes, such as access through Huntington, Palisades and Brighton, keeps traffic flowing evenly.
- ◆ **Draw boundaries.** Having a defined border creates an identity for the neighborhood.
- ◆ **Hide the garage.** A garage on the front turns a blank face to the world. When we park in our driveways or on the street, we find ourselves greeting neighbors as we get in and out of our cars.
- ◆ **Mix housing types.** A range of styles and price ranges keep a neighborhood from being too homogeneous. The various architectural styles in our neighborhood are a large part of its charm and attract an interesting spectrum of neighbors.
- ◆ **Plant trees curbside.** Says Newsweek, "Nothing humanizes a street more than a row of trees shading the sidewalk." Our neighborhood is famous for the beauty of our trees, which draw people outdoors.
- ◆ **Put new life into old malls.** Brookwood Village has been going strong since the 1930's. Its continued viability has been an anchor to the many restaurants and art galleries that are only a short walk away.
- ◆ **Plan for mass transit.** Though not many of us take full advantage of MARTA, we may find through the years the need to rely on it more and more, especially during the Olympics.
- ◆ **Link to work and home.** Many of us live here precisely because it is close to our offices downtown or midtown.
- ◆ **Make a town center.** According to Newsweek, "every town needs a center: a plaza, square or green that is a geographical reference point and a focus of civic life." This neighborhood would be merely a collection of pretty houses without our pool and our park. This is how we make friends out of our neighbors.

As Newsweek makes clear, what we have in Brookwood Hills is not just a good neighborhood-- it is the ideal. It is worth the fight--politically, with the tax assessor, and financially, with ourselves--to stay here.

Betsy Crosby



Specialty
Homes
Inc.

BROOKNOTES

sponsored by your neighbor
SARAH HAGOOD

Owner/Broker 231-5678
